



Landowner Spotlight

By: Emma Stuber

Meet Toby Lloyd

Easement Owner and Advocate for Agricultural Stewardship

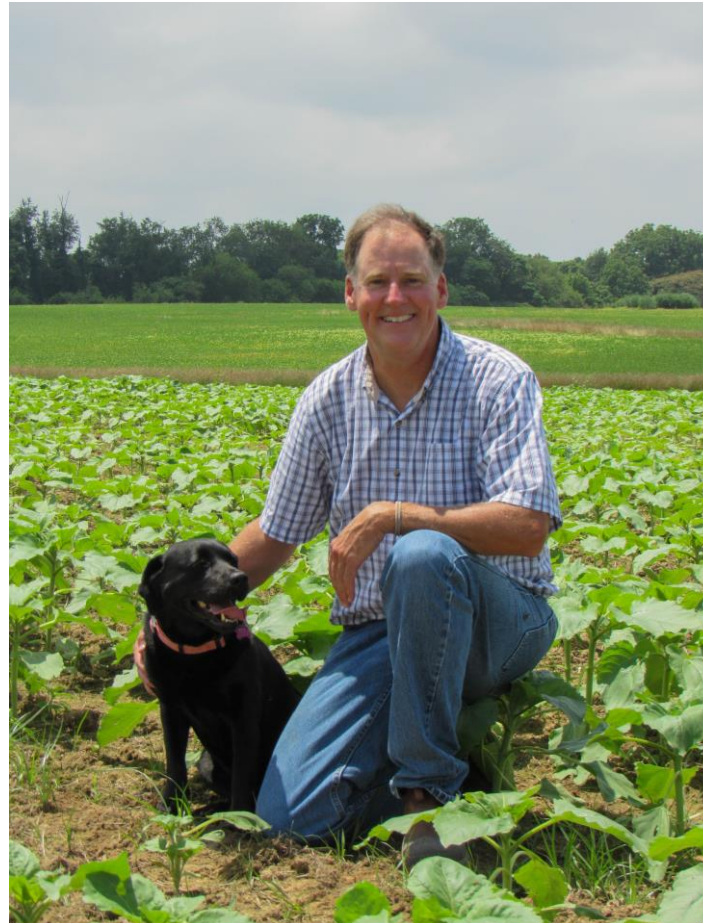
Toby Lloyd, a Maryland farmer and dedicated conservationist, has served on the board of the Maryland Environmental Trust for nearly nine years. He owns and operates East Fork Farm in Kent County, a 130-acre property under conservation easement, which includes 124 acres of productive farmland, three acres of forest, and six acres of wetlands along Langford Creek. Adjacent to East Fork, Lloyd also owns Hilltop Farm, a 110-acre property in the process of being placed under easement protection.

East Fork Farm, protected jointly by Maryland Environmental Trust and the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy, may be tied to Maryland's historical "Thumb Grants." As legend has it, Lord Baltimore—under the directive of King Charles I—would press his thumb onto a map, tracing its shape to allocate land to loyal settlers. While intriguing, the farm more likely originated from a land patent system, through which settlers were granted 100 acres, with

additional acreage for bringing others to the colonies. Regardless of origin, Lloyd's farm is deeply rooted in Maryland history.

Lloyd purchased East Fork Farm and Hilltop Farms in 2016 and 2019, respectively, and has since managed both in partnership with a local farmer. Discovering that East Fork was already under easement prior to acquiring it was a welcome surprise. A firm believer in environmental responsibility, Lloyd said, **"I feel strongly about preserving open space and keeping agricultural lands productive."**

Since acquiring the properties, Lloyd has worked closely with the Maryland Department of Agriculture on restoration efforts, including maintaining waterways and pond dams. On his initiative, he has established conservation areas across the farm: leaving corn for waterfowl, planting wildflowers for





pollinators, and planting switchgrass around runoff ponds to reduce nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment— while also creating nesting habitat for birds.

Vegetated buffer zones along Langford Creek add another layer of protection, improving water quality and providing critical wildlife habitat between the fields and the waterway.

Through these projects, Lloyd demonstrates how conservation and agriculture can coexist. “I envision the land kind of like a patch in a quilt,” he explained. “Within that quilt is a patchwork of cropland and habitat. Some areas support wildlife; others improve water quality. Each piece plays a role.”

Lloyd’s approach reflects a lifelong commitment to environmental stewardship. A former employee of the U.S. Department of Agriculture for 14 years, he is now the director of Farmer’s Bloom, a nonprofit that encourages farmers to grow pollinator habitats— donating a portion of the flowers to health care facilities.

Beyond his own land, Lloyd is passionate about supporting other farmers in balancing production with preservation. His involvement with the Maryland Environmental Trust began as a volunteer easement monitor, then Area Representative, and finally as a board member. Through Maryland Environmental Trust, he helps fellow landowners pursue conservation goals while maintaining agricultural productivity.

Today, Lloyd continues to lead by example, showing that with thoughtful stewardship, working farms can serve both people and the land.

