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## COMING UP ON THE CALENDAR

### August

- 13 **Guided Canoe Trip** (1:30 p.m. –  
4:30 p.m.)
- 28 **Guided Canoe Trip** (1:00 p.m. –  
4:00 p.m.)
- 28 **Walk Along the Bay Membership  
Event** (10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)

SEE THE FULL 2011 CALENDAR ON PAGE 5 AND  
ON THE WEB.

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

## Land Manager's Corner

### “Variety is the Very Spice of Life”

*(Quoted from William Cowper 1785)*

Many of you get our emails asking for Weed Whacking or Vine Vindicator Volunteers. I won't lie to you: the work is grueling, the weather is usually bad, and the pay is lousy! However, the rewards are tangible, they are visible, and in some places the results can even be called remarkable! We quantify our work by the acres restored, by our strength to endure, by our lasting friendships, by the wildflowers that appear in the spring and by the pawpaws, hollies, persimmons and other trees that respond to being freed of vines. When school children come we spend time carefully cutting and unwinding the tangles of vines –they give their trees names and return with their parents to see how well they are doing. We pull Garlic Mustard on Earth Day, and each year there is less to pull. We persevere and we succeed!

ACLT's invasive control program is fairly extensive and has been funded by two generous grants from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Landowner Incentive Program to promote habitat for rare and endangered species. The grants have helped us to buy equipment, create training and outreach materials and even provide volunteer rewards. If you volunteer 5 times we give you a state-of-the-art stainless steel water bottle [by then, winning the battle against the weeds has captured you]. The grant money needs to be matched by one-fourth the total funds; this we accomplished with in-kind donations of volunteer work. Each volunteer hour is equal to \$15.92 in match. Both grant matches have been met within the first two years and each grant runs for 5 years. The second grant will end in 2015.

We chose to start the work on the Gravatt West property (ACLT's first property) because the property is in a location that is readily visible to the public. It is also highly impacted by invasive plants that were purposely planted in the area as ornamentals (such as bittersweet, bamboo, wisteria, and princess paulonia trees). The property also has documented populations of rare spring ephemeral plants in need of protection. Although our main work continues at Gravatt, we have moved our work to other locations, such as cutting vines on the Russell/Commodore tracts, as is called for in our Forest Management Plans.

For the majority of the work we cut, we carry, we mow, and we chip. In some cases, we use herbicides to have a lasting result. This has been true with the tenacious bamboo. Where each 30-40 foot stalk has been cut, I dab a small amount of herbicide on the fresh-cut stem. This has been effective in keeping the bamboo down. If you can starve the roots long enough, you can kill the patch of this giant grass. We have also found that injecting herbicide into large bittersweet vines and cut stumps of Ailanthus (tree of heaven) or Princess Paulonia trees is effective. The herbicide is taken down into the roots and keeps

*(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)*



**AMERICAN CHESTNUT  
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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 3,000 acres. We own 911 acres, manage 1,780 acres owned by the State of Maryland, and hold conservation easements on 360 privately-owned acres.

Editors: Ellen and David Farr

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## President's Mid-Summer Postcard

The dog days of summer seemed to have come early this year. I am sure that most of you are finding fun ways to enjoy the warm weather, despite its challenges.

I hope some of those activities have or will include spending time on ACLT trails or possibly kayaking up Parkers Creek. Our records show people are coming from far and wide to share in our protected treasure here in Calvert County. The ACLT staff is out there every day working hard to make the experience of all of our visitors as memorable as possible.

Also, they, along with many untiring volunteers, are planning for a host of fall activities including the Cocktails & Grazing pre-auction party; the annual Auction and Dinner, "Celebrate! Parkers Creek Preserve", which will be the main 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary event; as well as more guided hikes and canoe trips. These and other activities will bring us close to the end of our year-long celebration of our 25th anniversary.

Before that page fully turns, I would like to make a personal (non financial) appeal. I would ask those that may be interested to step back, reflect on the big picture of what ACLT needs to be thinking about and doing as we hike past this important milestone.

I would welcome you to email me personally as to how you think ACLT might evolve as it works to meet the expanding responsibilities of its day-to-day stewardship, considering the dramatically changing demographics of the county, and as complicated further by challenges that originate far beyond our county's boundaries.

It is, of course, the responsibility of the Board to grapple with these issues and we do. However, our deliberations will be better informed if you are willing to share your ideas directly with us.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Pat Griffin, President  
Pgriffin@griffinhome.com

## Join ACLT & Join Us!

Take a walk along the Bay with Smithsonian Marine Biologist Denise Breitburg and Marcy Damon, newly retired from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, on August 28, 2011 from 10am – noon. This event is a special thank-you incentive for new members who join ACLT (and for current members who recruit a new member)! Annual membership for individuals or families is only \$35. For more information contact Joy at 410-414-3400 or email: info@acltweb.org. (Photo by Mary Hollinger.)



