

Watershed Observer



NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN CHESTNUT LAND TRUST - VOLUME 32 No. 4 FALL 2018

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COMING UP ON THE CALENDAR

OCTOBER

20 SAT – ACLT SIP & SAVE (REGIONAL
BEER TASTING FUNDRAISER)

28 SUN – FALL COLORS GUIDED HIKE
(1:00–3:00PM)

NOVEMBER

3 SAT – 23RD ANNUAL AUCTION AND
DINNER

SEE MORE OF THE 2018 CALENDAR ON
PAGE 6 OR ONLINE AT
[HTTP://ACLTWEB.ORG](http://acltweb.org).

Visit Us Online at
<http://acltweb.org>

ACLT Trail Update (as of August 16, 2018)

“Rain! whose soft architectural hands have power to cut stones, and chisel to shapes of grandeur the very mountains.” –Henry Ward Beecher

With the amount of rainfall we have seen lately it seems as if the mountains will have newly carved ridges and valleys. Calvert Cliffs is certainly exposing once buried layers. Some might have seen the effects of the recent downpours while driving, or more accurately, being stopped, along Rt. 4. And while the impermeability of Rt. 4 played a huge role in its flooding, there have been disastrous effects of the rains in the completely forested areas of the Parkers Creek Preserve.

The Parkers Creek Preserve received 9.22 inches in May, 4.28 inches in June, 10.22 inches in July, and already 5.92 inches in August (NOAA). For comparison, monthly averages in Prince Frederick are 4.22 inches in May, 4.27 inches in June, 4.48 inches in July, and 3.94 inches in August (Intellicast). As you can tell, this year has been an above average year for precipitation. And not only that, but a majority of the rainfall happened within a couple of hours-long events. This means that there were multiple occurrences of huge influxes of rainfall where the ground did not have enough time to filter the water throughout the soil and its various roots. Instead, the ground became completely saturated, and therefore, water started funneling across the soil's surface to the nearest low point where it gushed so violently it tore away the stabilization of stream banks and steep hills.

Thus, it has been a very busy season for ACLT, as trail stewards and weekly Weed Whacking Wednesday and Thursday Trail Adventure volunteers have been working tirelessly on trying to repair and replace the water bars, boardwalks, and bridges which were destroyed during the rains. We have seen raft landings of 500 pounds carried over 100 feet through the marsh, trails become the tidal portion of Parkers Creek's ever changing course, and failed culvert systems which once allowed stream cross-

ings.



Top: Thursday Trail Adventure enjoying Popsicles after a hot work day on the trails.

Bottom: Newly installed stream crossing re-route on Flint Trail.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)



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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 over 3,200 acres. We own 1390 acres, manage 1,819 acres owned by the State of Maryland, and hold conservation easements on 374 privately-owned acres.

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With its partners, ACLT is Advocating for Conservation

Government policy can be confusing. With most people's busy lives, it's almost impossible to stay on top of all the issues that are important to us. Frequently, by the time we are aware that something has changed, it's too late. When it comes to land conservation, "too late" is when the trees have come down or the field has been paved over. Once it's gone, it's gone forever. While Calvert County has a history of leadership in land conservation in Maryland, government decisions over the past several years have put that legacy in jeopardy.

Did you know that there is a 5 year moratorium on new agricultural preservation districts in Calvert County? That means that thousands of eligible acres aren't allowed to be added to the program. In addition, funds that are supposed to be put aside by the county for preservation have been redirected to the general fund.

Many of these government decisions have a direct impact on ACLT's ability to preserve land by limiting access to previously successful conservation programs. These decisions also limit the options for families who would like to preserve their property. Their only current option if they must sell, is to sell for development, changing their lives and our communities forever.

Over the past year, ACLT has taken a greater role in speaking out against these policies. In short, we have chosen to undertake advocacy. It was time to take action to revive the county's land preservation programs and express our concerns. Through the Sustainable Calvert Network (Calvert Farmland Trust, Calvert County Farm Bureau, Calvert County Historical Society, Calvert County League of Women Voters, Calvert Eats Local, Calvert Nature Society, Cove Point Natural Heritage Land Trust, Patuxent Friends, Southern Calvert Land Trust, and Sierra Club), ACLT supported a Rural Lands Forum (in April) and a Candidates Forum (in May). We intend to continue to advocate for land conservation.

