Watershed Observer

Newsletter of the American Chestnut Land Trust - Volume 39 No. 4 Fall 2025

CONTENTS

COMING UP ON THE CALENDAR

OCTOBER 2025

5 Sun – Annual Dinner & Auction (4pm-8pm) at Jefferson Patterson Pavilion

18 Sat – Lower Marlboro Freedom Day (off-site all day) - www.calvertparks.org

26 Sun – Halloween Hike (6pm, 1.5 hours) South Side Trailhead - Ridge Loop to Cemetery Lane – Halloween theme

NOVEMBER 2025

2 Sun – Fall Foliage Hike (10am, 2.4 hours) – North Trailhead Parking Lot

29 & 30 Sat/Sun – Wreath-making Weekend (volunteers and their guests) at ACLT Office/North Side Trailhead

DECEMBER 2025

6 Sat – Annual Wreath and Greens Sale (11am-1pm) at South Side Trailhead

13 Sat – Holly Hill Holiday Hike (10am, 3.5 hours) – North Trailhead Parking Lot. Includes a 15-minute stop at Holly Hill barn, with several inclines.

See full calendar: www.acltweb.org/events

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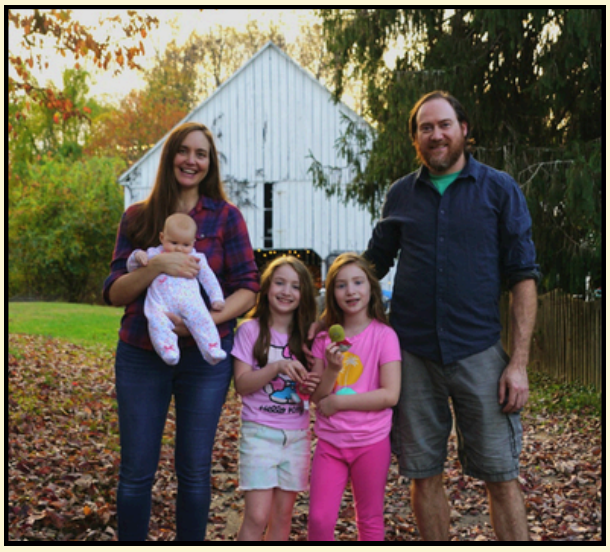
A Letter to the ACLT Community

By Adam Griggs, Executive Director

Hello American Chestnut Land Trust community. My name is Adam Griggs and I am both honored and excited to introduce myself as your new Executive Director. I'd like to thank the board, staff, and committee members for the time and professionalism they gave to the search and for conducting such a welcoming interview process. It was obvious from the start that I was potentially joining not just an organization, more of a community. I am honored that I was selected to fill the role left by Greg Bowen's passing. I did not have the fortune of knowing Greg myself, but there is an indelible mark and legacy that has been left behind and a well-trod trail for me to follow. I've come to learn that Greg was a close friend of my friend David Lillard, the Executive Director for the Catoctin Land Trust (Frederick, MD) where I spent most of the last 20 years as a board member. Protecting and conserving lands, farms, and those natural aspects that define a community's sense of place, ensuring that those landscapes will persist for generations to come, has been one of my life's greatest rewards, and something Greg and I likely had in common.

I come to you from the water world with a diverse background spanning nonprofit capacity building, citizen/community science, and ecology. I have a B.S. in Biology and an M.S. in Environmental Science. In graduate school I coordinated a high school- and volunteer-based watershed education monitoring program. From there, I spent nine years with the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin, first supporting Potomac NGOs as their Watershed Coordinator before being promoted to Aquatic Ecologist. I primarily served the Chesapeake Basin states and Chesapeake Bay Program with ecological analyses, much of my work focusing on nutrients, benthic invertebrates, and harmful algae. In 2015 I took a position with the organization River Network, a nonprofit that serves to empower the national community of watershed organizations. There I supported regional and national science efforts that aimed to improve resources and coordination for community-based watershed monitoring. Much of this work focused on better ways to organize and serve data, to tell water stories from that information. That led to my recent federal service in the EPA's Office of Water, where I was privileged to work on many of the public's premier water information systems, including How's My Waterway. I became the lead for the Water Quality Portal, the nation's destination and source for water quality data. I led education and outreach for the Water Quality eXChange, and specific support to the Nation's Tribes and Pueblos. I also supported the bloomWatch program and led work to share the agency's harmful algae bloom (HAB) data.

My family and I currently live across the river in southern Prince Georges County on a small historic tobacco farm. My personal time looks a lot like your programs – I have a fleet of canoes and kayaks, way too big of a garden, invasive plants to fight, historic buildings to restore, and a host of yard visitors to document on iNaturalist.



Adam and his wife, Katie, with their daughters at their farm

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Published quarterly by the American Chestnut Land Trust. The ACLT is dedicated to the preservation of Calvert County, Maryland's Natural and Historical Resources. Since it was established in 1986, ACLT has preserved just under 3,500 acres. We own 1,640 acres, manage 1,810 acres owned by the State of Maryland, and hold conservation easements on 374 privately-owned acres. - Editors: Ellen and David Farr

From the President's Desk ...