# Around ACLT

## ACLT Receives Calvert Tree Token Award



Front row, from left to right: Karen Edgecombe of American Chestnut Land Trust, Linda Subda and Michelle Daubin of CHESPAX, Tania Gale, Carolyn Andersen, Phil Mohler, Dwight Williams and Greg Bowen.

The Calvert Forestry Board recognized the 10 winners of its first annual Calvert Tree Token Awards during the June 14 county commissioners meeting.

The forestry board is comprised of citizens who use grants funds allocated by the county commissioners. The money is used to support forest education and awareness activities throughout Calvert.

Steve Stadelman, the chairman of the board, is a natural resources management specialist and certified forester. He explained to the commissioners that the forestry board was involved in numerous activities, including a county “tree tour” and the Natural Resources Career Conference. The board also conducts an Arbor Day Poster Contest and is active in the county’s annual “Green Expo.”

The purpose of the award is to recognize individuals who have supported forestry in Calvert County. The Tree Token Award winners were presented with small circular plaques made out of red oak. The 2011 award winners were: Dwight Williams, Calvert’s Natural Resources chief; Carolyn Andersen, Jim Bourne, Calvert Department of Planning and Zoning Director Greg Bowen, Tania Gale, David Chessler, Phil Mohler, Brian Stupak, Calvert County Public Schools’ environmental program CHESPAX and the American Chestnut Land Trust

Source: [http://www.thebaynet.com/news/index.cfm/fa/viewstory/story\\_ID/22826](http://www.thebaynet.com/news/index.cfm/fa/viewstory/story_ID/22826)

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Don’t forget to record your volunteer hours online by going to <http://acltweb.org/Administration/volunteer/index.cfm>.

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## ACLT Land Manager Takes a New Trail

ACLT’s longest serving Land Manager, Liz Stoffel, has decided to take a new trail, one that leads to a Master of Arts Degree in Sustainability. Beginning in September, she will reduce her hours at ACLT to half-time and pursue this long-time personal goal. Liz says, “The degree is something I have wanted to accomplish since I was first in school in the 1970’s but wasn’t able to afford to pursue until now.”

Liz will embark on this new path with ACLT’s very best wishes and our admiration for her desire to follow her dream of obtaining a Master’s degree! Our paths will still intertwine, but ACLT does need to begin the search for a new full-time Land Manager to start in early October. A full job description is posted on our website. ACLT members are encouraged to circulate the following short description to anyone they think might be interested.

### **Land Manager, American Chestnut Land Trust (Calvert County, MD)**

The Land Manager is responsible for stewardship of natural resources on approximately 3,100 acres owned or managed by ACLT. Stewardship activities include wildlife management, forest management, interpretation, volunteer coordination, maintenance and long-range planning. The land manager is also responsible for managing and updating the geographic information system used for land management. Minimum qualifications include: a Bachelor’s degree in natural resource management or a related field; knowledge of principles of natural resource management including wetlands, wildlife, forestry and ecology; expertise in ArcGIS 9.0 or higher and working knowledge of global positioning system tools; ability to work independently and as a team member with a wide variety of people; and ability to communicate effectively in writing and orally. Considerable outdoor and weekend work is required in this position. Salary commensurate with experience; medical and retirement benefits available. View full job description at [www.acltweb.org/administration/landmngjob.pdf](http://www.acltweb.org/administration/landmngjob.pdf). Send cover letter and resume to Executive Director, American Chestnut Land Trust, P.O. Box 1700, Prince Frederick, MD 20678 or email to [job@actweb.org](mailto:job@actweb.org).

## ACLT Selected as Host Organization for Chesapeake Conservation Corps Program

ACLT is excited to announce that we have been selected to serve as a Host Organization for one of 20 volunteers who will work in communities throughout Maryland funded through the Chesapeake Bay Trust's new Chesapeake Conservation Corps Program. ACLT's CSA farm intern, Taren Evans, has been chosen to serve in this full-time position for one year beginning on August 29, 2011.



CCC Volunteer Taren Evans pruning tomato plants at Double Oak Farm. Photo by Jeff Klapper.

The goals of the Chesapeake Conservation Corps are to: 1) provide a stipend for volunteers to implement on-the-ground environmental restoration, energy conservation, agricultural and forestry, and environmental education projects; and 2) provide leadership and training opportunities for young adults pursuing environmental and conservation careers.

