

**ABSTRACT for ORAL PRESENTATION**  
**CREATING A BOG PROTECTION PROGRAM IN THE CHESAPEAKE BAY**  
**WATERSHED IN ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND, USA**

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This paper is about the creation of a bog protection program in Anne Arundel County, Maryland. A few citizens, the Maryland Department of the Environment, and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources were aware of rare bogs in Anne Arundel County. They were near developed areas and under constant threat of damage from development. One citizen, a horticulturist and self taught restoration ecologist, made a number of elected officials aware of the bogs rarity and need for protection. These elected officials from the State and County, with the citizen, two watershed associations, a land trust, staff from the two State agencies, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the United States Army Corps of Engineers and Anne Arundel County formed a “Bog Committee” in early 2000 and met regularly to find ways to protect these rare wetlands.

A threefold path was chosen. 1. Maryland should designate these wetlands “wetlands of special state concern.” 2. The County and State should acquire as much of these watersheds as possible either by purchase or easement. 3. The County should adopt legislation to limit development in the drainage area to the bogs. Part of this third path would include the delineation and geopositioning of these wetlands. On February 19, 2002 Anne Arundel County adopted legislation limiting development and minimizing the impacts of development. This legislation is similar to legislation protecting the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area, but is based on more recent science. A number of restoration projects have occurred or are planned for the bogs and the area. The local schools have participated in these restoration projects. Some land has been acquired by donation and purchase. Easements have been acquired. Only two of the more recently discovered bogs have not been designated wetlands of special state concern. This is a unique and effective protection plan carried out with the hard work and cooperation of many different groups.