

Governor McLane then



Governor McLane now

Preserving DNR's Heritage

Committee for Maryland Conservation History

DNR's natural
resources are not
disposable.

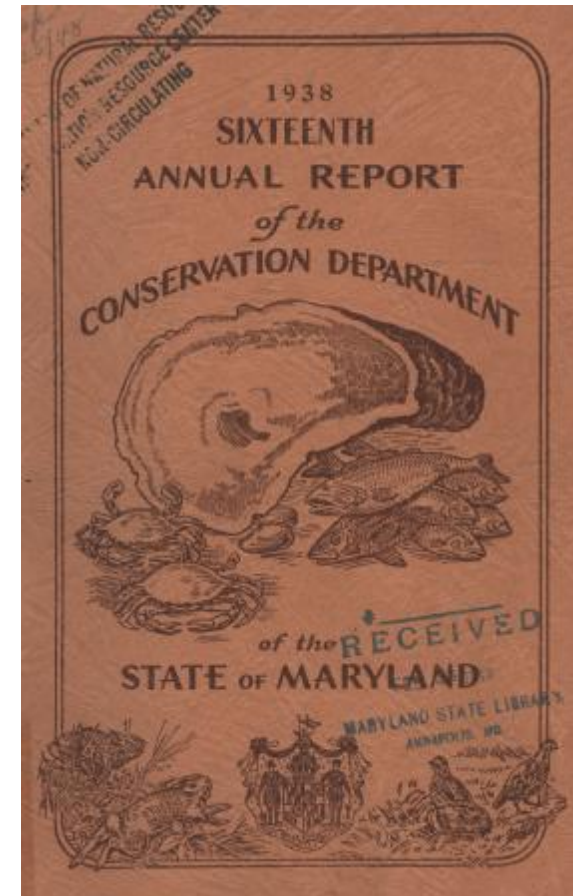


Forest wardens, circa 1920, with fire fighting tools

DNR's history is not
disposable, either.

Celebrating 100+ years of natural resource conservation in Maryland

- 1868: State Oyster Police Force
- 1896: State Geological Survey
- 1896: State Game Warden
- 1906: Forestry and Parks
- 1916: Conservation Commission
- 1922: Conservation Department
- 1939: Dept. of Game and Inland Fish
- 1941: Board of Natural Resources
- 1969: Dept. of Natural Resources



The Problem

- No central effort within DNR to evaluate, inventory, and preserve its historic artifacts
- Individuals within units “squirrel” stuff away in offices or private residences
- When storage runs out or people retire, irreplaceable artifacts and documents often go to the dumpster

Who are we?

- Committee for Maryland Conservation History



- Mission: Preserve, promote and interpret the legacy of natural resource conservation in Maryland.
- Formed in 2004 to prepare for the Forestry & Parks Centennial
- Now open to any DNR unit with significant history and heritage

What needs preserving?

- Artifacts, documents, photographs, etc. related to the legacy of natural resource conservation in Maryland



Fire fighting tools at Patapsco State Park, circa 1926



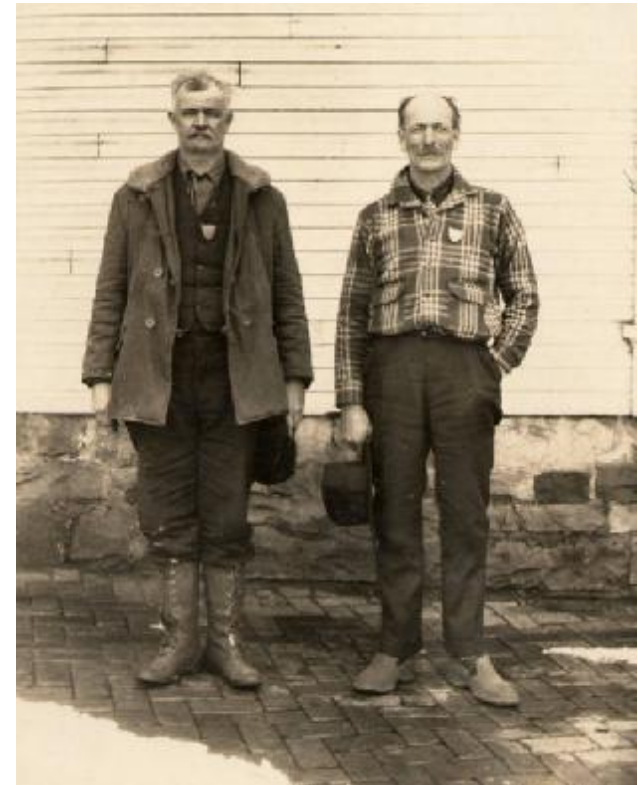
Cannon used by Maryland Oyster Police during oyster wars of 1860's



Uniforms, documents, and badges of the Maryland NRP

Achieving One DNR

- We need to understand who we are as an agency, where we have been and where we are going
- History helps create a shared vision for the future
- Pride in our agency helps foster professional commitment
- Public understanding of our agency and history enhances involvement in conservation



Forest wardens of Garrett County, circa 1920



Preserving DNR's Heritage

Next Steps

- Involve additional DNR units.
- Consolidate artifacts into one state facility.
 - Summer intern inventorying DNR artifacts at identified locations around the state.
 - Lawson Building identified for use as artifact storehouse, workspace, and exhibit space (needs renovation).
- Get recognition at the Secretary level.
- Develop public programming to promote natural resource protection and conservation.

Public programming

- Interpretive programs at state parks
- Connecting children with conservation history
- Exhibits
- Publications



NOW is the perfect time

- Current focus on One DNR
 - Our history builds our identity as an agency
- Rare opportunities
 - Original cannon used by Oyster Police is for sale
- Upcoming retirements
 - Save our heritage from the dumpster!



Cannon used by Maryland Oyster police during oyster wars of 1860's