

2014 Annual Report



About Us

The Accokeek Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to land stewardship, sustainable use of natural resources, and interpretation of the natural and cultural resources of Piscataway Park. Donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

front image credit info: Eco-Explorer Time Traveler greets students touring the National Colonial Farm for interactive school tours. photo by Andrea Jones.

Designer: Kim Hamilton

Editor: Anjela Barnes, Director of Marketing

WHO WE ARE

For more than 50 years, the Accokeek Foundation has been a steward of the land. Through a partnership with the National Park Service, the Accokeek Foundation interprets the past, present, and future of agriculture and environmental stewardship at Piscataway Park. The Foundation's programs include interdisciplinary school tours for students, historical and modern farm museum exhibits, heritage breed livestock conservation, natural resource stewardship and land conservation, and the Piscataway Cultural Landscape Initiative.

The park is open daily to visitors who enjoy a quiet landscape for recreation and reflection. Annually, thousands of school children visit for farm-based education, learning about environmental stewardship through a historical lens. With support from donors and members, the Accokeek Foundation provides a natural space for all to enjoy, for generations to come. Learn more about the Accokeek Foundation: www.accokeekfoundation.org.

WHAT WE DO

- Land conservation and stewardship.
- Agricultural and environmental education.
- Historical Preservation and Cultural Interpretation.

OUR MISSION

The Accokeek Foundation cultivates passion for the natural and cultural heritage of Piscataway Park and commitment to stewardship and sustainability.

OUR VISION

People connected to the land and engaged in creating a sustainable world.

LEADERSHIP

Alan McCurry, *Chair*

Milton Ahlerich, *Vice Chair*

Myra McGovern, *Secretary*

James Potts, *Treasurer*

Lisa Hayes, *President*

A Message From The President

“People connected to the land and engaged in creating a sustainable world.” This new vision statement set the course for a year that saw powerful alignment of programs through strategic planning, innovations in educating youth, community gatherings that highlighted strong partnerships, and commitment to a new approach for engaging the public in sustainable agriculture. With the support of our funders, donors, and members, we accomplished:

- **Strategic Planning.** The Accokeek Foundation’s Board of Trustees and staff together developed a new Strategic Plan to lead us forward for the next several years in “cultivating passion for the natural and cultural heritage of Piscataway Park and commitment to stewardship and sustainability.”
- **Educating and Engaging Youth.** We piloted a new school field trip, *Eco-Explorers: Colonial Time Warp*. Through the lens of colonial history, students examine an environmental question: which modern inventions are worth the environmental impact that they have? This innovative cross-disciplinary approach makes connections between the past and present of agriculture while incorporating STEM curriculum that addresses Maryland, Virginia, and D.C. environmental literacy requirements.
- **Practicing Sustainable Agriculture.** We expanded outreach through the Ecosystem Farm to engage more groups, volunteers, and members in organic vegetable production through farm volunteer happy hours, an On Farm Market, and workshops on Modern Homesteading.
- **Celebrating History, Stewardship, and Sustainability.** Public events highlighted the Accokeek Foundation’s programs. March’s *Women with a View* symposium drew two hundred people to Mount Vernon to hear stories of the remarkable women whose leadership helped preserve this landscape. July’s *Celebrating the Potomac* here in Piscataway Park featured tall ship *Pride of Baltimore II* in a weekend commemorating the War of 1812. Nearly five hundred people attended, with audience favorites including deck tours of the ship and museum theater performances created to highlight the story of enslaved people from this area escaping to the British two hundred years ago. And the new *Food for Thought* festival brought an entirely new audience eager to learn about food and the local homesteading movement.
- **Sharing Indigenous Cultural Landscapes.** A traveling exhibit based on last year’s *Piscataway Connections to the Land* oral history project with Piscataway elders was featured at the Maryland Arts Council’s ALTA Awards (Achievement in Living Traditions and Arts) in January when the award in the category of “Place” went to “Piscataway Homelands: People, Culture and Traditions.” The exhibit also toured to the Miller Senate Office Building for the month of March and was featured at the Maryland Environmental Trust conference in April.

Lisa Hayes, President



Land Conservation & Stewardship

The Accokeek Foundation stewards 200 acres of Piscataway Park through a cooperative agreement with the National Park Service. Annually, 30,000 visitors enjoy many recreational opportunities including fishing, hiking, geocaching, and access to the Potomac River through a boat dock, fishing pier, and kayak launches. The Accokeek Foundation continues to take a leadership role in regional efforts to preserve open space in Southern Maryland, particularly the Mount Vernon Viewshed.



► *Results*

The Accokeek Foundation protects:

- 25,000 acres of Mount Vernon Viewshed protection area
- 200 acres of natural areas protected including wetlands, old growth forests
- 20 bluebird nesting boxes monitored with 69 new Eastern Bluebird fledglings
- 6 miles of Potomac River shoreline
- 6 nature trails for exploring natural habitats, wildlife, and native flora and fauna



From left to right: Mount Vernon Viewshed protection provides free, open-public space for enjoyment of recreational activities; Potomac River Clean-Up; pasture management; and maintenance of trails.