A Time of Transition

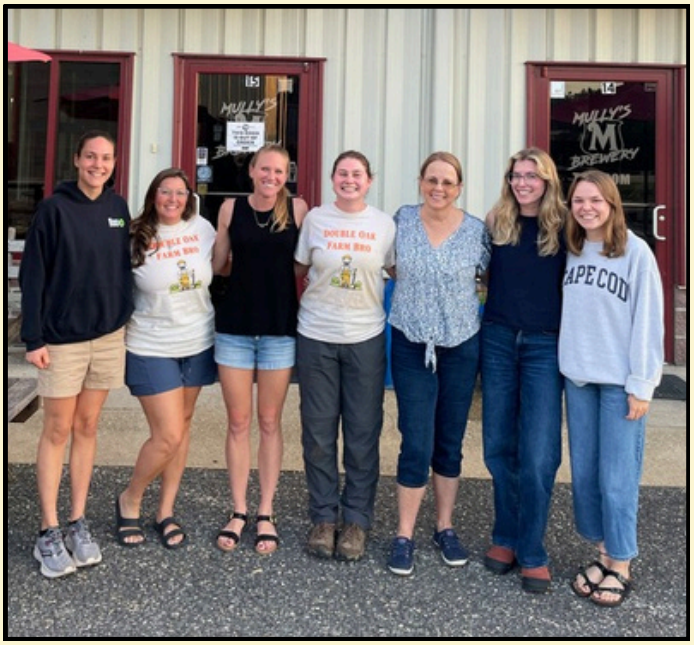
In this edition of the Watershed Observer, we are happy to introduce our new Executive Director, Adam Griggs. Adam's experience is a great match for ACLT's mission and vision, as you'll see in his introduction in this issue. I'm confident that Adam will lead ACLT forward while preserving the unique spirit that makes our organization special.

Over the past few months, our staff has shown just how important they are to ACLT. Thanks to their hard work and commitment, we successfully navigated this transition. Even if it wasn't always visible, ACLT kept up with our responsibilities and continued to plan ahead.

I hope you were able to attend the Sip and Save on September 6. Even though the weather was hot, it looked like everyone enjoyed themselves. We featured local beers and great food from Dream Weaver Catering. Events like this truly demonstrate the remarkable accomplishments of our staff and volunteers.

Plan to attend ACLT's annual Dinner and Auction on October 5. This is an excellent opportunity to connect with fellow members and contribute to ACLT's future success.

Dave Farr, President



ACLT Staff L-R: Clara Brill-Carlat, Jen Ludlow, Autumn Phillips-Lewis, Devon Burke, Miriam Gholl, Mary Hoover, and Addie Brown

Around ACLT

Introducing ACLT's 2025-2026 MCC Member

Hi friends! My name is Adelaide Dunbar and I am the Maryland Climate Corps member joining the ACLT community this year. I will be filling the farm manager role at the beautiful Double Oak farm, and I am so excited to learn, grow, and harvest alongside all of our wonderful volunteers.

I am originally from Seattle, Washington, and growing up in the Pacific Northwest truly cultivated my love of the outdoors. I love to hike and explore, sail when I have the opportunity, and swim in lakes and rivers. Some of my other interests include reading, crafting, and cooking - send your fun recipes and book recommendations my way!

I completed my bachelor's degree last spring at George Washington University in International Affairs with an International Environmental Studies concentration. I also completed a minor in Food Leadership, which built both my practical food cultivation skills and my knowledge of food policy. During my time in college, I worked at GW's Office of Sustainability and participated in a few extracurriculars, most notably community organizing around climate. All of these experiences led me to seek a job in the environmental field where I could connect with the community, give back to the Earth, and learn as much as possible.

I am so excited to get to know the ACLT community, so if you see me on the farm or out on the trails, please say hi!

Adelaide Dunbar, 2025-26 Maryland Climate Corps Member

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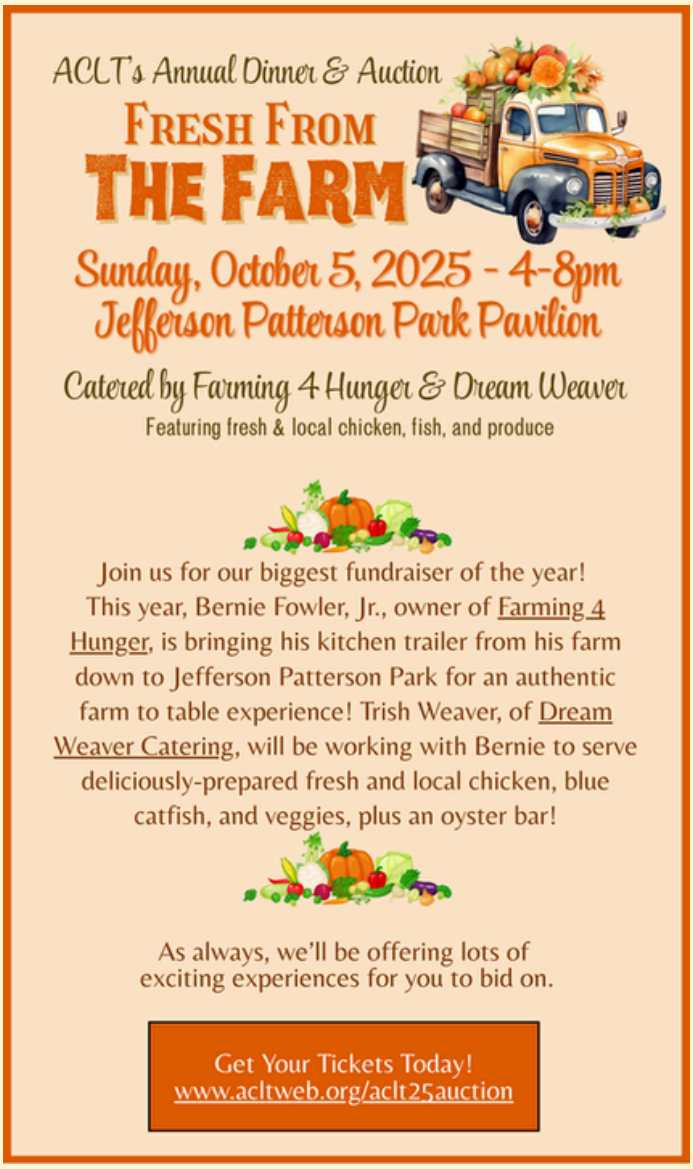
Understandably, I am incredibly excited to be joining ACLT and to be given the opportunity to use my fullest self, all my professional and personal experience and interests combined to help guide a fantastic organization. ACLT is more than just a land trust, it is an incredible resource for its community, and a leader for conservation in Southern Maryland. I noted during my interviews that it was obvious that there was something behind this organization. The variety and quality of programs that were being delivered, combined with the stewardship of lands, added up to far more than the staff alone could manage. I am awestruck by the seamless cooperation and generosity of such an engaged community of staff, board members, committees, volunteers, members, and partners. I thank you all for everything you give to this organization and to this community, and I look forward to meeting all of you as we continue to work together.