We would love to hear your thoughts on ACLT taking on a greater advocacy role in the county. In addition, if you have any questions on current local policy changes, feel free to give us a call or send an email. We're happy to discuss these issues with you. Together, we can help Calvert County maintain its natural and rural character and continue to be a leader in land conservation in Maryland.

Greg Bowen
Executive Director, ACLT

Around ACLT

A Summer of Fun: ACLT's 2018 — 2nd Sundays

It was a soggy summer in Calvert County. The weather made hiking and paddling tough. But the staff and volunteers found a way to offer opportunities for the public to come out for fun at ACLT's North Side. This year, our 2nd Sunday Farmers Markets expanded to include themes in hopes of reaching new guests. The three events were the Family Day in June, Wellness Day in July, with The Dog Days of Summer ending the series in August.

Family Day was a delight in June with guests enjoying hayrides, painting rocks, creating butterfly feeders, getting close up with fossils and Miss Mary's Turtles, and examining nature items under a microscope.

July offered an unusually cool and lovely day for our Wellness event. Guests had the chance to chat with experts on natural farming and gardening and getting healthy through hiking. Bay Arts Healing from North Beach even offered \$1 per minute professional shoulder and hand massages.

A highlight of the season was "The Dog Days of Summer"! More than 150 guests, and dozens of pups, shared the afternoon. The Calvert Animal Welfare League, the Calvert K9 Search and Rescue, Service Dogs 4 All and trainer Elizabeth Ashley joined us to talk about all things dogs.

The final two events also featured a new regular vendor and friend, Melissa Rivera, owner of Linda's on the Go food truck. Melissa would visit the farm a few days prior to pick Double Oak veggies, then turned them into outstanding treats which were available for sale at the events. This summer has started a delicious friendship.

The rain made the farm and ACLT Gardens particularly beautiful this summer. Our crew of flower gardeners, "The Flower Girls", expanded their section to incorporate a cutting garden which they used to create beautiful bundles of flowers. Bouquets were available at the Farmers Market on the porch at several of the events. Additional bouquets were created and donated to a variety of locations including Calvert Library (Prince Frederick and Solomons), Calvert County Nursing Center, Calvert Pines Senior Center, Calvert Art Gallery, Asbury Solomons Retirement Community, Southern Pines Senior Center and more throughout the summer.

As always, farm tours and fun farm activities were a big hit with all of our guests. RT West and Cathy Foutz charmed and educated groups as they were led through the rows of flowers, vegetables, hay bales and even now small persimmon trees. A special feature this year was the gourd tunnel, allowing guests to be surrounded by beautiful hanging gourds in a tunnel of green that then opened to the herb diamond.

It might have been a rainy season but, together, ACLT staff, volunteers and guests brightened these days with plenty of smiles.

Pam Shilling
Community Relations Manager



(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Here are some of the major trail projects happening right now and throughout this fall season: Flint trail re-route and bridge repair, Prince Frederick to Bay re-routes and bridge repair, Horse Swamp and Turkey Trail water bar repairs, Parkers Creek Loop raft repair and trail re-route, North-South Trail flooding re-route and bridge installation, and finally East Loop's sinkhole repair.

ACLT is working on fixing these trail issues as fast as we can and cannot wait to get you back out and exploring; however, we want ensure that our repairs will be safe for all trail users and can withstand future rain storms with the grandeur of recent ones. Please check the website for trail updates and wear boots instead of sneakers! We continue weekly repairs and could use all the help we can get. If you are willing to get your hands dirty and take part in what some are calling a weekly "woods workout" please email me at trosswall@acltweb.org.

Taylor Roswall, 2018 CCC Intern



Top: Installing new water bars on Horse Swamp Trail.
Bottom: "Sink hole" on East Loop.

Hunting on the Parkers Creek Preserve: State's Management Philosophy is Evolving

Early this spring, Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff notified ACLT staff that it was considering a change in the public hunting in the Parkers Creek Preserve on DNR property. After notifying our Board, I wrote an email on April 27th to the ACLT membership alerting everyone that DNR was considering increasing the number of species hunted in the Parkers Creek Preserve. Later, DNR reduced the scope of its proposal. The change would apply to turkeys only, which would increase the length of the hunting season days by 20 to 34 days, depending on the option proposed by DNR. This is a follow up to that first notice.