Taren will continue to assist in all aspects of ACLT's sustainable farming operation through next August, including assisting with educational programs for school groups on farm-related trips. In addition, she will assist on ACLT's volunteer invasive plant control program and other forest management projects. In the category of environmental restoration, Taren will help with the creation of the native plant garden funded through the proceeds of the Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage at the South Side Trailhead and, if funds are available, also a native grasses/wildflower meadow at Double Oak Farm. She will provide research assistance on greening ACLT's operations and facilities, especially the remodeling of ACLT's main office building through improvements to the building shell (windows, insulation, etc.) and consideration of renewable energy alternatives for the farm.

Congratulations to Taren on her selection in this competitive program!

## Double Oak Farm News

We would like to thank Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for their generous donation and volunteer support from the congregation of Shepherd of the Bay Lutheran Church in Lusby for our organic herb boxes which will be built this fall.

Double Oak Farm would also like to announce that we are a proud member of So. Md So Good. Check them out online at [www.somarylandsogood.com](http://www.somarylandsogood.com) and support local agriculture!



CSA Workshare participants and Farm Manager Jeff Klapper set up the farm stand for shareholders to pick up their produce. Pictured from left to right: Ed Engel, Heath Wilson, Jeff Klapper, BL Johnston, and Robyn Truslow.



Interns Taren Evans and Jess Riesett show off some of our best lettuce!

## Important Dates!



### ACLT's 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner & Auction

Don't forget to mark your calendars for two great parties this fall!

#### September 24

Please join friends and neighbors to gather donations for the auction (see invitation at right).

#### November 5

The main event, ACLT's 16th Annual Dinner & Auction, will be held at St. John Vianney Catholic Family Life Center. This year's event—*Celebrate! Parkers Creek Preserve*—will be ACLT's 25th anniversary celebration. We will be celebrating 25 years of successful land conservation culminating in the 4,000+ acre Parkers Creek Preserve. Watch your inbox and your mail box for further details from the auction committee: Denise Breitburg, Sarah Boynton, Diane Daly, Steve Kullen, Mimi Little, Sandra Loew, Maggie Reynolds, Elise Schryver, Suzanne Shelden, Steve Stadelman, and Marcy Graham.

It's a celebration you won't want to miss!

### ACLT Calendar of Events

#### August

- 13 Guided Canoe Trip (1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.)
- 28 Guided Canoe Trip (1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.)
- 28 Walk Along the Bay Membership Event (10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)

#### September

- 10 Holly Arboretum Work Day at Warrior's Rest (9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)
- 10 Guided Canoe Trip (12:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.)
- 17 Vine Vindicator Work Day (9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)
- 24 Pre-Auction Party (5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.)
- 25 Guided Canoe Trip (12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.)

#### October

- 8-9 Patuxent River Appreciation Days
- 15 Guided Canoe Trip (4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.)
- 21 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner (6:30 - 9:00 p.m.)
- 22 Vine Vindicator Work Day/Training (9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.)
- 23 Barn Work Day (8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)
- 29 Fall Foliage Hike at Double Oak (1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.)

#### November

- 5 ACLT's 16th Annual Auction & Dinner - Celebrate! Parkers Creek Preserve

#### December

- 4 Arboretum Work Day at Warrior's Rest (1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.)
- 10 Greens Sale & Beach Hayride (11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.)

*Please join friends & neighbors to gather donations for the  
16th Annual Dinner & Auction*

*Cocktails & Grazing  
And the Satin Doll Trio!  
Saturday, September 24, 2011  
5:30pm - 7:30pm  
Community House, Gate A  
Scientists' Cliffs, Port Republic, MD*

#### *Price of Admission:*

*A significant item to be auctioned and the completed donation form or \$100 contribution to offset auction expenses.*

*If you won't be able to join us and would like to donate an item, please fill out the donation form (can be found on [www.acltweb.org](http://www.acltweb.org)) and mail to ACLT. Thank you!*

*Hosted by Paul & Diana Dennett, Joy Bartholomew & Mark Edmondson, John & Betsy Saunders, and Dale Manty & Elizabeth Tuckermanty*

*RSVP to Paul Dennett,  
[pdennett@comcast.net](mailto:pdennett@comcast.net)  
or 410-586-3682*



