

Thanks for honoring Anne and I this evening, thanks for graciously accepting us into the Monkton Community.

There are plenty of opportunities when Fox Hunting to see the need to preserve our beautiful countryside. One of those properties I encountered, could have been subdivided into 17 lots that would have certainly destroyed the integrity of the landscape.

It also afforded an opportunity to restore a unique farmstead. We did, and now it's our Maryland home. Just the beginning of our quest to save some of this country.

Why are we so inclined to purchase and preserve property? We have been acquiring property for the past 50 years, we started with 13 acres in York County, PA. Over the years our family holdings of agricultural and woodlands has increased to more than 3,000 acres.

Being passionate about the outdoors and open space, gave us a place for our 5 sons and their friends to roam, learn the value of nature, respect their environment and provided them with jobs.

- The Boys formed a partnership to start a firewood business. It was also a reason for Anne to learn to drive a dump truck since they were not old enough to drive. To deliver their cords of wood, it was a great requisite to driving the hound truck.

- A place to hunt, fish and raise their 4H projects. Which became a cow & calve operation for them to manage.
- It taught them about the basics of good business practices which they continue to use today.
- But most importantly the preservation of farmlands insures our valued farming neighbors that they will have the continuous use of land required to sustain their livelihood without the threat of development. In Pennsylvania, Maryland and Colorado most of our land is or will be placed in preservation. We believe that those of us who can donate easements should, which allow for more funds go to farm families as an enticement to preserve their way of life.
- Keeping hedgerows and stream buffers insures the quality of water that enters our streams all while providing nesting's for rabbits and other wildlife.
- And now we see flocks of turkeys thriving in our country.

So why preserve?

We have been fortunate to have a family that has grown to love their lands, and we can only hope that future generations can have that experience and dedication.

It also gives me an opportunity to plant more trees and build more fences to jump over.

In closing Anne and I commend all the members of The Manor Conservancy for what you are doing to save more land for future generations to enjoy.

You are the reason Anne and I are here this evening and we only hope we can continue to add to your preservation efforts.