



Rural Maryland Communities in Transition



The Ninth Annual Maryland Rural Summit

October 25-27, 2006
in Cecil County

PRELIMINARY

AGENDA AND REGISTRATION FORM



Hosted by:

Rural Maryland Council
Upper Shore Regional Council
Maryland Rural Health Association
Maryland State Office of Rural Health

In partnership with:

Mid-Shore Regional Council
Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore
Tri-County Council of Western Maryland
Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland

Welcome to the Ninth Annual *Maryland Rural Summit*

The Maryland Rural Summit is an annual gathering of rural leaders in the public, private and non-profit sectors who come together to discuss the major issues confronting rural and non-metropolitan communities. Our new interdisciplinary workshop format and new Friday Forums will take advantage of the experience and knowledge of all attendees by encouraging lively discussion and interaction among participants and presenters.

Rural Maryland Communities in Transition

is the theme for this year's Summit. It will focus on the 18 counties outside the Baltimore-Washington corridor, some of which remain isolated and economically challenged while others confront growth and enormous development pressures. All, however, are striving to retain the best aspects of their pastoral heritage while progressing forward in other areas. Join this important convening and help your community transition to a better future.



Our Special Summit Location

The 2006 Maryland Rural Summit will be held amid spectacular woodlands along the headwaters of the Chesapeake Bay at the Sandy Cove Conference Center in North East, Maryland (Cecil County). As a nondenominational Christian facility, **Sandy Cove does not permit smoking or drinking on its grounds, and no televisions are provided in sleeping rooms.** These tranquil surroundings provide an ideal atmosphere for early-morning reflection and day-long problem solving. *(Recommendations for alternative accommodations are available upon request.)*

Driving Directions:

From I-95, take Maryland Exit 100 (northbound) or 100A (southbound), onto Route 272 South, to the town of North East. About three miles past the quaint downtown district, you'll see Sandy Cove's large sign on the right. Follow the one-mile wooded lane to the top of the bay.

Sandy Cove Conference Center
60 Sandy Cove Road
North East, MD 21901
Toll Free: (800) 234-2683
Phone: (410) 287-5433
Fax: (410) 287-3196
www.sandycove.org



Rural Summit Agenda (Tentative)

Day #1: Wednesday, October 25, 2006

Get Started by Getting Out!

Start your Summit experience by taking to the open road and touring the Upper Eastern Shore of Maryland. See how these communities are facing their transition challenges and accentuating their strengths. Discuss your ideas and questions with professionals on the ground, and network with fellow rural leaders during these educational, thought-provoking and just plain fun excursions.

Kent County Workshops (1 p.m. to 4 p.m.)

Health Partnerships: Tour Rock Hall aboard an open-air trolley. Depart from historic Chestertown, visit the Townsend Memorial Medical Clinic and Headstart facility, and enjoy a picturesque tour of this quaint waterman's community which will include the Rock Hall Museum, Bayside Landing, and a sweet break at Sweet Rick's.

Organic Farming & Chesapeake Fields: Depart Chestertown and tour working organic farms (field crops and dairy). The tour will also visit Chesapeake Fields Institute for a brief overview of operations. Chesapeake Fields works to keep farming profitable by researching new crops, products and markets.

Cecil County Workshops (1 p.m. to 4 p.m.)

Healthcare Innovations: The tour will take you to various healthcare facilities such as Union Hospital in Elkton to experience patient simulators, which incorporate some of the latest technological advances in medicine. You'll also visit Terumo, a medical products manufacturing facility; and a state of the art Senior Fitness Center.

Transitional Agriculture: Agriculture enthusiasts as well as those that enjoy nature will delight in this half-day tour. Visit the Freedom Hills Therapeutic Riding Program, Rumbleway Farms, Kilby Cream, and Hepbron's Vineyard. Be sure to wear clothing suitable for farm touring, as this will be a hands-on touring experience.

North East Adventure: Visit Tapeta Farm, an extraordinary horse training facility on the north end of the Chesapeake Bay. Then visit North Bay Adventure, an environmental education center for children, before shopping at the quaint shops along Main Street in the town of North East.

*Note: Mobile workshops are included in a full Summit Registration.
Don't forget to choose your workshop on the Registration Form.*

Dinner on your own, but please join us at Sandy Cove for dessert and a movie.

8:00 to 10:30 p.m.: Dessert Social and Movies (Chesapeake Auditorium) Come relax and take in a documentary (or two) while indulging in a little piece of heaven (or two). Cake and ice cream will be available from 8:00 to 9:00 p.m. Documentary selections to be announced in the final agenda.

5:00 to 9:00 p.m.: Rural Maryland Council Board Dinner and Meeting. Offsite.

6:30 to 9:00 p.m.: Maryland Rural Health Association Board Meeting. Offsite.