Photo by Joy Woppert

# Introducing Parkers Creek Preserve

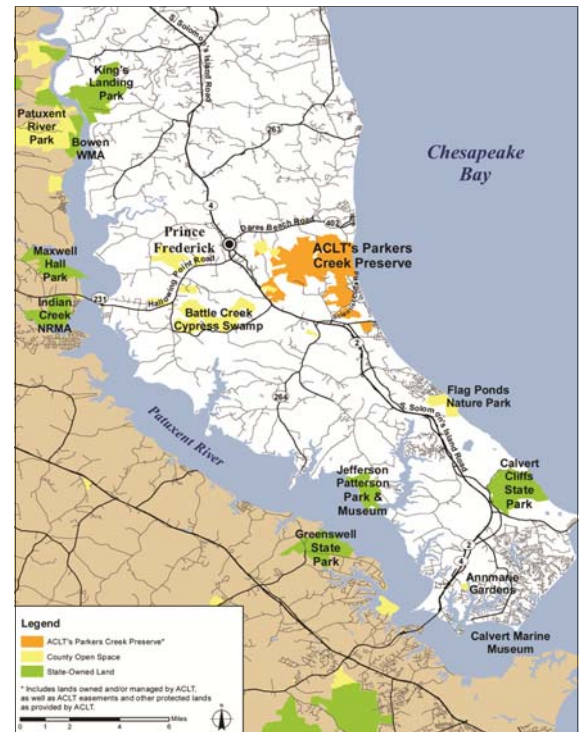
ACLT has now completed its *Master Plan for Facilities and Interpretation for the American Chestnut Land Trust's Parkers Creek Preserve*, with funding generously provided by a grant from the National Park Service's, Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network. The plan will be extremely useful to guide ACLT's long-range plans to improve its facilities to support our mission and to design a comprehensive and compelling interpretive program to engage visitors in our site and encourage them to support our mission to preserve the Parkers Creek watershed. The plan is available in the "About" section on our website at <http://acltweb.org/about/acltMasterPlan.pdf>.

In the Winter 2011 issue of the *Watershed Observer* it was reported that ACLT had finalized the facilities portion of the plan, deciding to focus on making improvements to the facilities on the north side at ACLT's Double Oak Farm. The board has now approved the interpretive portion of the plan which examines the current and potential user groups of ACLT's land, the level of public access that is consistent with our mission to preserve natural and cultural resources, ACLT's niche among other county natural areas (see the map at right highlighting ACLT's Parkers Creek Preserve in orange and other county natural areas in yellow and green) and the recommended locations and methods of interpretation that could be used throughout ACLT's properties to engage visitors in our site and encourage them to support our mission to preserve the Parkers Creek watershed.

One of the most significant findings by the interpretive planner was that the concept of a "land trust" is not one with which most members of the public are familiar. He suggested that although the state highway signs directing visitors to the "Chestnut Land Trust Trails" are effective in helping people to find ACLT's two trailheads, they do not fully convey all that ACLT offers to the community. Although they direct people who might be interested in hiking trails, they do not convey anything about ACLT's land preservation mission or the importance of Parkers Creek as one of the last remaining undeveloped watersheds on the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay.

It was recommended that ACLT could more effectively convey our mission if we used our Chesapeake Bay Gateway's name, the "Parkers Creek Watershed Nature Preserve," or a shortened version thereof like the "Parkers Creek Preserve" on signage because the word "Preserve" would convey more of the essence of ACLT's mission of land preservation and stewardship. The ACLT board agreed that Parkers Creek Preserve more accurately identifies a *place* that people may visit to experience a natural area with special significance. Once visitors arrive at their destination, signage explains that the American Chestnut Land Trust is the membership-supported *organization* that protects and maintains this natural area and invites their participation.

Karen H. Edgecombe  
Executive Director



ACLT has installed a new sign at the entrance to ACLT's North Side Trails on Double Oak Road welcoming visitors to the Parkers Creek Preserve, protected by the American Chestnut Land Trust. Funding was provided by the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network.

## Volunteer Spotlight

### Dave and Ellen Farr

At this writing, this edition's spotlight volunteers, Dave and Ellen Farr, are guiding a group of kids on a hike and scavenger hunt on our south side trails. Joined by Liz and four other volunteers, Dave and Ellen participated in this outreach event with 70 children, aged 5–10 from Noah's Ark's summer program in Huntingtown.

Dave and Ellen have guided many nature hikes as well as helped out at other outreach events including the Annual Membership Meeting and the annual Dinner & Auction. Dave has also been a lifesaver in past years by manning a booth for the Environmental Fund for Maryland, of which ACLT is a member, at workplace-giving campaign fairs. (The Environmental Fund for Maryland was recently merged into the EarthShare Mid-Atlantic Chapter.)

While Dave and Ellen are more than willing to help out wherever needed, most of their volunteer time is spent behind the scenes. In 2008, Dave and Ellen redesigned our website with informative sections on our mission, our Board of Directors and staff, our land preservation and land management programs, and the natural and cultural resources that we protect. ACLT's website includes beautiful slideshow presentations of birds and plants found at ACLT as well as downloadable trail maps and forms to record volunteer hours or make a donation. They have created easy-to-use templates that ACLT staff can update quickly, like the calendar or trail updates, without their help. But whenever we have a question or think of a new webpage idea, Dave and Ellen are there to fix it or design it—even better than we had imagined. Dave and Ellen were presented with the Presidents' Award at the 2008 Annual Membership Meeting in recognition of all of their many contributions to ACLT, but especially their most recent update to the website.