With thanks!

Adam Griggs



Ticks, Ticks, and More Ticks: A Survey of Tick Populations Near ACLT Trails

By Addie Brown, 2024-2025 CCCC Member

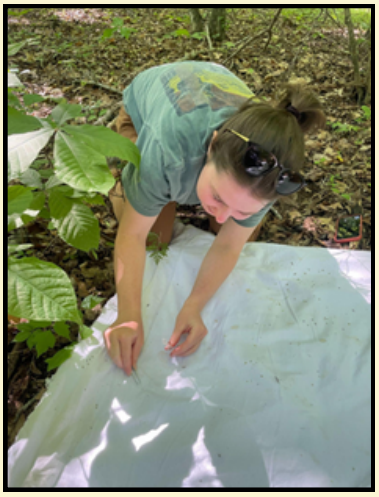
In May, I began my Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps capstone project, which focused on identifying tick species near ACLT's public trails, assessing their population densities, and determining how those densities vary by habitat type. I also aimed to detect the potential presence of tick-borne illnesses in the ticks I collected. The need for this project became clear early in my Corps year, which began in August 2024. While working with volunteers to remove wavyleaf basketgrass along ACLT trails and in surrounding areas, I noticed an unusually high number of seed ticks (larval-stage ticks) on my clothing, far more than I had ever encountered before. Although I expected some tick exposure while working outdoors, I was surprised by how many I picked up in just two hours. This experience emphasized an important reality: no matter where we are outdoors, whether working in the woods, hiking our favorite ACLT trails, or attending a community event, ticks are widespread. With this in mind, I conducted this study to collect meaningful data on the tick species present on ACLT lands. My goal was to inform the ACLT community about the types of ticks they might encounter and where, ultimately helping visitors, volunteers, and staff make safer and more informed decisions while enjoying our natural spaces.

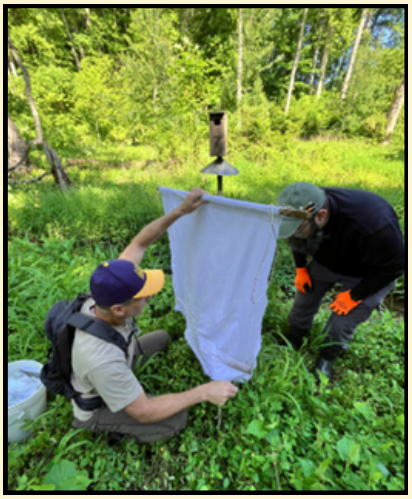
Based on existing literature, four habitat types were identified as preferred tick environments: meadows, low-lying floodplains, and two types of forest habitats–one dominated by leaf litter and the other characterized by dense understory vegetation. With the help of ACLT's Land Manager Autumn and Assistant Land Manager Clara, eight survey sites were selected near ACLT trails, with two sites for each habitat type. The selected sites included:

- Meadow sites: The meadow buffers along the Holly Hill Trail and a section of meadow beneath the powerlines on the PF2Bay Trail
- Low-lying floodplain sites: A section off of the North-South Trail and another near the Horse Swamp Trail
- Leaf litter forest sites: A section in the pine ridge area off of the Holly Hill Trail and another off of the Ridge Loop Trail
- Dense understory vegetation sites: A section off of the Horse Swamp Trail and another along the Parkers Creek/Turkey Trails

Sites were chosen based on their habitat type, proximity to ACLT trails, and the availability of suitable sampling areas.

To collect ticks, I used the dragging method, which involved a flag-like structure made of white flannel cloth (approximately 1m^2) attached to a tobacco stake. A rope secured to the stake allowed the cloth to be dragged through the different habitat types. Most tick species use a behavior called questing, where they climb to the top of vegetation and extend their front legs to latch onto a passing host. The dragging method mimics a host's movement, encouraging ticks to attach to the cloth. At each site, the surveyor walked a 750-meter transect beginning near a trail and moving steadily into the surrounding environment. Every 15 meters, the cloth was inspected, and any ticks found were collected. Avenza Maps was used to track distances and record the exact route, ensuring that future surveys could replicate the same transects. Adult and nymph ticks were carefully removed with tweezers and placed into labeled 1.5 mL vials.





Pictured, Left: 2024-2025 CCCC member Addie Brown using the dragging method to collect ticks in the leaf litter habitat on Holly Hill. Below, L-R: CCCC member Devon Burke and volunteers Doug Harbold and Jayme Pieretti assisting with tick collection during surveys.

Larvae, which are extremely small and hard to see, were collected using a lint roller. The tape was removed after each 15-meter transect and stored in sandwich bags until larvae could be transferred into vials under a microscope. All vials were stored together and labeled with the date, time, weather conditions, location, and habitat type. Only ticks found on the side of the cloth that made direct contact with the ground were included. Ticks found on the stake, rope, or the surveyor were excluded.