Day #2: Thursday, October 26, 2006

8:00 to 9:00 a.m.: Maryland County Health Officers Meeting (Guistwite Room)

**9:00 to 9:45 a.m.: Maryland Rural Health Association Meeting (Hatfield Room)
Rural Maryland Council Annual Meeting (Milburn Room)**

Agenda

Day #2: Thursday, October 26, 2006 (Continued)

10:00 to 10:15 a.m.: Opening Welcome (Chesapeake Auditorium)



**Keynote Address:
The Challenge of Growth in Rural Areas
10:15 to 11:30 a.m.
Chesapeake Auditorium**

**Anirban Basu, Chairman & CEO
Sage Policy Group, Inc., Baltimore**

Economist, researcher, professor, popular lecturer, and radio host Anirban Basu will show the strengths and challenges facing each rural and non-metro region in Maryland. He will also explain what the regions have in common, where they differ, and how individual communities are responding (or not responding) to the threats and pressures coming their way. He will explain, provoke, challenge and inspire during this exciting opening session. *Professor Basu is one of the mid-Atlantic region's most recognizable economists and host of the Morning Economic Report radio show on Baltimore's WYPR.*

11:30 to Noon: Break. View Exhibits.

Noon to 1:30 p.m.: Annual Rural Awards Luncheon (Dining Room)

Seven outstanding rural leaders who have inspired us with their selfless dedication to rural health care and rural economic development will be honored during this wonderful luncheon. These honorees are selected from outstanding rural leaders nominated from across the state.

1:30 to 2:00 p.m.: Break. View Exhibits.

2:00 to 3:00 p.m. Educational Workshops. Choose from one of three to attend.

Option 1: Strengthening Rural Economies by Strengthening Rural Families. (Milburn Room) The Annie E. Casey Foundation has funded a direct services grants program administered by the Rural Maryland Council to help rural Maryland families. Meet with Foundation representatives and grant recipients to hear how they help improve a community's economic success by helping its families.

Option 2: There Ought to be a Law! An Introduction to the Maryland General Assembly. (Hatfield Room) This session will provide participants with an understanding of how the Maryland General Assembly works – what it can do and what it can't. It will also include a brief overview of the state budget, how laws are made, and how citizens are represented in the legislative process.

Option 3: Good Jobs, New Jobs and An Apple a Day. (Guistwite Room) Because rural hospitals are often the largest employer in a community, they often drive the community's economy. This session will show how advances and growth in health care can create new, better jobs and stronger economies in rural areas.

3:00 to 3:30 p.m.: Break. View Exhibits.

Agenda

Day #2: Thursday, October 26, 2006 (Continued)



Del. George Edwards (left) and Sen. Thomas "Mac" Middleton take questions during a past Forum.

Always a Summit Highlight!

Rural Legislative Forum

3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

(Chesapeake Auditorium)

In this week before the General Election, share your concerns and ideas with Maryland's Senators and Delegates and hear what they have to say about the future of the communities they represent.

Time for Some Fun and Good Eatin'!

A Taste of the Upper Shore,

6:30 to 9:30 p.m. (Cecil Community College)

Hop on the bus for a short ride to Cecil Community College where you can enjoy a cocktail while sampling the many delicacies offered by local area restaurants and vendors. Unwind with old friends and meet new colleagues during this yummy Summit feast. *Note: Buses will leave from the front entrance of Sandy Cove and run to and from the college approximately every 20 minutes. A schedule will be posted in the final agenda.*

Day #3: Friday, October 27

Friday Forum #1 (Chesapeake Auditorium)

These 90-minute forums provide an interdisciplinary and holistic view of a broad issue facing Rural Maryland. Your active participation is encouraged.

8:30 to 10:00 a.m.

Emergency Preparedness in Maryland's Rural Communities

Emergency preparedness in rural areas for both natural and man-made disasters is essential to the well-being of the entire state, indeed, the entire country. From terrorist attacks to hurricanes to bird flu and other bio- and agro-security issues, Rural Maryland must use limited resources to protect itself (and perhaps even their urban neighbors who flee to rural communities in an emergency). At this session, you will learn how rural communities fit in to the state's overall preparedness. You will also discover what rural communities need to do for themselves to better prepare.

10:00 to 10:30 a.m.: Break

10:30 to Noon:

Preparedness Deliberation Session (Milburn Room)

Preparedness is a public policy matter calling for the engagement of citizens, policymakers and professionals, but how do you find common ground among multiple answers? Come, participate in a moderated forum on the costs and consequences of different approaches. **This session is limited to 25 people. You must register to participate.**

Agenda

Day #3: Friday, October 27 (Continued)

Friday Forum #2 (Chesapeake Auditorium)

These 90-minute forums provide an interdisciplinary and holistic view of a broad issue facing Rural Maryland. Your active participation is encouraged.



10:30 to Noon

Reality Check:

Developing a Livable Maryland

Maryland, the nation's fifth most densely populated state, will grow from approximately 5.5 million people today to 7 million in the next 25 years. Much of the new growth and development has already migrated to formerly rural counties in Western and Southern Maryland, and the Eastern Shore, eating up large amounts of farm and forest land, and requiring significant financial outlays for infrastructure and services from taxpayers. This session will bring you up to date on the findings and recommendations of the statewide visioning project called Reality Check Maryland and provide you with a summary of the trends and implications of growth on the state's rural and non-metro areas.