The website also includes an archive of ACLT newsletters. Ellen has been the newsletter's editor (with some help from Dave) beginning with issue 3 of volume 1, succeeding Gary Loew who published the first two issues starting on January 29, 1987. Dave and Ellen have been involved with ACLT since its inception in 1986 when they were introduced to the land trust by Ed and Peggy Hackaylo and became charter members. Currently, Dave is the Vice President of the Board of Directors and sits on the committees for Administration & Fundraising and Land Acquisition & Preservation. He has served as a board member since 1992 and was Treasurer in 1994–1995.



Dave and Ellen were presented with the President's Award at the 2008 Annual Membership Meeting in recognition of all of their contributions to ACLT. Photo by Bruce Armstrong.

Dave and Ellen have lived in Maryland for 38 years and have had a weekend home in Calvert County for 24 years. They met in college at Humboldt State in Arcata, California, where they both earned their undergraduate degrees. Later they attended Virginia Tech in Blacksburg where Ellen received an M.S. and Dave a Ph.D.—both in biology. They have since retired from their respective careers. Dave worked as a research mycologist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Beltsville. Ellen worked for the Smithsonian Institution supporting research projects and information management in the Department of Botany.

When asked why they think volunteering with ACLT is important, they cited “Green exercise.” In the *UC Berkeley Wellness Letter*, (December 2010, p.3), The Chair of the Editorial Board reported on studies showing “increased vitality (that is, physical and mental energy) and a greater sense of well-being after walking through a tree-lined river path” compared with “walking indoors.” Dave and Ellen believe that land preservation and management is important and are passionate about supporting ACLT through their volunteer hours.

When Dave and Ellen aren't enjoying their retirement helping out at ACLT, you'll likely find them enjoying some of their other hobbies. Dave likes photography (some of which you can view on the ACLT website) and listening to music, while Ellen enjoys growing vegetables and herbs and cooking. We hope they continue spending a lot of time with us!

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff, *THANK YOU* Dave and Ellen for being active volunteers and advocates for ACLT for the last 25 years. And thank you for continuing to share your gifts to help preserve these lands for generations to come. We couldn't do it without you!!

Joy Woppert  
Community Relations Coordinator

## 2011 Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage

The American Chestnut Land Trust is extraordinarily grateful to the Calvert Garden Club for selecting ACLT as the recipient of the proceeds of the 74<sup>th</sup> Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage, Calvert County tour. It is a great honor for ACLT to be included among the many worthwhile organizations that have been the beneficiaries of this event over its long history.

We commend the Calvert Garden Club members for the tremendous hard work and thoughtful planning over a more than two-year period that resulted in a beautifully executed event. The day could not have gone more smoothly! Hundreds of visitors were richly rewarded by the chance to tour beautiful houses and gardens in the unique setting of Scientists' Cliffs. It was truly an event not to be missed!

This is the second time that ACLT has worked closely with the Calvert Garden Club—the first being the restoration of the Hance-Chesley Cemetery, which ACLT volunteers have faithfully maintained ever since. It was a great pleasure to work with the Club again.

ACLT also wishes to especially thank the members of the Scientists' Cliffs community and the Scientists' Cliffs Association for opening their homes, gardens and community buildings for the Pilgrimage, including:

|                                      |                                 |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Roberta Safer and Klaus Zwilsky      | Freeman and Ellen Dodsworth     |
| Ken and Mary Ellen Romney            | Paul and Diana Dennett          |
| Kathy Daniel                         | Steve and Renee Stadelman       |
| Scientists' Cliffs Association, Inc. | Dave and Helen Didion           |
| Mike and Joanne Hildebrand           | Phil and Grace Fleming          |
| Patty Brosmer                        | John and Betsy Saunders         |
| Chris and Maggie Reynolds            | Jim and Connie Hollowell        |
| Marcia Van Gemert                    | Tom and Mary Kirby              |
| Pat and Abbey Griffin                | Fran and Bruce Armstrong        |
| John and Mimi Little                 | Annie Moore                     |
| Crawford Feagin Stone                | The Walen and Rothblum families |
|                                      | Bending Bough Nursery           |

We know that each and every host/hostess did their utmost to present their house or garden at its absolute finest. The entire community seemed to be involved at one level or another in sprucing up for the event, and it showed! Many, many volunteers (I can't possibly name them all) devoted hours and hours to planning, gardening, decorating with stunning flower arrangements, and serving as volunteer hosts and hostesses.