This survey method has been proven effective in numerous studies, and proper protocol guides for tick surveillance are available through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as well as in several academic journals, including the *Journal of Insect Science* and *Experimental and Applied Acarology*. To ensure a representative sample, each site was sampled three times. After collection, I identified the ticks to the species level and recorded the life stage (larva, nymph, or adult) of each tick. A subset of 64 randomly selected ticks (8 from each site) was sent to TickReport, a laboratory in Massachusetts. These samples were tested for bacteria known to cause common tick-borne illnesses.

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Las Flores in Full Bloom at ACLT

By Devon Burke, 2024-2025 CCCC Member

One year ago this September, José Ballesteros and Clemie Alvarez-Pizzillo sat together on the Double Oak Barn porch, enjoying the gentle symphony of farm-perched bluebirds and sparrows, the dancing of meadow grasses, and the low hum of the unseen insect residents, buzzing faintly from the direction of the flower gardens. September brings with it a sense of promise, and I felt it as I stepped onto the porch and greeted them.

José is the Chair of the ACLT's Community Heritage Committee (or "CHC", for less of a mouthful). His work with CHC centers around building social and racial equity in ACLT's organizational structure and programs, per ACLT's pledge in the Five Year Plan. ACLT recognizes its critical role in connecting all people to the land, providing equitable and inclusive access to the lands we steward, and fostering a sense of belonging for all diverse communities. CHC works towards these goals by tabling at local cultural heritage events, developing bilingual signage and events, and supporting oral history interviews of local Black families whose stories are featured in the Parkers Creek Heritage Trail.

That day in September '24, José introduced me to Clemie Alvarez-Pizzillo, the founder of Las Flores, a Calvert County-based community organization of Latino families. Clemie created Las Flores to empower and connect Latin American women with the skills they need to thrive in their community, in their preferred language. The organization offers monthly educational workshops and community gatherings, a local Latino business directory, and an annual community festival celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month.

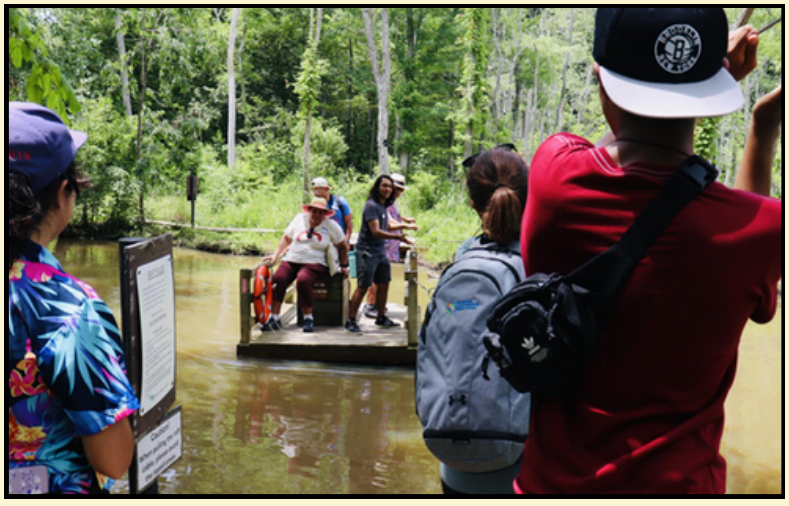
Clemie and José created a shared vision as I listened intently. They envisioned a partnership between ACLT and Las Flores, affectionately referred to as a "sisterhood between organizations." They imagined a mutually beneficial partnership where ACLT and Las Flores could exchange resources: Las Flores would help ACLT to reach new audiences, supporting its goal of expanding its impact to diverse communities; ACLT would provide Las Flores with opportunities for outdoor recreation and education. Clemie conducted a survey in 2024, finding that local Latino families wanted access to community programs offering gardening education and healthy cooking classes. As Clemie shared the results of this survey, I had an idea. I explained that as part of my year-long term at ACLT as a Chesapeake Climate and Conservations Corps member, I had to complete a capstone project. I excitedly suggested that my project could be a collaboration with Las Flores to build out the family-friendly gardening and cooking programs that would build upon Las Flores' nutrition workshops and health education. These programs could be based throughout ACLT, featuring the different areas of ACLT's stewardship: the trails, Double Oak Farm, and Double Oak Food Forest.

Clemie and José loved the idea, and we were off to the races.

¡Bienvenidas Las Flores!

Over the next nine months, a series of three programs were developed, called Roble Doble, or 'Double Oak' in Spanish. The women of Las Flores and I identified the main areas of interest for our outdoor education offerings, settling on a handful of topics. Karyna Garcia, member of Las FLOREs and owner of local food truck K's Lunchbox, agreed to provide healthy lunches and cooking demonstrations to the participating families of Roble Doble. Albert Arévalo, Volunteer Manager for Latino Outdoors' DC/DMV chapter, partnered with the project to offer culturally-informed environmental education. Latino Outdoors is a national organization of Latino environmental educators, conservationists, and volunteers, who work to support the inclusion and celebration of Latino culture in the outdoors. Albert provided several creative programs, equipping kids and families with foundational skills to navigate ACLT's outdoor offerings, including trails, farm, and food forest. With Clemie, Karyna, and Albert on board, Roble Doble was ready to kick off!

Held on Sunday, June 22, the first Roble Doble program was a great success. The group gathered at ACLT's North Side Trailhead at noon, receiving nametags, stickers, compasses, binoculars, ACLT trail journals, and travel-size containers of Tecnu. They were guided in an orientation to ACLT, learning the locations of essential landmarks.



The group crosses Parkers Creek, returning after their picnic via the Double Oak Road Trail.

