



**GUNPOWDER
VALLEY**
CONSERVANCY

June 2025
E-Newsletter

*Bridging People, Land Preservation and Waterway
Restoration Since 1989*

Growing the Next Phase of GVC

If Gunpowder Valley Conservancy (GVC) were a forest--and in many ways, it is--our outgoing Board members have planted seeds, nurtured saplings, weathered storms, and helped shape a thriving landscape. While growth continues, the roots they've established run deep and carry on in the next generation of leadership, programs, and community impact.

Last month, GVC said thank you--and "see you later", not goodbye--to several members of our Board who are retiring from their official roles. Please join us in recognizing and celebrating:

- **Cyrus Green**, President
- **Don Callihan**, Vice President
- **Mary Ann Wilson**, Treasurer
- **Deborah Slawson**, Board Member



(from L to R): Don Callihan (outgoing Vice President), Cyrus Green (outgoing President), and Jim Martin (past President)

We are thrilled to announce our new slate of GVC Board of Directors:

- **Luke Hancock**, President
- **Carl R. Gold**, Vice President
- **Sarah Bunk**, Secretary

Finally, we look forward to working closely with our newest Board members:

- **J.T. Dean**
- **Michael P. Panopoulos**
- **William Weaver**

[Read Board Bios](#)



We also have several exciting GVC staff updates to share! Beginning in early July, **Ebram Victoria will be Director of Ecological Restoration and Design**. If you've received a GVC garden in recent years, you likely recognize Ebram as a key member of our garden team!

When asked about his new role, Ebram shared: "Solving the problem of climate change is really about solving water quality. **Water is not the problem; it is the solution**. Modernity has become impervious to water, and thus the flooding, droughts, and anxiety about the future. We we restore the mechanisms for water quality, namely through reforestation and preserving biodiversity, we will see the climate change to become more stable and resilient."

Elizabeth Eakes will be continuing with GVC in a new role, **Outreach and Digital Communications Coordinator**. Keep an eye out for some new engaging material on our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) feeds!

GVC welcomes **Josh Brown as our summer reforestation intern!** Josh is a student at Stevenson University. Chances are you'll meet him at an [upcoming tree maintenance event!](#)

Last summer, **Amy Young** stepped into a new role as our **Outreach and Stewardship Manager**. In addition to leading GVC's communications and community engagement initiatives, she now oversees our Land Preservation monitoring program. Amy is especially excited to share the stories behind our preserved properties--and to spotlight the dedicated landowners who help protect the watershed for future generations.

What's happening in the

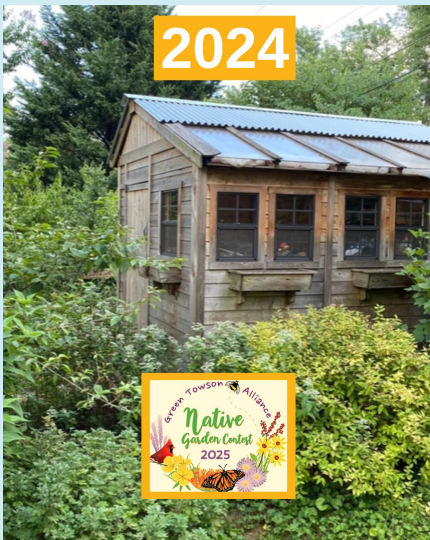
Gunpowder?



Help GVC Grow Forests

Newly planted trees need support to survive. GVC is seeking volunteers to lend a hand on Thursday and Saturday mornings to remove invasive vines and other tasks that help young trees grow into healthy forests. Sign up today!

[Learn more](#)



2025 Native Garden Contest

Our friends at Green Towson Alliance are hosting their 2025 Native Garden Contest now through July 3rd. If you live in a Towson neighborhood and have put effort into growing native plants, shrubs, and/or trees you are eligible to compete!

Did you know that one of the 2024 winners started their journey with a [GVC rain garden](#)?!

[Learn more about the contest](#)



Honoring Charlie Conklin

We are proud to see that longtime GVC volunteer was acknowledged earlier this year by [Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake](#) (IPC) at their 2025 Faith & Waters Restoration Forum.

Charlie received the **Founders Award** honoring his "many years of dedication, service, and continued impact" with IPC. Guided by the belief

that caring for creation is a moral responsibility, Charlie has played a pivotal role with IPC since its inception in 2010. [Read more](#).

Keep in touch with Gunpowder Valley Conservancy:



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