Background

At the end of the twentieth Century, land preservation in the Parkers Creek Watershed jumped leaps and bounds. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) began working with the American Chestnut Land Trust to protect the watershed. However, there needed to be a land manager and DNR said that they would not be involved without ACLT management of the property. After extended meetings, a plan emerged where TNC would actively negotiate to buy the land in the Parkers Creek Preserve, for eventual sale to DNR. Then ACLT would lease it upon purchase by DNR. To date, the land owned by DNR and managed (under terms of a lease) by ACLT totals 1,810 acres.

The original lease agreement was for 10 years and it may be renewed by mutual agreement of the parties for three additional terms for a total of 40 years. Either party can decide not to renew the lease and DNR can terminate the lease at any time. The lease was signed in 2000 and renewed in 2010. It is up for renewal in 2020.

In 2014, DNR was finishing its process of codifying the land it owns for management purposes. Thus far, the Parkers Creek Preserve had not been designated. Ultimately, the Parkers Creek Preserve became a Wildlife Management Area (WMA), under the supervision of the Wildlife & Heritage Service. WMAs are primarily managed for hunting, trapping and other wildlife-dependent recreational uses. Eighty-five percent of the funding for Maryland's state wildlife programs comes from hunting license fees and a federal excise tax on sport hunting devices and ammunition.

Following that designation, DNR notified ACLT that there would be public hunting on the state portion of the Parkers Creek Preserve. Public hunting of deer has been conducted without incident since 2016. In March, DNR staff notified ACLT staff that they were proposing multi-species hunting in the Parkers Creek Preserve beginning as early as the fall of 2018. After further consideration, DNR staff proposed three options that would only increase the number of species hunted to turkey.

Check us out on Facebook. Follow the American Chestnut Land Trust today!

facebook

Current Status

Over the last 20 years, ACLT and DNR have made great progress with land conservation in the Parkers Creek watershed. The partnership with DNR is one that we want to maintain because we believe that both parties benefit. With the lease, ACLT has more ability to plan public functions and conduct scientific research in the watershed. We also have access to Warriors Rest for canoe trips. DNR benefits from ACLT facilitating public access for hikers and paddlers on well-managed trails and canoe and kayak facilities. It also benefits from having a watchdog non-profit monitor the state lands for intruders, vandals, and invasive species, at no cost to the public.

We are aware that DNR relies on license fees and permitting fees for most of its operating funds. Designation of the Parkers Creek Preserve as a Wildlife Management Area foretold its use for public hunting and DNR staff has tried to be accommodating with ACLT in the options it provided. On the other hand, many of our hikers are wary or unwilling to walk on the trails when there is public hunting and this affects our ability to connect people to the land.

Currently, the proposal to increase the number of species is on hold as DNR staff is tied up with other projects, but we know that this will come up again. We believe that both sides benefit from the continued strong relationship. The hunting policies will not change unless the lease is terminated or there is concurrence by the Board. We will keep you posted.

Meanwhile, please let me know your thoughts.

Greg Bowen
Executive Director, ACLT

Trickling Towards Healthier Waterways

In 2017, the ACLT piloted its first watershed-wide water quality monitoring program in order to assess nitrate levels within tributaries of Parkers Creek. It was deemed a “water quality blitz.” Prior to this, the Trust had been sampling several sites along the main stem of Parkers Creek for a multitude of parameters but wanted to expand this data to include smaller streams that feed into the main stem. The theory behind this expansion was to observe stream channels that are in closer proximity to runoff as these systems can be considered sentinels of water quality and ecosystem health. Also, as a stream widens downstream, dilution and other factors can skew accurate representations of source nitrogen levels. The ACLT Science Committee came to the consensus that a more thorough analysis of water quality throughout the Parkers Creek watershed was necessary in order to gather this accurate representation.

In the spring of 2018, while the trees were still dormant, fourteen of ACLT’s volunteers marched out into the vast forested watershed in order to sample our stream sites. It is important to keep in mind the timing of this sampling effort. All plants require nitrogen for proper growth and begin to tap into sources of it in early spring after a long winter’s rest. Sampling before this vernal growth is theorized to provide an actual representation of ground-water nitrate levels before it is removed from the system and embedded into a plant’s tissue.