Finally, I would be remiss in not singling out Susan Cole, Chair of the Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage, Calvert County, who not only worked tirelessly to



The home of Roberta Safer and Klaus Zwilsky—74<sup>th</sup> Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage, Calvert County tour. Photo by Maricarol Cloak.

assemble all of the committees and obtain all of the necessary approvals, but who also most importantly had the vision to see what a special and unique community Scientists' Cliffs is and what a great showcase it would be for Calvert County.

ACLT looks forward to utilizing the \$9,907 proceeds from the Pilgrimage to improve our South Side Trailhead across from Gate A of the Scientists' Cliffs community by planning and installing a Native Plant Garden that will enhance the public's understanding of the benefits of using native species in landscape projects in their own gardens.

ACLT volunteers have spent thousands of hours over the last five years meticulously removing non-native invasive plants from the area where the garden will be planted. Please see Liz Stoffel's separate article, "Variety is the Very Spice of Life," describing ACLT's invasive plant control program. To everyone involved in any way in the 2011 Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage and to the ACLT Weed Whackers and Vine Vindicator Volunteers, thank you on behalf of the ACLT Board and Staff.

The Native Plant Garden will be a tribute to the efforts of everyone involved!

Karen H. Edgecombe  
Executive Director

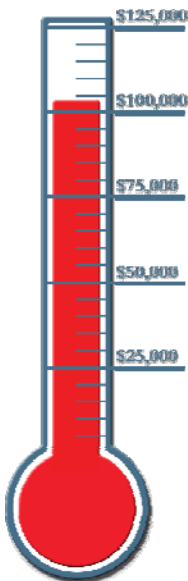


## ACLT Members are Meeting the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Challenge

On July 19, 2011, I met with the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners to share with them ACLT's successes over the past 25 years and I asked them for their continued support to help us protect Parkers Creek ~ the last remaining relatively undeveloped watershed on the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland and a Calvert County treasure. I told them, "Never truer words were spoken" than those I read recently in a Land Trust Alliance publication. It said, "*The land you save today is the land you will protect tomorrow. And the day after. And the day after that. And the next day.*"

ACLT is committed to its continual responsibility to protect the land that it has preserved. And ACLT's key 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Challenge is to increase the Land Management Endowment (LMEF) Account by at least \$250,000 so that we are closer to our financing strategy to fund at least 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of our annual operating expenses from the LMEF account. An additional \$250,000 would get us about half way to our overall goal. We are very close to our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary target. Forty members, so far, have accepted ACLT's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Challenge and pledged to contribute over \$100,000 to the Land Management Endowment Fund during calendar year 2011 in celebration of ACLT's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and the first \$125,000 will be matched dollar for dollar!

Very few people I know actually enjoy asking friends to donate money no matter how worthy the cause, but I know that ACLT must meet this challenge. ACLT's land stewardship obligations have grown to over 3,100 acres. We are asking all ACLT members to consider making a one-time donation of *any size* to the endowment during calendar year 2011 in celebration of ACLT's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. In addition to the dollar for dollar match, as an additional incentive, those who are able to donate \$2,500 will be celebrated as Land Stewards, an honor similar to the recognition of ACLT's Charter Members. ACLT is grateful for every single dollar contributed to meet our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Challenge! Thank you for your consideration of this request.



Pledges to the Land Management Endowment Fund as of July 28, 2011.

Karen H. Edgecombe  
Executive Director



In June, the DC office of the Land Trust Alliance, including Director Rand Wentworth, visited ACLT to connect with the land. Half of the group paddled Parkers Creek on a guided canoe tour while the rest went for a hike on ACLT's North Side Trails. Their visit ended with a relaxing lunch in the office and a short presentation by Karen Edgecombe about ACLT's history and current initiatives. Photo by Bob Christensen.



### Give at the Office

If you already are a contributor to ACLT through workplace giving, thank you! We want to make you aware of a change. ACLT has been a proud member of the Environmental Fund for Maryland, a grassroots workplace-giving federation created by its member organizations, including ACLT. Last year, the members of EFM voted to join EarthShare MidAtlantic. EarthShare is a nationwide federation of the country's most respected environmental and conservation charities with a wider network of employers who participate. Please look for ACLT under this new banner. ACLT's Combined Federal Campaign number remains the same: #53731. Likewise, our Maryland Charity Campaign number is still #1549.

Karen H. Edgecombe  
Executive Director

Check us out on Facebook.  
Become a fan of the American Chestnut Land Trust today!

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/American-Chestnut-Land-Trust/250928382473?ref=ts>



(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

them from regenerating new plants. Occasionally, depending on the plant, we will use a foliar spray herbicide. We are careful not to use these on windy or rainy days. This is especially effective with low-lying plants such as Asian stiltgrass, gill-across-the-ground and perilla (beefsteak mint). We have even been able to hire contractors to do this work through the grant funds.

