

Watershed Observer



NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN CHESTNUT LAND TRUST - VOLUME 28 No. 3, SUMMER 2014

CONTENTS

- PARKERS CREEK NATURAL AREA ... 1
- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE 2
- INTRODUCING AUTUMN PHILLIPS 3
- MARYLAND MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM 3
- YOU SHOP. AMAZON GIVES 3
- ACLT'S 19TH ANNUAL SILENT AUCTION & DINNER 4
- PARK TO PARK PADDLE 5
- EARTH DAY 5K RECAP 5
- CALENDAR OF EVENTS 5
- LAND MANAGER'S CORNER: THE COMPLEXITY AND IMPORTANCE OF DISPERSAL 6
- ONGOING CONCERNS ABOUT AIR AND WATER QUALITY IMPACTS OF COVE POINT LNG EXPANSION 10
- INCENTIVE TO RECRUIT NEW MEMBERS 10
- PLEASE CONSIDER OPTING TO RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER ELECTRONICALLY 10
- CONTRIBUTIONS AND NEW MEMBERS 11

COMING UP ON THE CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

- 6 **HOLLY ARBORETUM WORK DAY AT WARRIOR'S REST** (9:00 A.M.–12:00 P.M.)
- 13 **PARK TO PARK PADDLE** (8:30 A.M.–1:00 P.M.)

SEE MORE OF THE 2014 CALENDAR ON PAGE 5 OR ON THE WEB.

Parkers Creek Natural Area, Parkers Creek Wildlands, Parkers Creek Wildlife Management Area—What does it all mean?

ACLT has been managing properties owned by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in the Parkers Creek watershed since 1995. Initially, we managed them under a Memorandum of Understanding and since July 2000 pursuant to a long-term Lease approved by the Maryland Board of Public Works. Over this lengthy period, ACLT has invested heavily in the concept of an ecosystem-wide approach to managing the Parkers Creek watershed that seamlessly knits together the ACLT and DNR properties. See ACLT's updated watershed map on page 9. Green areas on the map are owned by DNR and include almost all of ACLT's North Side trails.

Both ACLT and DNR have continued to acquire property to preserve as much of the watershed as possible. As part of our management agreement ACLT has established and maintained 13 miles of new trails north of Parkers Creek, conducted educational guided canoe trips on Parkers Creek, worked cooperatively with DNR to control invasive plants, facilitated significant scientific research, managed the limited access Warrior's Rest Sanctuary, accumulated 15 years of water quality monitoring data, and managed the deer herd through establishment of a model hunting program in which each hunter contributes 18 stewardship hours per year to assist ACLT in its management responsibilities.

By and large, the public has been very respectful of the natural and cultural resources ACLT manages. We have thankfully had very few incidents where we have had to call on either local law enforcement or the DNR natural resource police to intercede to interrupt an unlawful or unpermitted activity by a member of the public. In fact, in my tenure as Executive Director over the past eight years, I can think of only two occasions where ACLT called for backup, the necessary support was provided, and the issue was quickly resolved.

Over the past couple of months, it has become clear that there may be an important change coming to ACLT's management of DNR land. As explained in a recent letter to ACLT from DNR Secretary Joseph P. Gill, the DNR lands in Parkers Creek were "purchased for their ecological values but [until now] had never been formally designated within an official land management unit." There are several other properties throughout the state that are also undesignated and DNR has been going through a lengthy process to designate them. If you are wondering what it means to be "*formally designated within an official land management unit*," hold that question while we bring you up to date on a veritable flurry of other recent DNR "designations" relating to Parkers Creek in the last two years.

In 2012, ACLT received information from DNR about a new **Maryland State Natural Areas** program. According to a DNR summary of the program, DNR identified "the best remaining natural areas within our state" to be included in the program. As DNR's Tim Larney reported to me, "Parkers Creek was on the list. That was no surprise of course to those of us who know what's down there." The program was designed to include both public and private properties. Tim explained that the lands DNR owns in Parkers Creek would be included and

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)

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



**AMERICAN CHESTNUT
LAND TRUST, INC.**

P. O. Box 2363
Prince Frederick, MD 20678
Phone: 410-414-3400
Fax: 410-414-3402
info@acltweb.org
<http://acltweb.org/nl>

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 958 acres, manage 1,910 acres owned by the State of Maryland, and hold conservation easements on 374 privately-owned acres.

