



Walter and Dolly Harris

*Bloomingneck Farm
Worton, Maryland*

Without Walter and Dolly Harris there would be no Echo Hill Outdoor School. For over five decades, thousands of children have enjoyed outdoor learning and living on the shores of the Chesapeake Bay on the Harris's cherished Bloomingneck Farm.

With Walter's encouragement and blessing, Echo Hill Outdoor School held its first class in the spring of 1972. He continued to nurture the school in the early years by helping with curriculum and facilities.

A passionate conservationist, Walter realized the importance of preserving open space for future generations. As a result, he placed most of his beloved farm in a preservation easement so that it can never be developed. His concern for the health of the Chesapeake Bay is renowned. He was a member of several organizations dedicated to saving the Bay and he devoted countless hours to these endeavors. To reward his efforts, Governor Parris Glendening decreed that Walter be known as an honorary Admiral of the Chesapeake!

Walter's love of the Bay and its surroundings included a love for its history. He loved Kent County and worked tirelessly to preserve its beauty and unique character. He was a founder of the Kent Museum and a past president of the Kent County Historical Society. He was responsible for saving many historic buildings, including Echo Hill's own dining hall, The Whip, which formerly housed an amusement park ride at Tolchester Beach.

Walter's love of the Chesapeake Bay and its history was surpassed only by his love for his wife, Dolly, who shares Walter's desire to preserve and protect the Bay. On many occasions the couple opened their home, Bay House, to groups or individuals for education about the Bay.

Dolly's continued graciousness leaves an indelible mark on individuals of all ages. She is a familiar face on the Echo Hill campus, where she often joins our students for a visit or a meal.

Walter and Dolly love Echo Hill and we love them. We miss Walter, but his spirit is still here and Dolly continues his incredible legacy.