ACLT’s Water Quality Blitz Team.

Twenty-one sites were sampled this year (see map on the following page). Green indicates an improvement in nitrate levels since 2017, red indicates an increase in nitrate levels, and yellow is new to this year’s sampling. Similar to last year, all of the sites are well below Calvert County’s nitrogen standard for water quality of 0.7 mg/L. One benefit of a large tract of forested land, such as the Parkers Creek Preserve, is its ability to filter runoff sources before they reach any waterway. However, from our sampling it is evident that a couple of sites have seen a slight increase in nitrates since the 2017 sampling. There are a lot of variables that factor into stream sampling; time of year, seasonal precipitation levels, adjacent anthropogenic activity, etc., yet, even these sites that have declined slightly are still well below our county’s threshold.

Sip the Beer. Save the Land.
ACLT's
Sip & Save
Saturday, 10/20, 1-5pm
Local Beer Tasting, Live Music,
Corn Hole, Door Prizes & More.
676 Double Oak Rd, Prince Frederick

The beauty of a monitoring program such as a water quality blitz is that a historical data trend can be established and any significant decrease in ecosystem quality can be referenced to years prior. If nitrate levels continue to increase at these sites in particular, then action can be taken and the area surveyed for unusual input sources.

All samples were processed by ACLT volunteers before being sent to Chesapeake Biological Laboratories for nutrient analysis. Further reading and data on groundwater quality for the Chesapeake Bay region is also available through the United States Geological Survey at <https://nawqatrends.wim.usgs.gov/Decadal/>. The ACLT would like to extend its thanks to all of its volunteers and partners for the dedicated work they have contributed towards making this project materialize.

Mike Molina
ACLT Assistant Land Manager

American Chestnut Land Trust Calendar of Events

October

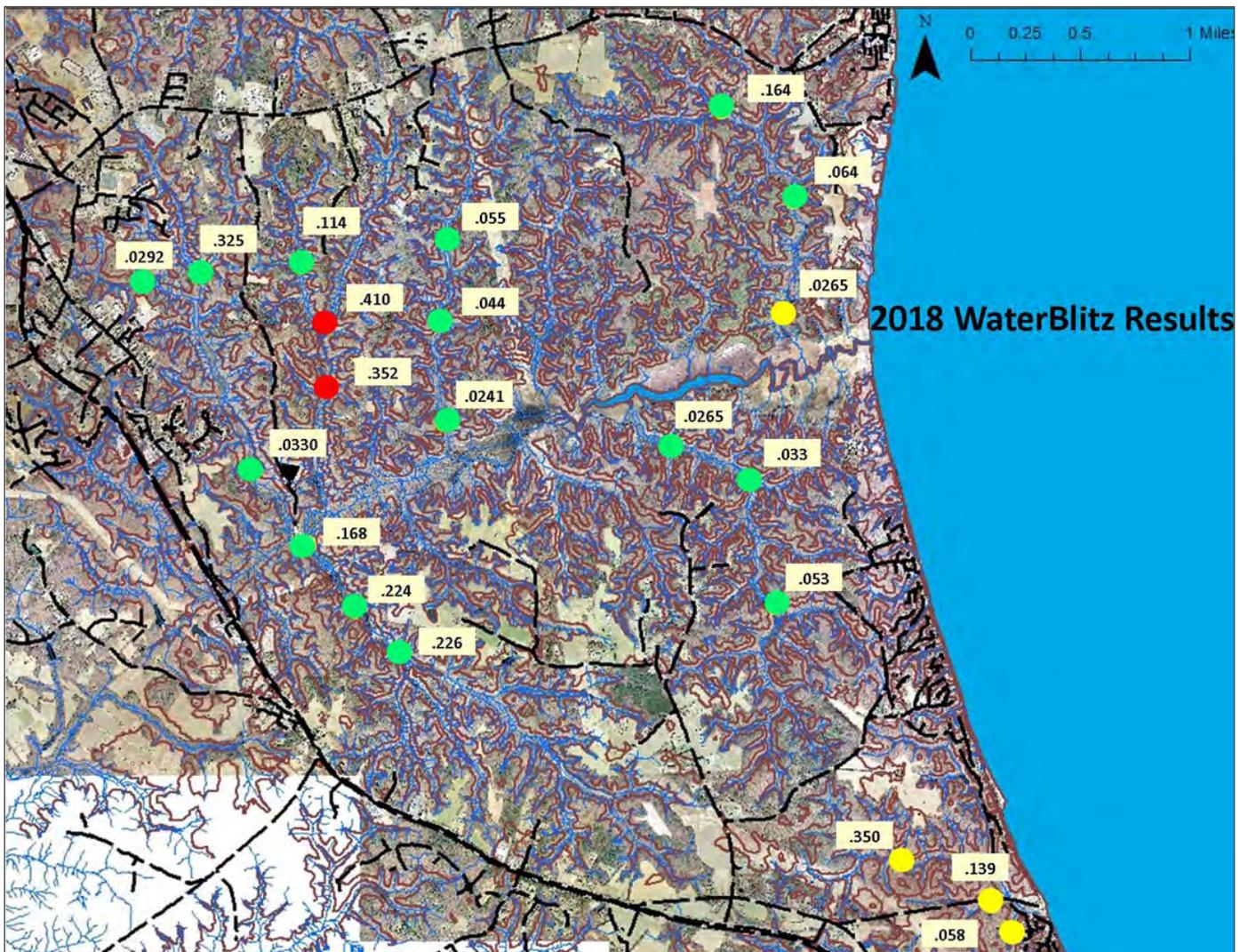
- 6-7 Sat & Sun – Patuxent River Appreciation Days (10:00am-5:00pm)
- 6 Sat. – Guided Canoe Trip (12:30 pm - 3:30 pm)
- 20 Sat. – Guided Canoe Trip (12:00 pm - 3:00 pm)
- 20 Sat – ACLT Sip & Save (Regional Beer Tasting Fundraiser)
- 28 Sun – Fall Colors Guided Hike (1:00-3:00pm)

