



At our nature centers, in the community and at our preschool, more than *40,000 people of all ages were connected to nature this year.*



PHOTO: NIKKI MILLER

2023 HIGHLIGHTS



The Conservancy's 232 acres were for centuries an Indigenous hunting ground, then a farmstead and now a green oasis for people and wildlife. This year, we unveiled the Bob and Janine Grossman Amphitheater, a vernal pool and composting toilet along our trails. And we dove deep into our history and centered justice, diversity, equity and inclusion in our work.

The Conservancy sparked curiosity about the natural world with field trips for thousands of elementary school students. Naturalists helped students discover wildlife, from the tiniest native bee to hefty beavers.



PHOTO: EMILY CALKINS

"YCI introduced to me the 'why' of why we're learning about environmental stewardship in these courses."

James, YCI student ambassador

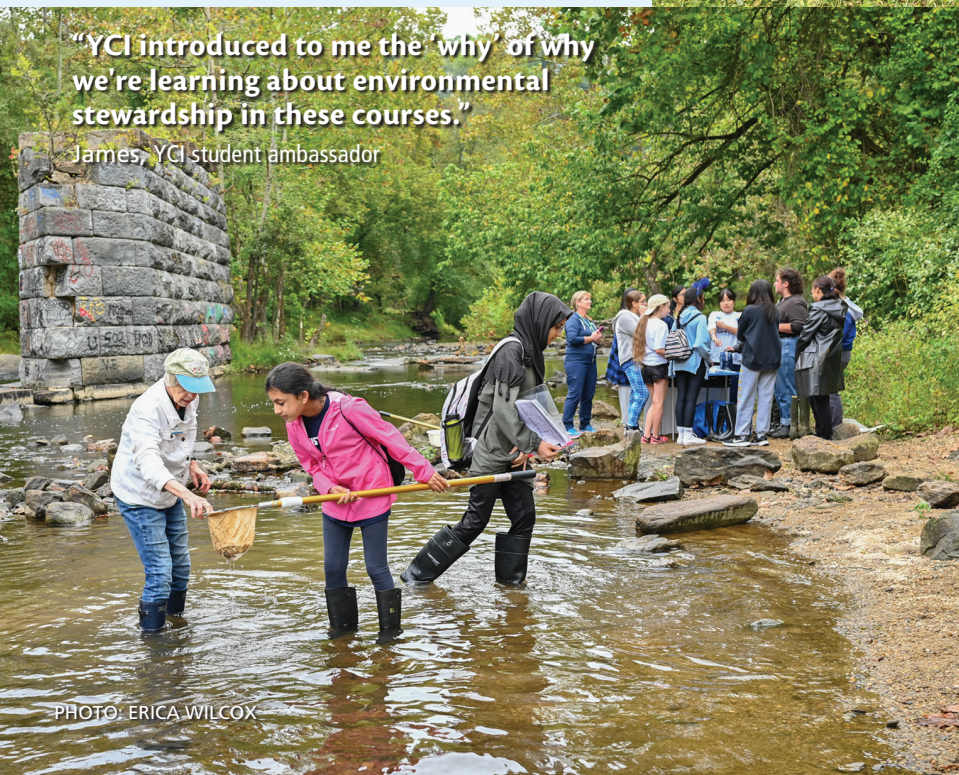


PHOTO: ERICA WILCOX

Nearly 8,000 middle and high school students investigated science and nature with field trips, watershed surveys and tree plantings. *Our innovative Youth Climate Institute (YCI) has grown to 26 chapters nationwide.*



PHOTO: ANNE KELLEY STUDIO

The Conservancy is a direct link to nature, with 32 public programs that pointed the way toward a closer relationship with the land, including bird walks, a pollinator festival, concerts and book talks.

We're committed to boosting biodiversity on our acres and preserving environmentally sensitive land across the county. An Elkridge church recently added its 62 acres to our conservation program, pushing *the amount of county land preserved by the Conservancy to more than 2,000 acres.*

"In this place, may future generations learn a bit about the sacredness of wild places. May they remember the art of listening to the Earth."

Janssen, board member, at ceremony commemorating conservation easement milestone.