Editors: Ellen and David Farr

Board of Directors

Patrick J. Griffin, President
David F. Farr, Vice President
Gary A. Loew, Corporate Secretary
Cheryl L. Place, CPA, Treasurer
Richard Aldrich
Greg Bowen
Denise Breitburg
Steven P. Cloak, Jr.
Kathleen Ellwood
Scott Galczynski
Elizabeth L. Johnston
Steve Kullen
John Little
Wilson Parran
Suzanne Shelden
Peter N. Stathis
Guy Tomassoni
Randi Vogt

Executive Director

Karen H. Edgcombe

Community Relations Coordinator

Tricia Realbuto

Land Manager

Autumn Phillips

Ann White, Contract Accountant

Volunteer Staff

Ginny Murphy,
Membership Coordinator

From the President's Desk

Happy August! I hope the realities of summer have met or surpassed your initial expectations.

I would like to bring to your attention a very important development in ACLT's relationship with the Department of Natural Resources of Maryland (DNR). It comes about as a result of DNR's decision to designate the land ACLT manages on their behalf in Parkers Creek as a Wildlife Management Area (WMA). Karen Edgcombe provides an excellent detailed report and chronology of this matter, elsewhere in the newsletter.

I am writing to highlight that this new designation has the potential to fundamentally alter previous agreements we've had with DNR as to how their land in the watershed is managed, specifically the aspect of it that could impact our current hunting program and by direct inference, how and when the trails are available for hiking. While we are cautiously optimistic that this new arrangement will be resolved to everyone's satisfaction, the critical details and requirements of this change have not yet been agreed upon.

In close coordination with the board, Karen developed an excellent set of arguments, legal and otherwise, delineating our concerns regarding the potential adverse impacts of this new designation. She then immediately engaged DNR staff assigned to oversee this arrangement. The initial conversations with staff were thoughtful and constructive. However, it became apparent that we also needed an opportunity to make our case to the leadership of DNR to address the overall impact of their underlying decision, not just how it was to be executed.

Fortunately, through the good offices of board member, Greg Bowen, we were able to secure a meeting directly with Secretary Gill and Mr. Paul Peditto, Director of Wildlife and Heritage Services for DNR. After a lengthy conversation, it was clear that these officials remained convinced of the merits of their overall decision to make the WMA designation. However, they appeared genuinely sympathetic to most of the issues we raised. They also acknowledged the strong relationship that has developed between ACLT and DNR over the years and the important role we play in their identifying and acquiring additional properties in the Parkers Creek watershed.

While there were no specific commitments, the meeting ended on a promising note to get back to us with a proposal that would hopefully be responsive to our concerns. As we all know, the devil is in the details. It is not clear at the moment what course or how long this discussion will take to get a resolution we all can abide. Nevertheless, we will do everything we can to keep you abreast of its progress. We will remain in close contact electronically or be prepared to convene an in person meeting with members, if necessary. In any event, we will not hesitate to call upon you if we need your help.

In the meantime, please feel free to contact me, Karen or anyone on the board with your questions and concerns.

Sincerely,
Pat Griffin
pggriffin@griffinhome.com

Around ACLT

Introducing Autumn Phillips

Hello, ACLT members!

My name is Autumn Phillips and I would like to introduce myself as the new Land Manager. I started working at ACLT on May 12th, which also



happened to be my birthday; what better way to celebrate than to start a new job? I recently graduated from Frostburg State University with a Master of Science in Applied Ecology and Conservation Biology. Prior to that, I received my Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science from Elizabethtown College. I conducted my master's thesis research on the influence of tree-fall gaps on seed dispersal by small mammals in Soberanía National park in Panama. While there, I got a chance to see interesting wildlife and experience the Central American culture in a way that few people do. I have also conducted research on carbon sequestration by trees at Elizabethtown and worked with the horticulture and pollinator programs at the Penn State Cooperative Extension.

Growing up in Waynesboro, Pennsylvania, I was always playing outside in the woods with my brother; however, I attribute my interest and eventual career in the environmental field to a fateful "club sign-up day" one week before I started high school. I was drawn to the table with the wild animal display and became a member of my school's Envirothon team. My knowledge-base and interest in conservation grew due to my time spent in this club and made it an easy decision to get both of my degrees in a field where I could work to conserve and protect natural areas.

I am very happy and excited to work at ACLT where I get to manage and protect a large, contiguous natural area that showcases the beauty and biodiversity Southern Maryland has to offer. Additionally, I feel that my story has come full circle because I am now helping to update the Envirothon study guide which, 10 years ago, helped spark my interest in a topic that has now become my career. I look forward to meeting and working with each of you here at ACLT. If you would like to contact me, I can be reached by phone at 410-414-3400 or by email at landmanager@acltweb.org.