**You may, at this point, ask why we do this work** especially when we deal with chiggers, ticks, ground bees, copperheads, black widows and weather that is too hot, too cold, too humid or just out-right stormy. We do this work because preserving native habitats and native plants is important. There is a direct correlation between the diversity of an area (the variety of plant species it has) and how well it can survive times when living conditions are not ideal—times of drought, flooding and extreme weather changes (those years of extra snowfall, the years of multiple summer days with temperatures above 90 degrees or the years with extreme cold). Having a variety of plants means that in periods of vulnerability a few species will survive—the others will be in the seed bank in the soil waiting for times to improve. The surviving plants' roots will hold soil and prevent wind and rain erosion from depleting the area of needed minerals and nutrients.

Just ask a vegetable farmer—if they plant all their land in one crop type and there is a failure, they can lose their whole livelihood for the year. If they diversify their crops, they may lose one or two species but not usually the whole lot. Jeff Klapper, ACLT's volunteer farm manager, can tell you about this. He is also one of our dedicated Wednesday Weed Whackers (when it is not farming season). In the 1920's, the dustbowl occurred when the diversified prairie grasses and wildflowers were plowed up and the soil just blew away. In the Amazon, when the lush, diversified jungles are clear-cut, the thin soils can not easily support farming and they wash downstream with the monsoons, polluting the rivers.

With a diversity of plant life, you get a diversity of wildlife. A variety of butterflies, dragonflies, bees, wasps, beetles, spiders, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals utilize habitats that have specific plant species and hydrology to support them. Three butterfly species that need specific native plants as their hosts for their larvae are the Zebra Swallowtails that use pawpaw trees, the Baltimore Checkerspot that uses the turtlehead plant and the West Virginia White that uses the two-leaved toothwort. The West Virginia White butterfly population has dropped dramatically in areas where non-native Garlic Mustard has taken over. The butterfly is attracted to

the white flowers and lays its eggs on the invasive Garlic Mustard, but the leaves are toxic to the larvae. It is a “dead-end” plant for the butterfly. This plant also exudes toxins from its roots that changes soil chemistry and affects the natural biota in the soil.

### **What else is ACLT doing to improve native diversity?**

The Parkers Creek Preserve, with its variety of habitats deep forests, freshwater wetlands, salt marshes and open meadows, is a natural reservoir of native plant and wildlife diversity. ACLT feels it is important to demonstrate how beautiful native plantings can be and encourage others to plant natives in their own yards. At Double Oak Farm we have several projects to display the use of native plants. Sea Scout, Morgan Miller, planted the entrance gate area with green & gold, red twig dogwood, Joe-pye weed, and cardinal flower. Morgan also designed and printed a new brochure about native plant gardening at Double Oak.

Karen Edgecombe and Calverton school children planted foam-flower, inkberry, coneflower, and black-eyed Susans in the garden in front of the office. Jeff Klapper has planted a variety of native and non-native flowers to encourage beneficial insects and honey bees to pollinate the vegetable garden.



The Calvert Garden Club has designated ACLT as the recipient of the proceeds from their House and Garden Pilgrimage which was held in May. We are very grateful for the funds, which we are planning to use to plant native wildflowers, grasses and trees. These plantings will demonstrate that native plants are not weeds; they have beauty and function and can be attractive to native butterflies and birds. To paraphrase: “Variety (diversity of species) is the very spice of life” and it holds our native habitats in place.

Liz Stoffel  
Land Manager, ACLT

# Thank you for your support ...

## New Members

ACLT would like to welcome the following new members since the Spring 2011 newsletter:

Mr. & Mrs. Steve Balinski  
Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Blythe  
Ms. Patty Brosmer  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Davis  
Ms. Kimberley Democko  
Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Dyer  
Mr. & Mrs. John Haderly  
Mr. & Mrs. William King  
Mr. & Mrs. Clifton Kuhfahl  
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Kulp & Family  
Mr. Edward Landa  
Mr. Richard Mason  
Mr. & Mrs. Russell McKnight  
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Richards  
Mr. Pete Roe  
Mr. & Mrs. Ron Ryder & Family  
Ms. Barbara Stinnett  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Zwissler & Family

## Sustaining Membership

Congratulations to the following member who has reached the level of Sustaining (Lifetime) Membership:  
Mr. James E. Williams

## Gift Memberships:

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

Mr. & Mrs. William Bushnell  
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Loew  
Ms. Rebecca Roe  
Ms. Nancy McK. Smith  
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Stathis  
Ms. Joy Woppert

## Memorial Contributions

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

In memory of Mr. Joseph Showalter, Charter Member and longtime supporter:  
Mr. & Mrs. Glynn Frank