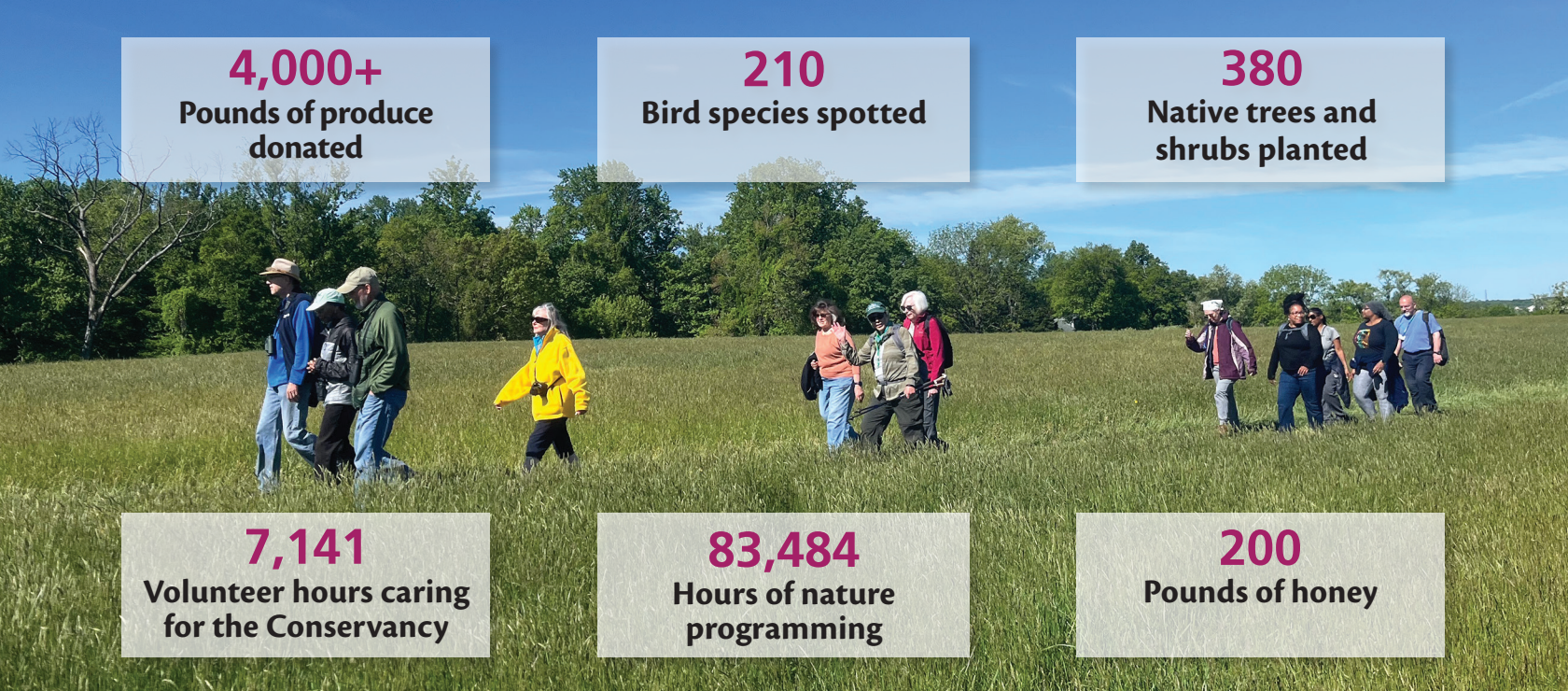


PHOTO: KEN ACKMAN

4,000+
Pounds of produce donated

210
Bird species spotted

380
Native trees and shrubs planted



7,141
Volunteer hours caring for the Conservancy

83,484
Hours of nature programming

200
Pounds of honey



PHOTO: RICHELLE WARNER

Your support allows the Conservancy to keep our nature centers open for discovery and our programs growing nationwide. As poet Mary Oliver said, *"the world offers itself to your imagination."* In 2024, help us imagine a greener future.



Howard
County
Conservancy

connecting people to nature