Maryland Master Naturalist Program

In 2013, the American Chestnut Land Trust launched a new Maryland Master Naturalist program in Calvert County. The program's mission is to engage citizens as stewards of Maryland's natural ecosystems and resources through science-based education and volunteer service in their communities.

Modeled on the highly successful Master Gardener program established by the University of Maryland Extension, the Maryland Master Naturalist program provides training for volunteers who want to learn and share their knowledge of the state's natural world. The Calvert County program at ACLT focuses on the ecology of the Coastal Plains region of Maryland and offers local volunteer opportunities.

Experts from all over Maryland present fascinating and interactive lectures on topics including: an introduction to ecological principles, interpretation, botany, soils, geology, ornithology, weather and climate, insects, mammals, freshwater and tidal wetlands systems, fish, herpetology, and invasive species. Special Master Naturalist field trips include identification of birds by sight and song, tree identification, fossils of Calvert Cliffs, and nighttime amphibian sightings and calls.

Course participants complete 60 hours of classroom and field training. Following successful completion of the course, participants give back, within one year of the training, 40 hours of approved volunteer service at the training host site in order to become a Certified Master Naturalist Volunteer. To maintain certification, participants perform 40 hours of approved volunteer service and 8 hours of advanced training annually. The Calvert County program is co-sponsored by Battle Creek Nature Education Society and Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust. Volunteer service can be performed at these two sites in addition to ACLT.

Beginning in October, you can add your name to the [waiting list](#) to express interest in the classes which are held from late January through early May of the following year. For additional information, contact the ACLT Land Manager at landmanager@acltweb.org.

You Shop. Amazon Gives.

This message bears repeating! If you already make any purchases through Amazon, it is so easy to switch to AmazonSmile where 0.5% of the purchase price can benefit ACLT. Visit <http://smile.amazon.com>. From there, you will sign in with your Amazon account, or you will need to create one. Once signed in, you will be able to search for American Chestnut Land Trust. Click "Select" next to our name, and you are signed up! If you have any questions about this program, you can visit <https://org.amazon.com/> or contact Tricia Realbuto at [3](mailto:in-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

Save the Date
To go
"Forever Wild"



Photo by Joseph Turner

**ACLT's 19th Annual Silent
Auction & Dinner
Saturday, November 1st, 2014
6:00 p.m. — 9:30 p.m.**

**DONATE an item!
VOLUNTEER to help with the event!
SUPPORT us with an Auction Angel contribution!**

For more information about the auction and to download the donation form
visit: <http://acltweb.org/Events/Auction/index.cfm>

Park to Park Paddle Parkers Creek to Flag Ponds

September 13, 8:30 am -1:00 pm

For Experienced, Adult Kayakers

Here's a chance for experienced kayakers to paddle a beautiful but hard-to-access section of the Chesapeake Bay. This moderately strenuous 7-mile trip will begin at the American Chestnut Land Trust-managed Warrior's Rest Sanctuary located at the mouth of Parkers Creek in Port Republic and explore the shoreline southward along the Calvert Cliffs to Flag Ponds Nature Park; shuttle service will be provided from Flag Ponds Nature Park back to Warriors Rest. Lunch and a t-shirt are provided.

Location: Warrior's Rest Sanctuary, Port Republic. Directions and packing list will be provided.

Reservations and advance payment required by September 8.

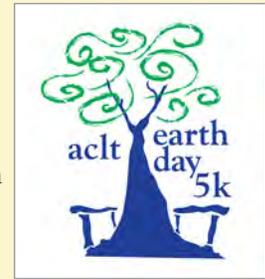
Register online at <http://www.calvertparks.org/calendar.html> or in person at Battle Creek Cypress Swamp.

**\$35 for BCNES members & ACLT members
\$50 for nonmembers**

A limited number of kayaks are available for an additional fee of \$10 per person.



Earth Day 5k Recap



On Saturday, April 26th, ACLT held its first annual Earth Day 5k Trail Run and Family Fun Walk on our South Side trails. It was a beautiful morning, and we could not have asked for better weather.

ACLT had some great volunteers to assist with check-in and to make sure our runners stayed on course. The race began at 9:00 a.m. with about half the group participating in the 5k run and the other half participating in a guided hike by Steven Gaines. Thank you to all of our race participants, we hope you had a great time! Our next trail run will be held in the spring of 2015 on our PF2BAY trail.