In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Showalter:  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Burton

In memory of Mr. Jeffrey Feagin, who was a member and longtime supporter:  
Ms. Olivia Alison

In memory of Mrs. Ella Lee Manning, Charter Member and longtime supporter:  
Ms. JoAnn Longhill & Mr. James Borell

## Spring Appeal

The Staff and Board of Directors wish to thank the following for their contributions to the 2011 Spring Appeal:

Mr. & Mrs. Louis Amtmann  
Mr. & Mrs. Roger A. Anderson  
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Armstrong  
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald W. Bailey  
Mr. & Mrs. Stanley O. Benning  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul L. Berry  
Ms. Jody Longhill & Mr. James Borell  
Mr. & Mrs. William Bushnell  
Ms. Melanie Maholick & Mr. David C. Brownlee  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank R. Caldwell, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Ty Clark  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Dennett  
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis A. Drumm  
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph H. Dwan, Jr.  
Dr. & Mrs. Glenn R. Edgecombe  
Mr. & Mrs. Gerrit Everson  
Ms. Lynn Ferris  
Mr. & Mrs. Philip A. Fleming  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Fleming  
Mr. & Mrs. Martin Flynn  
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Senator & Mrs. Bernie Fowler  
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Mrs. Magda Freeman  
Dr. & Mrs. Edward U. Graham  
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Hammack  
Mr. & Mrs. George Helz  
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Mr. & Mrs. James C. Hollowell  
Mr. & Mrs. Steve A. Howerton  
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Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Insel  
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Mr. Peter A. Johnson  
Ms. Elizabeth L. Johnston  
Ms. D. Jane Klemmer  
Ms. Penny Firth & Mr. David Knapp  
Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Locraft  
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald C. Magnussen  
Mrs. Anne Warner & Mr. Michael Makuch  
Mr. John P. McGahey, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. John Menassa  
Mr. Don Mighell  
Ms. Pamela-Jeanne Moran  
Mr. Charles & Dr. Kathryn Nicodemus  
Dr. & Mrs. Raymon Noble  
Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Noell  
Ms. Gladys T. Ogden  
Ms. Katherine Wilber & Mr. James O'Reilly & Family  
Col. & Mrs. Geoffrey Parker  
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Mr. & Mrs. John G. Reed

Mr. & Mrs. William Scharpf, Jr.  
Ms. Mary McGahey & Mr. Todd Sheldon  
Dr. Nancy McK. Smith  
Mrs. Christina Lansford & Mr. Gerald Sneeringer  
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Mrs. Rhoda Switzer  
Mr. & Mrs. Harry M. Tollerton  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Woppert  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Yuill  
Mr. & Mrs. Albert L. Zahniser  
Ms. Roberta Safer & Mr. Klaus Zwilsky

## General Contributions and Designated Gifts

Thank you to the following for your generous gifts and support:  
Mr. Conrad Hoska – Land Acquisition Fund  
Mr. Thomas Kirby  
SMECO  
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans – Grant to Double Oak Farm  
Wiley Rein LLP – matching Mr. Kirby's donation

## Through the MD House & Garden Pilgrimage:

Calvert Garden Club

## Through America's Charities

Mrs. Dorothy Howe

## Building Fund

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Romney

## Land Management Endowment Fund

Mr. & Mrs. Paul L. Berry  
Mr. & Mrs. David Bonior  
Dr. & Mrs. Glenn R. Edgecombe  
Dr. & Mrs. Edward U. Graham  
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Hammack  
Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Locraft  
Dr. Kathleen Miller  
Dr. & Mrs. Robert G. Miller  
Ms. Karyn Molines & Mr. Gary Pendleton  
Dr. & Mrs. Peter R. Vogt  
Walden III Heritage

## Special thanks to those who have reached Land Management Endowment Fund – Land Steward Level:

Mr. & Mrs. Stanley O. Benning  
Dr. Christine & Mr. Daniel Boesz  
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph H. Dwan, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Ellsworth  
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel M. Head  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert A. Jaeger  
Ms. Mary McGahey & Mr. Todd Sheldon  
Col. Caroline Van Mason, USA (Ret.)

# Come Join Us!

Detach and Mail to: The American Chestnut Land Trust, Inc., P.O. Box 2363, Prince Frederick, MD 20678

Name \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ I (we) learned about ACLT from \_\_\_\_\_

## Regular Membership

Land Saver—\$35.00

Habitat Protector—\$500.00

Land Protector—\$60.00

Trustee of Land—\$1000.00

Land Conservator—\$150.00

Sustaining—\$2500.00

## Corporate Membership

Land Saver Corporate—\$150.00

Land Protector Corporate—\$250.00

Land Conservator Corporate—\$500.00

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.



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