November

- 3 Sat – 23rd Annual Auction & Dinner
- 10 Sat – Fall Hiking Trail Maintenance Day (9:00am-12:00pm, picnic lunch)
- 29 Thu – Wreath-Making Workshop (6pm-9pm)
- 30 Fri – Wreath-Making Workshops (10am-2pm)

December

- 1 Sat – Holiday Wreath & Greens Sale at ACLT South Side Barn (11:00am-2:00pm)



Land Manager's Corner

Meadow Management

What makes a meadow a meadow? This is a question I've gotten more than a few times while discussing the management of the meadow habitat at ACLT. The definition can vary a bit from the more anthropocentric "grassland used for hay" to the more ecological definition of "a field habitat vegetated by grass and other non-woody plants". The important part is that it doesn't take fulfilling an intense set of criteria in order for an area to be considered a meadow. Basically, any area comprised primarily of herbaceous vegetation can serve as important meadow habitat. With that being said, not all meadows are created equal in terms of the quality of the wildlife habitat and ecosystem services they provide—but we'll get to that later.

Unfortunately, many people view open fields of herbaceous vegetation as wasted space, viewing forests or farm fields as more environmentally and economically valuable. Open areas that are serving as meadows or could be converted to meadows are often the first to be used for things like parking lots, building sites, agricultural production, and lawns. This is probably primarily because it is much easier to utilize the open space than to clear trees. It is also because we've been taught that trees are important and that cutting them down is detrimental to the environment whereas "unkempt" grassy areas have long been viewed as eyesores and neglected, unutilized spaces.

It is, of course, true that trees are extremely important for a healthy environment because they sequester carbon out of the air, hold soil in place, help absorb and filter storm water, and provide wildlife habitat. However, meadow habitats provide many of these same benefits and should be valued as an important ecological feature. Perhaps most importantly they increase the diversity of an ecosystem.

First, the sunny conditions of an open meadow habitat are conducive to growing different plant species than those that grow in a shady forest habitat. This diverse plant life provides food and shelter that support an array of wildlife that cannot be supported by a forest habitat. Meadow habitats with a diversity of native grasses and wildflowers support pollinators which are necessary for almost all food production, as well as a multitude of other insect species which are a food source for many birds and small mammals. These smaller prey species that forage and nest in the meadow habitat also attract predators such as owls, hawks, and foxes. The edge habitat where forest and meadows meet is also important as the close proximity of both forest and meadow plants means that an even greater diversity of wildlife can be supported.

