



**GUNPOWDER
VALLEY**
CONSERVANCY

December 2023

E-Newsletter

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



*Volunteer Leader
Appreciation
Reception 2023*



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Volunteers are truly the heart of the Gunpowder Valley Conservancy. Each December, we take **time to reflect on GVC's accomplishments and the individuals who went above and beyond** to help us achieve our vision of healthy lands, healthy waterways, and healthy communities in the Gunpowder Watershed.

Special thanks to our Volunteer Leader Appreciation sponsors: **Boordy Vineyards**, **Bertucci's**, and the **Davey Tree Expert Company**. With their support, we celebrated our extraordinary volunteer leaders this week at Boordy's recently restored, historic barn.

And now let us raise a virtual glass to our 2023 Award Winners!!!



*2023 Charlie Conklin
Volunteer of the Year:
Sarah Bunk*

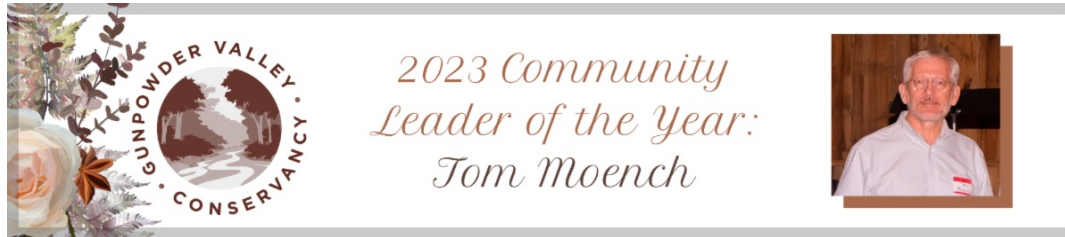


Some volunteers help us in the field, while others share their talents behind the scenes. And then there is our 2023 Charlie Conklin Volunteer of the Year, **Sarah Bunk**, who masterfully donated her time and talents in both arenas.

This year, Sarah volunteered over 30 hours as a reforestation crew chief. She was elected to the GVC Board of Directors and has been doing a phenomenal job

serving as the Secretary of the Board. Sarah also volunteered countless hours behind the scenes to help with our *Explore the Gunpowder* and *Evening Among the Trees* fundraisers. Last, but certainly not least, she has generously offered to serve as GVC's unofficial Sharepoint specialist, which is no small feat!

Thank you, Sarah, for jumping in with your whole heart and helping out wherever there is a need. 2023 was a successful year for GVC thanks to you!



Calm, level-headed, articulate, and thorough. These are just a few character traits possessed by our Community Leader of the Year, **Tom Moench**. As Divinity Lutheran Church Council President, Tom was a natural choice to join our Bay-Wise project steering committee.

From the beginning of the idea for a Bay-Wise grant project at Divinity Lutheran in 2022, Tom was key to driving the implementation of the project on the ground. Although he was considerate of the inputs of Pastor Chris and the rest of the project steering committee, he demonstrated leadership in a crisis when it was needed to offer practical solutions. We also appreciate Tom's unfailing graciousness in acknowledging others' contributions to the success of the Bay-Wise Project.

Thank you, Tom, for your leadership and inspiration this year, and we look forward to your continuing involvement in the *Clear Creeks Project* in the future.

Visit our GVC blog for the full list of 2023 honorees!

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Pictured from L-R: Claire Ritterhoff, Pastor Chris Schaefer, Don Callihan, David Shahady, Tom Moench, Sarah Bunk, Deborah Lancaster, Randy Davis, Kim Pause Tucker.



Your donation makes a world of difference! Thanks to our dedicated supporters we have raised 40% of our \$50,000 goal. We are especially humbled by the generosity of our Giving Tuesday supporters. We knew it was a reach when our Board challenged us to raise \$6,500 in one day. Our previous record had "only" been \$3,000. Thanks to you we raised close to \$5,900 on Giving Tuesday, which was generously matched by our Board of Directors.

The Watershed Community Fundraising Campaign supports our programs and allows GVC to expand healthy land and waterways within the Gunpowder Watershed, our connection to the Chesapeake Bay.

Haven't given yet? Now is the perfect time to help us get to our \$50,000 goal! Thanks to a generous donor all donations TODAY through December 31st will be DOUBLED up to \$10,000.

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