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Between mid-May and early July, 24 surveys were conducted. A total of 860 ticks were collected. According to the University of Maryland, six tick species are known to be active in Maryland: the American dog tick (*Dermacentor variabilis*), blacklegged or deer tick (*Ixodes scapularis*), brown dog tick (*Phipicephalus sanguineus*), lone star tick (*Amblyomma americanum*), Gulf Coast tick (*Amblyomma maculatum*), and the Asian longhorned tick (*Haemaphysalis longicornis*). Of these, only three species were found during the survey:

- Lone star tick (*Amblyomma americanum*): 596 ticks
- Blacklegged/deer tick (*Ixodes scapularis*): 239 ticks
- American dog tick (*Dermacentor variabilis*): 25 ticks

Of the total sample, 111 ticks (12.91%) were larvae. The larval stage is the life stage after a tick hatches from an egg. At this stage, ticks are extremely small, about the size of a period at the end of a sentence, and have only six legs, unlike nymphs and adults, which have eight legs. Nymphs made up the majority of the sample, with 650 individuals (75.58%), all of which were either lone star or blacklegged ticks. These intermediate-stage ticks are about the size of a poppy seed. Ninety-nine ticks (11.51%) were adults, the final and largest life stage. The high number of nymphs is likely due to sampling taking place during the time of year when lone star and blacklegged/deer tick nymphs are most active.

All three species identified have the ability to transmit pathogens to humans. When a tick feeds on a host, it can acquire bloodborne pathogens and potentially pass them on to another host during future feedings. To assess this risk, 64 of the ticks collected during the surveys were tested for pathogens by TickReport. Of those, only six individuals tested positive, representing just 9.4% of the tested sample.

Each site was assigned a unique code. For example, "M1" refers to the Holly Hill meadow site. One lone star tick from that site tested positive for *Borrelia lonestari*, a bacterium that can cause Southern Tick-Associated Rash Illness (STARI). Two blacklegged ticks collected from the Parkers Creek/Turkey Trails dense understory vegetation site (DUV1) tested positive for *Borrelia burgdorferi*, the bacterium that causes Lyme Disease. One tick from the Horse Swamp Trail dense understory vegetation site (DUV2), identified as belonging to the *Ixodes* genus, tested positive for a bacterium within the *Borrelia* genus. While the lab was confident that this individual was a type of blacklegged tick, DNA testing could not confirm the tick nor the bacterium to the species level. At leaf litter site OF1, near the Holly Hill Trail, one lone star tick tested positive for *Borrelia lonestari*, and one blacklegged tick tested positive for *Borrelia burgdorferi*. In addition to these pathogens, Alpha-Gal Syndrome is a growing concern among people who are exposed to ticks. This condition may develop after a lone star tick bite, causing an allergic reaction to red meat due to a sugar molecule called alpha-gal introduced through the tick's saliva. While humans can get tested for Alpha-Gal Syndrome, labs do not directly test lone star ticks for alpha-gal since all lone star ticks have this sugar molecule in their saliva.

Site	Species	Stage	Pathogen Detected
M1	A. americanum (lone star)	Adult	B. lonestari (Southern Tick-Associated Rash Illness)
DUV1	I. scapularis (blacklegged/deer)	Nymph	B. burgdorferi (Lyme Disease)
DUV1	I. scapularis (blacklegged/deer)	Nymph	B. burgdorferi (Lyme Disease)
DUV2	Ixodes spp. (Ixodes genus)	Adult	Borrelia spp. (Borrelia genus)
OF1	A. americanum (lone star)	Nymph	B. lonestari (Southern Tick-Associated Rash Illness)
OF1	I. scapularis (blacklegged/deer)	Nymph	B. burgdorferi (Lyme Disease)

Table 1. Positive pathogen testing results.

Although a few ticks tested positive for pathogens, the overall results are encouraging. The low rate of positive tests in the subsample suggests that most ticks collected were not carrying pathogens. Even when extrapolated to the full sample of 860 ticks, only about 81 ticks might have been infected.

In addition to pathogen detection, the survey provided valuable insights into tick distribution across different habitats. Overall, tick density varied by habitat type.

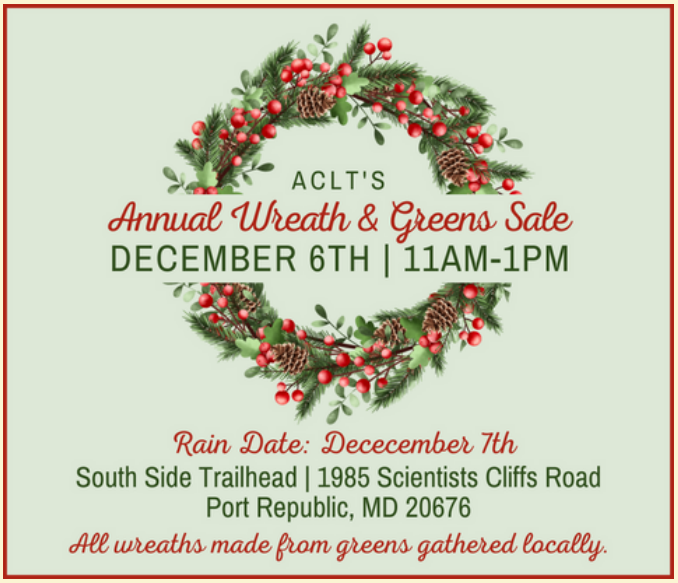
Site ID	Total Ticks
M1- Holly Hill Meadow	28
M2- PF2Bay Powerlines Meadow	31
OF1- Holly Hill/Pine Ridge Leaf Litter	262
OF2- South Side Ridge Loop Leaf Litter	299
DUV1- Parkers Creek/Turkey Trail Dense Understory Vegetation	102
DUV2- Horse Swamp Trail Dense Understory Vegetation	82
LLF1- Horse Swamp Trail Low-lying Floodplain	9
LLF2- North-South Trail Low-Lying Floodplain	47

Table 2. Tick abundance by site.