Secondly, meadows consisting of deep-rooted native plants prevent erosion and absorb much more storm wa-

ter than lawns which usually consist of very shallow-rooted nonnative grasses and soil with low organic matter. Meadow areas can also act as natural wildfire breaks due to their lack of canopy fuels. Fires tend to be less intense in these areas which allow for safer and more effective fire suppression efforts (<https://www.fs.usda.gov>).

Unfortunately, the amount of meadow habitat is declining due to increasing development and lack of natural disturbances such as forest fires. On the east coast, meadows are an early successional habitat, meaning that they are one of the first stages of re-growth after a disturbance. Left undisturbed, areas of meadow habitat will progress through the various stages of terrestrial succession and end up as a forest. Historically, forest fires were the disturbances that would create new meadow habitat but the suppression of forest fires has resulted in less meadow habitat. Due to the current efforts to improve the health of the Chesapeake Bay, there has been a focus on increasing the forested acreage within the Bay watershed. As a result, areas are being allowed to revert back to forest or even planted with trees to speed up the successional process, further decreasing the amount of meadow habitat in our region.

Managing Meadows at ACLT

Luckily ACLT has the ability to maintain at least a little meadow habitat on the areas that we manage. ACLT has just 14 acres of open meadow on properties that it owns and 21 acres on property owned by DNR and managed by ACLT. When comparing those 35 acres of meadow habitat to the other 3,165 acres of land owned or managed by ACLT, meadows comprise just 1% of the preserved land managed by ACLT. The majority of the other 3,165 acres are forested but this also includes some farmland and the marsh around Parkers Creek. With such a small amount of meadow habitat within the Parkers Creek Preserve, it is imperative that ACLT manages the land in a way that maintains the current acreage of meadows and optimizes their ecological functioning and the amount of wildlife they can support.

To this end, for the past few years ACLT staff and volunteers have been working to improve the meadow habitat around the North and South Side trailheads. This included securing grant funding from both the Chesapeake Bay Trust and BGE to do plantings to increase the diversity of native plants. ACLT staff also worked with a meadow specialist from the University of Maryland to gain their advice on how to best maintain diverse native plants in our meadows. ACLT has been working for years to minimize the amount of the invasive plant Chinese lespedeza that is present and the UMD representative recommended that we try cutting the areas very frequently in the first half of the growing season to keep the lespedeza from blooming and

going to seed and to weaken the lespedeza by causing it to constantly put energy into re-growing after being cut. She recommended that we then stop mowing in July to allow native warm season grasses and wildflowers to grow. We have implemented this approach for the first time this season and are monitoring the results of this method and adjusting the mowing schedule as necessary.

ACLT volunteers and staff also harvested seeds from the native plants growing in the fields so that species that couldn't withstand the heavy mowing could be replanted with seeds that were already acclimated to the specific conditions in this area. These were primarily some of the wildflower species such as boneset, a flower that is plentiful in the North Side meadow. The patches of common milkweed on the North Side were not mowed in order to allow the milkweed to thrive and provide food for monarch caterpillars. Many monarch caterpillars were collected from these milkweed patches at the end of the summer and raised until they metamorphosed into butterflies. Volunteers then tagged them before releasing them for their migration down to Mexico.

The goal is to continue the method of very frequent mowing in the beginning of the season for a few years and see if it reduces the density of lespedeza in the fields. In meadows that don't have heavy infestations of invasive plants, mowing only needs to be completed once every 1 to 3 years, depending on the number early successional trees that begin to come up.

As ACLT volunteers and staff continue to work to improve the health and diversity of the meadows on ACLT-owned properties, we are also working with DNR to maintain the meadow habitat on their more recently acquired properties in the Parkers Creek watershed. Additionally, BGE has been a great ally in managing the power line right of ways as meadows as a part of its new Integrated Vegetation Management technique. By using this new technique BGE is no longer mowing the vegetation on some of its power lines but are instead selectively spraying woody vegetation and otherwise leaving the herbaceous vegetation as meadow habitat. This practice has significantly increased the acreage of meadow habitat within the Parkers Creek watershed. A study done in 2006 by Sam Droege, a researcher at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, found 100 different species of bees and wasps in the power lines around ACLT. This data shows how important meadow habitat is for supporting biodiversity as many of these species would not be supported in a forest habitat.