Agricultural & Environmental Education

With our gardens and farms, National Colonial Farm and Ecosystem Farm, as well as trails, we serve as an outdoor classroom for educational programs, research, agricultural, and conservation projects. Each year, thousands of students and educators participate in programs developed to supplement social studies and environmental education in the classroom.

Members of the public can buy fresh produce at our weekly On Farm Market, and have the opportunity to see and learn organic vegetable production through workshops and volunteering.



► **Results:** 5,000 visitors engaged in sustainable agriculture and environmental stewardship programs including 3,000 school children. With Modern Homesteading workshops, adults learn the “lost art of homesteading” and reconnect with the land by learning practical homesteading skills like edible plant ID and food foraging, canning and food preservation, mushroom cultivation, and seed saving.



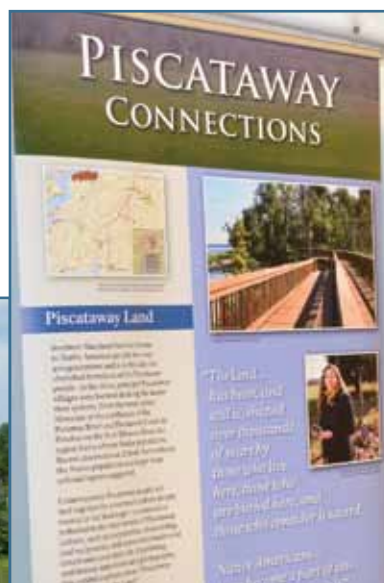
From left to right: On Farm market at Food for Thought festival; farm happy hours and service-learning opportunities; and Modern Homesteading workshops for adults.



Historical Preservation & Interpretation

“This was a very neat area to visit. We loved walking around and seeing all of the animals and period buildings. Beautiful views of the water as well.” – National Colonial Farm visitor

The Foundation’s National Colonial Farm preserves a historic farmhouse and tobacco barn, and interprets life on a typical 18th century farm in Southern Maryland. On the farm, heritage breed animals demonstrate the Foundation’s Heritage Breed Livestock Conservation program that preserves genetic diversity. Genetic diversity is also preserved through an heirloom seed saving program. Sustainability is an overarching theme of the Foundation’s work, which is examined and demonstrated through multiple lenses, including natural and cultural heritage.



► *Results:*

Preserving genetic diversity and Maryland's agricultural heritage

- Milking Devon cattle
- Hog Island sheep
- Virginia Gourdseed corn
- Orinoco tobacco
- Laurel Branch
- Nationally registered 18th century tobacco barn

Engaging audiences with thought-provoking family programs that explore historical and cultural connections to today's trends in agriculture and conservation.

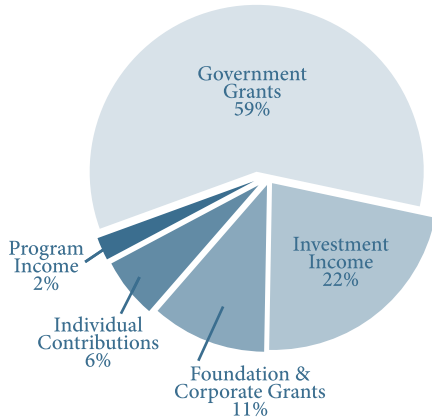


From left to right: The historic farmhouse sets the stage for museum theater performances; Piscataway Connections travelling exhibit highlights Indigenous Cultural Landscape Initiative; Ossabaw hogs demonstration heritage livestock breeds.

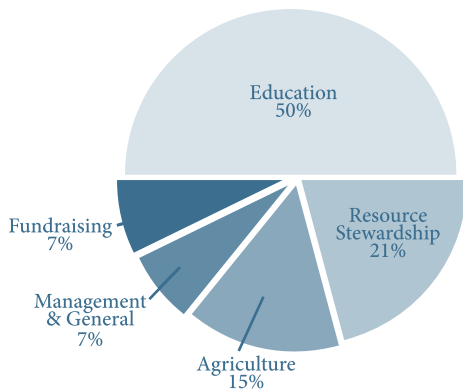


Financial Highlights

FY 2014 REVENUES \$1.31 MILLION



FY 2014 EXPENSES \$1.26 MILLION



REVENUES

Contributions.....	\$183,455
Government Grants.....	765,007
Foundation Grants.....	136,315
Program Income.....	28,404
Investment Income.....	286,845

Total Revenues.....\$1,300,026

PROGRAM EXPENSES

Education.....	\$622,152
Agriculture.....	202,266
Natural Resources.....	267,280

SUPPORT EXPENSES

Management & General.....	\$87,926
Fundraising.....	83,108

Total Expenses..... \$1,262,732
Change in Net Assets..... \$37,294

A copy of the audited financial statement and IRS Form 990 is available by calling 301-283-2113 or emailing hnelson@accokeek.org.