Forests dominated by leaf litter had the highest tick densities by far, followed by areas with dense understory vegetation. Meadows and low-lying floodplains had similarly low overall tick counts. Notably, site OF2, located in a leaf litter forest site off of ACLT's Ridge Loop Trail, had the highest number of lone star ticks. Site OF1, the leaf litter forest site off of the Holly Hill Trail, had the highest number of blacklegged ticks, while site M2, the meadow beneath the PF2Bay Trail powerlines, had the highest count of American dog ticks. Overall, 59 ticks (6.86%) were collected in the meadow habitat, 561 ticks (65.23%) in the leaf litter habitat, 184 ticks (21.40%) in areas with dense understory vegetation, and 56 ticks (6.51%) in the low-lying floodplain habitat.

While the total number of ticks collected may seem surprising, these results provide valuable insights into where people are most likely to encounter ticks on ACLT-managed lands. By identifying habitats with the highest tick densities and determining which species and life stages are most prevalent, this study can help the ACLT community make informed choices to reduce the risk of tick bites and tick-borne illnesses. Whether you are hiking your favorite trail, volunteering off-trail to help steward the land, or attending a community event, awareness of ticks is an important part of staying safe outdoors. Wearing long sleeves and pants, using EPA-approved insect repellents, and performing thorough tick checks after spending time outside are all effective personal safety measures. In addition, recognizing the early signs and symptoms of common tick-borne illnesses could lead to quicker diagnosis and treatment when needed. For more information on tick prevention, safe tick removal, and disease symptoms, visit the CDC's website at www.cdc.gov/ticks. You can also visit ACLT's blog page for a helpful tick identification guide. The post titled "The Tick Days of Summer: A Guide to Identifying Six Common Tick Species in Maryland" includes photos and tips for identifying the ticks most commonly found in our region.

Ultimately, this survey is not a cause for alarm, but rather a resource for increasing public awareness and promoting outdoor safety. With information like this, we can all continue to enjoy ACLT's trails and natural areas while minimizing the risks associated with ticks.



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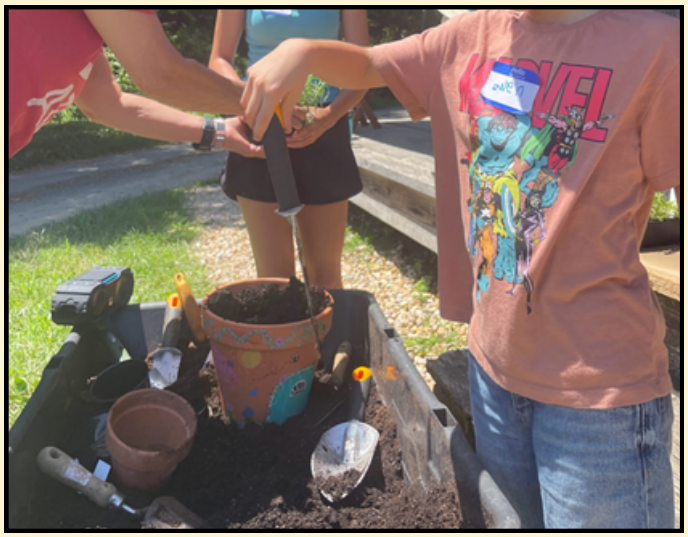
Rock painting, an essential ACLT tradition.

Families were invited to participate in the beloved ACLT tradition of painting rocks and hiding them on the trails to be discovered by a future ACLT trail user. As participants hunted for and painted their rocks, Guest Environmental Educator Albert Arévalo provided a trail etiquette activity in Spanish. He encouraged participants to close their eyes, silently clipping a clothespin to one person's clothing. After participants opened their eyes, the challenge was to find the clothespin and, once found, alert the group without making noise or any other disturbance. This exercise encouraged the group to avoid accidentally scaring wildlife away while trying to share the discovery with others.

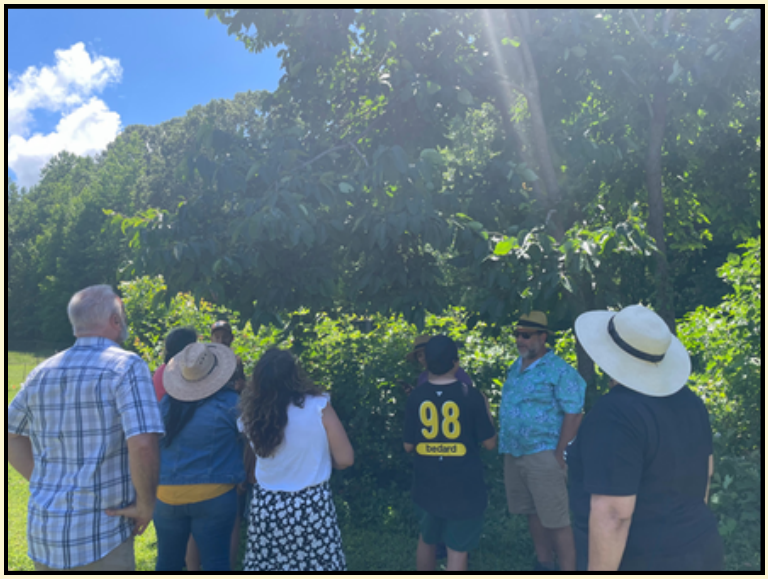
With backpacks stocked with supplies and extra water, the group embarked on a 3.8 mile hike through the forest to an iconic ACLT landmark, the raft on Parkers Creek. The families used the manual pulley system to pull themselves across the creek on the raft, settling in for a picnic lunch by K's Lunchbox on the far shaded bank of the creek. Albert taught the group how to identify poison ivy and apply Tecnu in the case of poison ivy exposure. Pneumonic devices to help identify common bird and tree species were taught to participants as the species appeared along the trail. Those who decorated rocks found creative places to hide them. Laughter could be heard throughout, thanks to José's gift of storytelling. Upon their return to the North Side Trailhead, the group cooled down with ice water and a much-needed watermelon snack, and departed.