12:15 to 2:00 p.m.: Closing Luncheon Plenary (Dining Room)

A panel of rural leaders will recap and summarize the lessons of the Summit and outline the options participants have for addressing their most pressing issues.

2 p.m. Summit Adjourns



Reminder:

2006 Rural Maryland Impact Awards Open for Nominations

Nominations Accepted Until Sept. 1

Individuals and organizations in rural and non-metropolitan communities will be recognized for their outstanding work during the 2006 Rural Impact Awards Luncheon on October 26. The following awards are presented:

- Outstanding Rural Economic Development Program
- Outstanding Rural Community Development Program
- Outstanding Legislator
- Outstanding Rural Health Program
- Outstanding Rural Health Achievement
- Outstanding Rural Health Practitioner
- Outstanding Rural Volunteer

For nomination instructions, see: www.rural.state.md.us/Summit/awards.html

Participant Registration

General Information & Fees for Participants:

- A Full Summit Registration is \$150 and includes *all* Summit events listed on the agenda. It does *not* include overnight accommodations. (*Register now. After Sept. 22, fee is \$195.*)
- The Hotel Rate is \$99 per night and includes overnight accommodations at Sandy Cove for both single or double occupancy.
- A Summit Spouse Registration is \$75 and allows the spouse of a Full Registrant to attend all meal events, including a mobile workshop, Taste of the Upper Shore, the Rural Awards Luncheon and the Closing Luncheon.
- A Day Rate is \$75 and covers one day of the Summit *only* and any events being held that day (i.e., Wednesday, Thursday or Friday). Attending more than one day requires a Full Registration.

Participant Registration

(Please attach contact information for each registration)

Name: _____
 Title: _____
 Organization: _____
 Mailing Address: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____
 Office Telephone: _____
 Email Address: _____

■ Full Registrations: #_____ x \$150	=	\$ _____
■ Late Registration (after Sept. 22) #_____ x \$195	=	\$ _____
■ Hotel Room: #_____ x \$99	=	\$ _____
_____ Wednesday, October 25		
_____ Thursday, October 26		
■ Spouse Registration: \$75	=	\$ _____
Spouse's Name: _____		
■ Day Rate Registration: \$75	=	\$ _____
_____ Wednesday _____ Thursday _____ Friday		

If you are attending more than one day, a full registration is required.

TOTAL	\$ _____
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Special sponsorship opportunities available. Call 410-810-1375 for details.

Special Registration: Mobile Workshops & Deliberative Session

Mobile workshops are open to Full Registrants. There is no additional cost to participate, but registration is required. Check below which one you plan to attend. (*Indicate a first and second choice with "1" and "2."*)

- _____ Kent County Health Partnerships
- _____ Kent County Organic Farming
- _____ Cecil County Healthcare Innovations
- _____ Cecil County Transitional Agriculture
- _____ Cecil County North East Adventure
- _____ Also, sign me up for Friday's Deliberative Session on Emergency Preparedness

Payment Option: Make checks payable to: the Upper Shore Regional Council, c/o the Maryland Rural Summit, 122 N. Cross Street, Chestertown, MD 21620. For questions about your registration, contact Jana Carter, 410-810-1375 or by email at jcarter@kentgov.org
State agencies using R*Stars Transfer for exhibiting or registration fees should contact Sandi Fleischer at the Rural Maryland Council, 410-841-5772 or by email at fleiscsl@mda.state.md.us

We regret we cannot take credit cards.

Exhibitors Registration

Thank you for your interest in exhibiting at the Maryland Rural Summit. Your attendance is important to our event, and we will do all we can to ensure you receive maximum exposure and interaction with Summit participants.

- **Exhibit Hours:** Thursday, 10:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Friday, 8:00 a.m. to Noon.
- **Set Up:** After Noon on Wednesday. All exhibits must be up by 9:00 a.m. Thursday.
- **Break Down:** Exhibits should remain up through Noon Friday. You may break down after 6:30 p.m. on Thursday if necessary. All exhibits must be down by 2 p.m. Friday.
- **Exhibitor Fees: \$295**, includes one 6-foot draped table and one staff registration.
- **Hotel Rate: \$99** per night.

Exhibitor Sign Up

Name: _____
 Title: _____
 Organization: _____
 Street Address: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____
 Office Telephone: _____
 Email Address: _____

- Number of exhibit spaces ____ X \$295 = \$_____
- Additional Staff Registrations: ____ X \$150 = \$_____
- Name of Staff Member: _____
- Hotel: # _____ nights x \$99 = \$_____
 - ____ Wednesday, October 25
 - ____ Thursday, October 26
- TOTAL = \$_____

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 c/o Rural Maryland Council
 50 Harry S Truman Parkway
 Annapolis, MD 21401
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