Lastly, ACLT received additional funding to establish buffers of herbaceous vegetation around the edges of the agricultural fields on the Holly Hill property and will be working on planting them in stages over the next 4 years. This federally funded project will have multiple benefits on the ecosystem. First, the deep-rooted native grasses

and flowers that will be planted in a 45' strip around the southern field edges will help hold the soil in place and slow down water which will hopefully slow the significant erosion that is occurring in the headwater tributaries there. Secondly, when all of the plantings are complete, it will add roughly 5 acres of meadow habitat along the edge between the fields and forest which will support many species of insects, birds, reptiles, and mammals.

As a conservation organization, ACLT has a responsibility to maintain a diversity of natural habitats to support a diversity of wildlife and stabilize its ecosystems. We will continue to manage our meadows, marshes, and forests as best we can to provide healthy habitats to sustain both wildlife and ourselves.

Autumn Phillips-Lewis
Land Manager

Literature Cited:

From <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/arp/home/?cid=stelprd3853345>



North Side meadow in late summer.



South Side meadow before a winter storm.

aclt



American Chestnut Land Trust

ANNUAL BENEFIT FOR LAND, WILDLIFE & WATERWAYS DINNER & AUCTION



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2018 🌿 **6-9PM** 🌿 **PRINCE FREDERICK**

Music By Junior Bryce Jazz

TICKETS \$60

OUTSTANDING AUCTION INCLUDES VACATIONS, TRAVEL TICKETS, AND
OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES AND ITEMS. AUCTION DONATIONS WELCOME!

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CALL FOR INFO ON RESERVING A TABLE

(410) 414-3400



ACLTweb.org  

TO DONATE AN ITEM TO THIS YEAR'S BENEFIT AUCTION, PLEASE CONTACT PAM AT VOLUNTEER@ACLTWEB.ORG
OR COMPLETE AN "ONLINE ITEM DONATION FORM".

THESE FORMS CAN BE ACCESSED AND AUCTION TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED AT ACLTWEB.ORG.

We hope you join in this year's celebration!

ACLT's Force of Nature: Revamping the Volunteer Program

For months the Membership & Outreach Committee has been discussing future projects and goals in support of ACLT's next Five Year Plan development. At a recent meeting, we were able to put into words what everyone had been thinking and feeling. All of our successes, our goals, our fundraising and our interactions with the community are all dependent on our volunteers. Whether it's weeding and harvesting on the farm, serving beer at an event, clearing a trail, removing invasives, or making a decision about the future of the organization, volunteers hold the key to ACLT.

This is not a revelation. ACLT's Staff and Board have always marveled at and been humbled by the dedication and generosity of its volunteers. What the committee realized, however, is that we want to offer a more structured volunteer program to improve support, training and opportunities to get together and have fun time as well as volunteer time.

Beginning in 2019, ACLT's Force of Nature Volunteer Program will expand to offer the following:

New Volunteer Orientations: individuals who have never volunteered for ACLT before will be invited to a welcome meeting where they will learn about ACLT's background, be offered an overview of our conserved land, and will be introduced to the variety of activities they can participate in. We will invite experienced volunteers to these meetings as well to welcome our new volunteers.

Advanced Training: For volunteers who have been with ACLT for a while, we will offer opportunities for specialized training which could include special farming techniques, in-depth public relations and event planning, and more challenging land management skills.

The Membership & Outreach Committee believes that we need more Happy Hours: One of the most unique aspects of ACLT is the fact that volunteers, through their time here, frequently become great friends. As a community, many of us really enjoy spending time together beyond the hours spent on volunteer projects. Therefore, in 2019 we will be planning volunteer get-togethers, happy hours and special events.

On a personal note, I strongly believe that there is a need in our society for communities like ACLT's volunteer team. Recent research suggests that loneliness is at surprisingly high levels for most age groups, negatively impacting both the mental and physical health of our citizens. Volunteering invites people to become a part of something bigger than themselves and to earn the satisfaction that comes with making a difference in the community and the world. It also provides the time and opportunity to meet new people, relax and laugh with a group, and be a part of a team.