On the second Roble Doble program day, Sunday, July 6, a group of 14 met on ACLT's North Barn porch for a program centered on the Double Oak Farm and Food Forest. The families began by decorating terracotta pots with acrylic paint pens while learning about culinary herbs like oregano, basil, thyme, and lavender. They planted starter plugs of these various herbs into their terracotta pots, creating a "doorstep herb garden" to take home. While planting the herbs, a friendly competition was held to see who could identify the most herbs by smell alone. After completing the activity, the group enjoyed a nutritious lunch provided by Karyna. After lunch, the group was led on an educational tour of Double Oak Farm and Food Forest, observing the many herbal and edible plant species growing throughout. A guided tour of the farm's Experimental Demonstration Garden Experience (the EDGE Garden) offered families practical examples of sustainable growing techniques, herbal and edible plant species well suited to Southern Maryland, and gardening with native plants. The group gathered around the EDGE Garden's Three Sisters planting for a reading of the Three Sisters Legend (as transcribed by the Haudenosaunee Tribe), learning about the Indigenous agricultural tradition of planting the symbiotic crops of corn, beans, and squash together. Lastly, the group completed a walking and tasting tour of the farm, harvesting gleefully throughout.

See: https://nsuok.edu/heritage/three-sisters-legend.aspx



Families decorate and plant their own doorstep herb gardens



Families tour Double Oak Farm and the Food Forest

The final Roble Doble program was scheduled for Sunday, July 13. Due to forecasts of heavy rain throughout the weekend, Clemie graciously offered to host the program at her family home. Families made their own homemade pizza, incorporating fresh vegetables harvested from her backyard garden and food forest. The group enjoyed the pizza dinner and the various other dishes brought by Las Flores families to share.

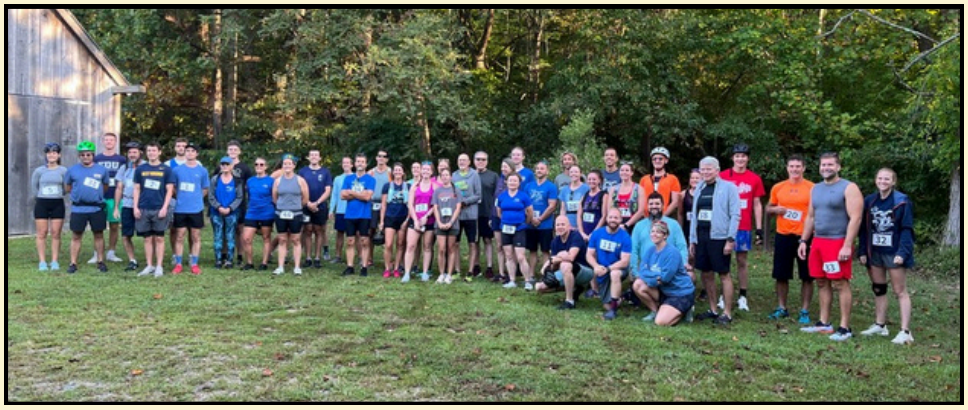
Following dinner, the families were led in an educational tasting tour of Clemie's food forest, in which the Three Sisters, cucumbers, sweet potatoes, kale, cabbage, apples, pears, goji berries, tomatoes, peppers, and native pawpaw trees were thriving. The night marked the successful end of Roble Doble.

As another summer at ACLT begins its September descent, I reflect with my colleagues on the Community Heritage Committee about Roble Doble's role as a stepping stone for ACLT to make our community offerings more equitable for Las Flores neighbors in the short term, and hopefully, for our broader Latino community and other diverse communities of Calvert County. Now that more Las Flores families have experience with ACLT's trails, farm, and food forest, we hope to continue strengthening community connections, sharing resources, and building programs together. In October, ACLT will be hosting Las Flores on a bilingual paddle on Parkers Creek. As a longer term goal, Las Flores' annual Hispanic Heritage Month festival will be hosted at ACLT's North Side.

During the final Roble Roble, families participated in an educational tour of Clemie's backyard food forest.

Fun Events to End the Summer

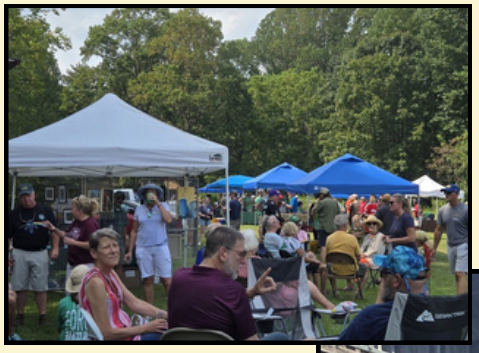
By Miriam Gholl, Community Relations Manager



September 6th was an unusually hot day for this time of year, but luckily we had plenty of cold beer at the Annual Sip & Save. Approximately 250 attendees were able to choose from a selection of over 35 different beers from 16 breweries located within the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The crowd enjoyed the lively music of the 2-4-U band and lunch was provided by Dream Weaver Catering.

The following Sunday, the weather was much cooler and perfect for the 45 athletes who gathered for the annual Parkers Creek Challenge triathlon.

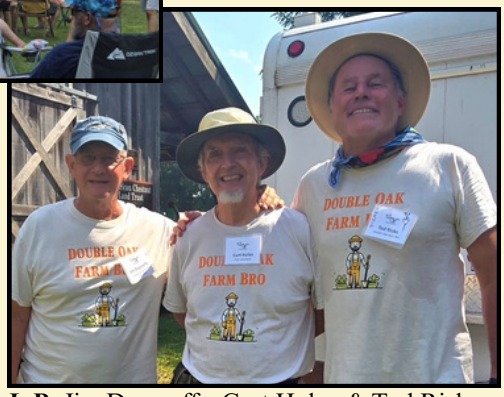
Special thanks to the 39 volunteers who helped with the Sip & Save and 22 volunteers who helped with the triathlon, plus the four Sheriff's Deputies who helped keep the athletes safe along the route.



