

FSCAP Certified Steward

Milly B. Welsh and Charles L. Hayden
Graden and Rover's Content



GRADEN: Located in Davidsonville, Anne Arundel County, Graden is a small private equine operation established in 1967. The property consists of 20 acres, primarily pasture, which is fenced and cross fenced for rotational grazing. Flat Creek bisects the property; there is no animal access to the creek. The farm has been developed with conservation measures foremost in mind. Since 2009 the farm has been in the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). Ms. Welsh is licensed as a registered judge by the United States Equestrian Federation, the Welsh Pony and Cob Society of America, and the Maryland Horse Shows Association; she is also licensed as a steward. Ms. Welsh was appointed as a member of the board of supervisors of the Anne Arundel County Soil Conservation District in 2012.

ROVER'S CONTENT: In 2001, Ms. Welsh and Mr. Hayden purchased Rover's Content located in Brandywine, Prince George's County. The farm, which once grew tobacco before it was mined for gravel, had been sadly neglected for many years. Today it is the premier location for the training and trialing of hunting dogs, primarily retrievers, in the metropolitan area. The Prince George's Soil Conservation District has provided advice and engineering design on all major projects. The 97 acres contain approximately 20 acres of ponds. Overflow pipes have been replaced, banks have been graded to safe slopes, points were created from spoils, and additional water areas were made. After clearing the fields of surface trash, they were limed and planted with commodity crops, followed by native warm season grasses. All-weather roads were established, while numerous washed out tracks have been filled and grassed over. In 2002, 26 acres were enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) for 15 years. In addition, the farm was placed in the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) in 2008. The Department of Natural Resources designated the owners of Rover's Content as the Wildlife and Heritage Service's Farmer of the Year for 2009. The farm is abundant with ducks, geese, dove, deer, turkeys, hawks, owls, osprey, eagles, squirrels, rabbits, red and gray fox, herons, songbirds, turtles, and fish. In keeping with its heritage, Ms. Welsh and Mr. Hayden rehabilitated a circa 1940s tobacco barn, which now serves as a bird pen and tractor barn, and also remodeled the original circa 1904 farm house and constructed a modern workshop. Since 2010 coffee grounds have been composted on site and used as a soil amendment. The American Kennel Club lists Mr. Hayden as a senior judge for licensed field trials for retrievers. Additional information for both farms is available by calling 410-798-4211.



Farm Stewardship Certification
and Assessment Program (FSCAP)
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