Be on the lookout in the 2019 Winter Newsletter for a calendar of volunteer program activities. If you haven't started volunteering yet, please consider doing so! You can register as a volunteer at ACLTweb.org or by calling me at 410-414-3400.

We call our volunteer community "A Force of Nature" because, together, they are able to make awesome changes a reality. We hope you consider joining the team.

Pam Shilling

ACLT Community Relations Manager



Top to bottom: Wednesday Week Whackers. 2016 Earth Day Team. 2nd Sunday Farmers Markets.

Thank you for your support ...

New Members

ACLT would like to welcome the following new members since the Summer 2018 Newsletter:

Steve Caplins
David & Bonnie Castleberry
Emily & Richard Downey
Margaret & Michael Duffy
Robin Gray
Carolyn Keefe
John Kerr
Linda Rashidi
Robert Schilder
Lori Villarreal
Eric White

Gift Memberships

Thank you to the following members, who donated gift memberships since our last newsletter:

Jeffrey Lewis & Autumn Phillips-Lewis

Memorial Contributions

Thank you to the following, who made a memorial contribution since our last newsletter:

In memory of **Doris & Paul Berry** who were Sustaining Members and dedicated volunteers and supporters. Paul served on the Board of Directors for many years as ACLT's Treasurer:
Marsha Berry

In memory of **Dr. Christine Boesz**, who was a Charter Member, one of the founders of the ACLT, a longtime supporter, and dedicated volunteer:
Patricia Peak

In memory of **Martin Flynn**, who was a Sustaining Member and a long time supporter:
B. L. Johnston & Robert Keisling

A donation from the estate of **Dr. Edward Hacskeylo**, who was one of ACLT's founders as a Charter Member, and a longtime supporter and volunteer

In memory of **Charles "Hank" Howe** who was a Sustaining Member and a dedicated supporter:

Bronwyn Billing
Mary & Paul Blayney
Margot Caldwell
Aviva Fridman
Mary & Edward Grabowski

Jane Head
Dorothy Howe
Anette Kudrak
Sandra & Gary Loew –
Friends Forever Fund
Martha & Kenneth Mathews
Xenia Montenegro
Ginny & Patrick Murphy
Kathleen Olsen
Margarete Rodousakis
Joseph Rooney
Steven Straka & Kathy Padgett
Randi & Peter Vogt –
Land Preservation Fund
Diane Young
Jeanne Young

In memory of **Molly Weaver Petty**, who was a Charter Member, one of the founders of the ACLT, and a dedicated volunteer and supporter throughout the years:

Glynn Frank
Jane Head
B.L. Johnson & Robert Keisling

In memory of **Stanley Norman Yaffe**, father of Harriet Yaffe, who is a Sustaining Member and dedicated supporter:
Mary & Paul Blayney

In Honor of Contributions

Thank you to the following member who made an "in honor of" contribution since our last newsletter:

In honor of **Daniel Boesz's** birthday. Dan has been with the ACLT since its beginning days as a Charter Member and dedicated volunteer and supporter:
John & Barbara Butterworth

In honor of **Lisa Manning & Dave Cassidy** on their wedding. Lisa has been a longtime supporter for many years:

Ruth Allsbrooks
Sandra Brown
Katherine Carr
Daniel Cassidy
Marjorie Clagett
Mike & Wanda King
Patricia Lang
Charles Manning
Jean Skelton

Holly Hill Donations

Thank you to the following, who made donations to the Holly Hill campaign since our last newsletter:

Anonymous
Fran Armstrong
Joy Bartholomew & Mark Edmondson
David & Judy Bonior
Jason Bowen
Karen & Glenn Edgecombe
Martha W. Grahame
Sue & Steve Kullen
Kathleen Miller
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Austin J. Slater, Jr. & Carmen L. Slater

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Spring Appeal Donations

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The American Chestnut Land Trust is a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization. A copy of the current ACLT financial statement is available on request. Requests should be directed to the American Chestnut Land Trust, Inc, P.O. Box 2363, Prince Frederick, MD 20678 or call (410) 414-3400. For the cost of copies and postage, documents and information submitted under the Business Regulation Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland are available from the Secretary of State.