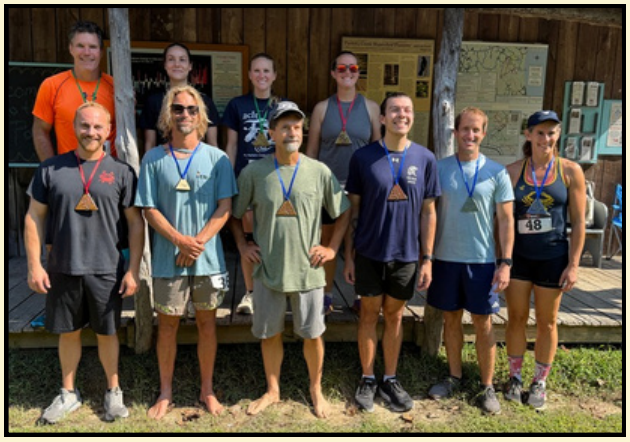
Left: The crowd at the Sip & Save gathered in the shade.

Below: The beer crew kept the coolers full and the attendees happy all day.

View more Photos of both events here:
www.acltweb.org/events



L-R: Jim Degeneffe, Curt Hules, & Tod Ricks



Pictured, Top: Participants in the 2025 Parkers Creek Challenge gather for a photo prior to the race.

Pictured, Bottom: 2025 PCC Winners. Back Row L-R: Shawn Kyle (1st Place Men's category), Clara Brill-Carlat (1st Place Women's category), Autumn Phillips-Lewis (2nd Place Women's), Anna Wells (3rd Place Women's). Front Row L-R: Alex Spychalski (3rd Place Men's), Jake Rupard, 2nd Place Men's, Bruce Laher (1st Place 60+ category), 1st Place Relay Team (L-R): Nikolaus Meyer, Christopher Rodkey, and Rachel Boarman

Thank You for Your Support

New Members

ACLT welcomes the following new members since the Summer 2025 newsletter:

Lindsey Anderson
Jeff Baron
Nicole Bega
Addie Brown
Karl Bugenhagen
Devon Burke
Carly Heflin & James Fisher & Family
Corrina Christensen Clark
Aerolyn Consaul
James Czarzasty
Christina & Nick DeMino
Nicholas Doner
Bruce & Libby Fall
Michael Ferguson
Rebecca Gallery & Chris Karlas
Cody Hance
Ashley & Eric Helmrich & Family
Seth Herritt
Fabio Leonessa & Family
Allison & Robert Mitchell
Carly Rizzuto
Jessica Robinson
Terry Schleicher
Patti Snyder
Amy & Jake Stich
Kataryna Strayer
Justin Thomson
Sara Webb
Jeff & Chelsy Weber
Ted Yoder

Memorial Donations

Thank you to the following who made a memorial contribution since the Summer newsletter:

In memory of Rita Amtmann:
John & Sherry Kirby

In memory of Stanley Benning:
Susan & Michael Vecchione & Family

In memory of Annie Hannah Moore:
Annie Hannah Moore's Family

Greg Bowen Memorial Fund
Paul Baum
Bruce & Patricia Bradley
Melanie Biscoe
Farm Heritage Conservancy
Bob Field
Miriam Gholl
Patricia Hofmann
Diane & Frank Jaklitsch
Victor Kennedy & Deborah Coffin Kennedy
Joe & Trudy Mihalcik
Carol Penfield
Amy Plummer
Adam & Lauren Sampson
Joseph & Joanne Steller
Fay Walton
Anne Weems

Gift Memberships
Thank you to the following who donated a gift membership since our last newsletter:
Susan & Gerald Helmrich
R.T. West

Sustaining Membership
Congratulations to those who have reached the level of Sustaining Membership:
Miriam Gholl
Deborah and Victor Kennedy

General Contributions and Designated Gifts

2025 Spring Appeal Donations
Patricia Beaudwin
Penny Firth & David Knapp
Patricia Hofmann
Kathryn Mead
Mary Miscally
Jonathan & Jennifer Moreland
James Vietor
Saint Nicholas Lutheran Church

Monthly
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Penny Moran
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Rebecca Rothhaas
Elaine Strong
Paul Vetterle

General
Chesapeake Garden Club of Calvert County
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Jan & Jim Degeneffe
Bob Field
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Keith Linville
Kathleen Montgomery & Ed Sensabaugh
Laura & Jamal Parker
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The Matthews Family Foundation

Workplace Giving
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Frank McPhillilps
Janice & Chuck Rodgers
Spirits of Calvert – Kevin Murphy

Facebook Fundraiser Donors
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Joselle Gilpin
Chris Petherick

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John & Betsy Saunders

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Stan & Barbara Benning
Dan Boesz
Peter Daly
Kathy Daniel & David Braun
Paul & Diana Dennett
Mary Dwan*
David & Ellen Farr
Millicent Gay*
Jim* & Susan Greene
Robert Jeager*
Steven & Jackie King
Jane Klemer*
Shirley Knight & Bonnie Carter
Gary & Sandra Loew
Penny Moran
Robyn & Eric Truslow
Caroline Van Mason*
*Deceased

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In order to use your donation as efficiently as possible, we use USPS Bulk Mail and this statement is required to be in the address. Thank you for understanding!

The Many Ways to Get Involved with ACLT

visit www.acltweb.org for more info.


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Join a Friends Group


Help with Water Sampling


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