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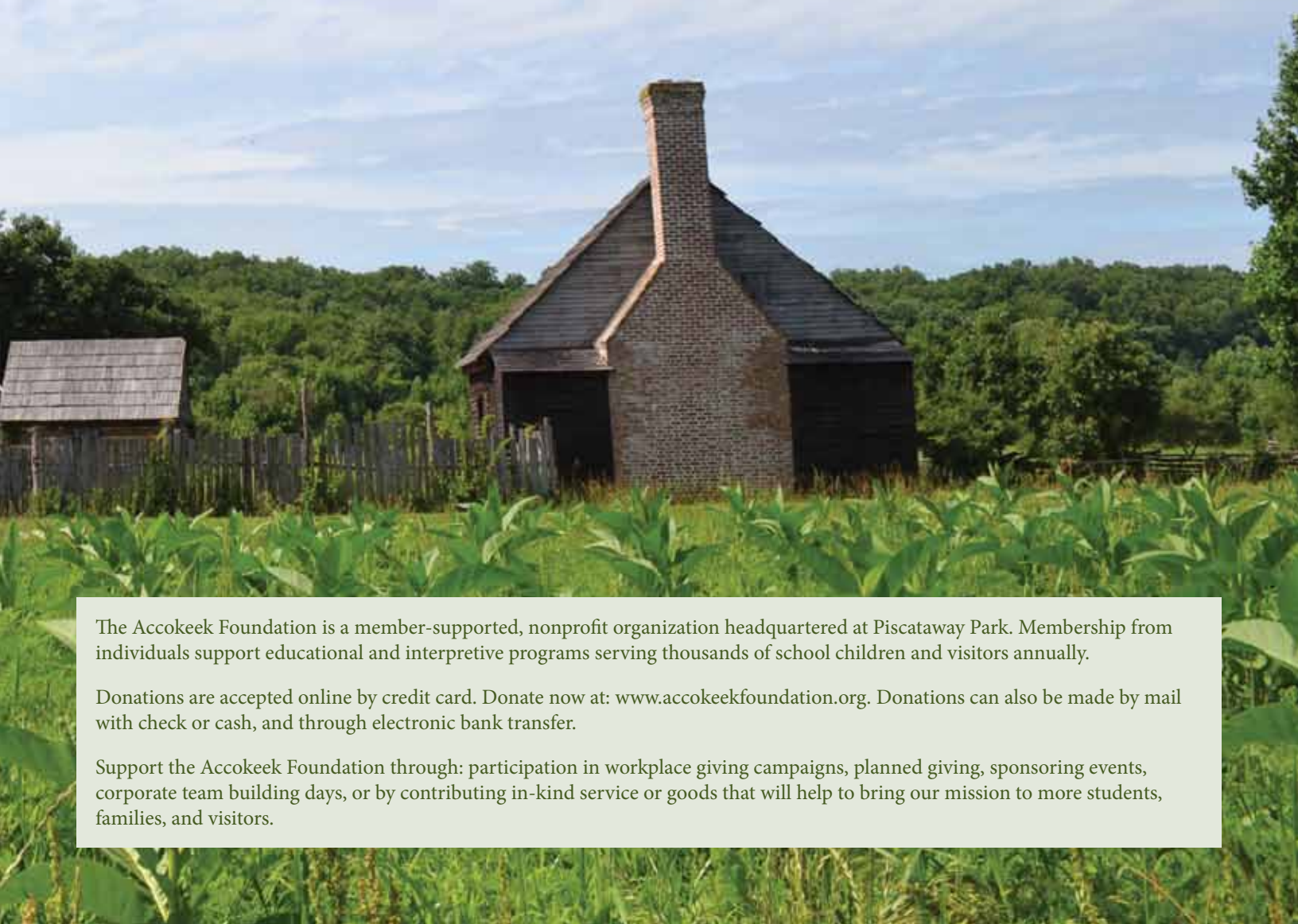
Accokeek Foundation is a CFC (#43499) partner with EarthShare, Maryland Charities, and United Way of Charles County. Thank you to the following workplace donors:

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The Accokeek Foundation is a member-supported, nonprofit organization headquartered at Piscataway Park. Membership from individuals support educational and interpretive programs serving thousands of school children and visitors annually.

Donations are accepted online by credit card. Donate now at: www.accokeekfoundation.org. Donations can also be made by mail with check or cash, and through electronic bank transfer.

Support the Accokeek Foundation through: participation in workplace giving campaigns, planned giving, sponsoring events, corporate team building days, or by contributing in-kind service or goods that will help to bring our mission to more students, families, and visitors.