ACLT would like to thank:

- World Gym of Prince Frederick for donating cases of water
- Panera of Prince Frederick for donating coffee, bagels and cream cheese
- Tidewater School for their financial contribution, as well promotion assistance
- Suzanne Shelden for creating the wonderful race logo

American Chestnut Land Trust Calendar of Events September–November 2014

September

- 6 **Holly Arboretum Work Day at Warrior's Rest** (9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.)
- 13 **Park to Park Paddle** (8:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.)
- 20 **Guided Canoe Trip** (12:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.) (*Sunday Rain Date*)
- 27 **Walk Along the Bay Membership Event** (time to be determined)
- 27 **Fall Hiking Trail Maintenance Day** (9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.)

October

- 4 **Guided Canoe Trip** (10 a.m.–1:00p.m.) (*Sunday Rain Date*)
- 11 **Patuxent River Appreciation Days** (10: 00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.)
- 18 **Guided Canoe Trip** (11:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.) (*Sunday Rain Date*)
- 25 **Vine Vindicator Training Day** (9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.)
- 26 **Fall Foliage Hike at Double Oak** (1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.)

November

- 1 **19th Annual Auction & Dinner**

Land Manager's Corner

The Complexity and Importance of Dispersal

Last month, ACLT volunteers and I completed the second annual pollination of the namesake American chestnut tree. While I witnessed dedicated volunteers climb over 40 feet into neighboring trees and wait over 30 minutes for the wind to blow our pollen-filled balloon in the right direction, I was made aware, yet again, of the naturally occurring ecosystem services that we take for granted. My past two years spent studying the importance of seed dispersal in the tropics, and the four days spent gathering pollen and hand-pollinating our namesake tree, led me to the topic of my first newsletter article. In this article I aim to discuss just a few of the complex adaptations plants use to increase the dispersal of their pollen and the impact that the dispersal of fertilized seeds can have on the genetic diversity and species richness of an entire ecosystem.

To begin, the dispersal of pollen among plants of the same species is a necessary initial step in the plant regeneration process. Pollen dispersal allows for the fertilization of seeds that are later dispersed away from the parent plant and constitute the next generation of forest vegetation. There are various methods of pollen dispersal; however, 80% of plants are pollinated by animal dispersers. Of the remaining 20% of plants, 98% rely on wind for pollination and many have adapted to produce pollen early in the spring before leaf-out, which can hinder pollen dispersal (http://ftp.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/Plant_Strategies/index.shtml). Before the American chestnut was so scarce that it required human intervention, it relied on wind pollination in mid-summer (http://bioweb.uwlax.edu/bio203/s2009/dorman_step/life_history.htm). While this is after leaf-out and later than some other wind-pollinated plants, it was the late fertilization process that resulted in the American chestnut being one of the most reliable wildlife food sources because the seeds were never impacted by a late-spring frost.

Plants that rely on animal dispersal have also evolved many interesting traits to attract animal pollinators. A commonly known way plants attract pollinators is by offering a nectar reward in their flowers for the pollinator to use as energy. Lesser known is the inter-



Volunteer Paul Blayney climbs high in trees to aid in chestnut pollination.

esting fact that the nutritional value of the nectar in a particular plant species varies in regards to the energy demands of the pollinator that the plant relies on. Plants that rely on high-energy species such as birds and bats produce nectar with a higher nutritional value than plants that rely on low-energy requiring species such as bees and butterflies for pollination (The Biology of Nectaries; Cruden et al. 1983).

Another interesting example of the complex adaptations plants utilize to attract pollinators is chemical mimicry, or creating the scent of another organism to entice pollinators. Researchers have found that a species of orchid attracts solitary male bees by emitting the fragrance of a receptive female bee. The male bee then mistakes the orchid flower for a female bee and picks up pollen while attempting to mate with the “female bee” (Schiestl & Ayasse 2001). Additionally, a plant known as dead-horse arum emits the smell of a rotting animal to attract flies which pollinate their flowers (Stensmyr et al. 2002). Water lilies use a method called entrapment by producing a fluid around each flower to drown the first bee that visits the flower. The pollen that was on the bee then settles to the bottom of the fluid where it fertilizes the flower (http://ftp.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/Plant_Strategies/entrapment.shtml). Visual cues such as showy flowers and patterns that guide pollinators to the area containing the nectar and pollen are also used by many plants that rely on animals to disperse their pollen. While I have mentioned just a few of the amazing mechanisms plants employ to ensure their pollen is dispersed and their seeds are fertilized, I will now move on to another important ecosystem process: seed dispersal.

The dispersal of seeds away from a parent plant is important for many different reasons. First, the dispersal of seeds into disturbed areas allows for plant re-colonization and forest regeneration after disturbances (Wunderle 1997). In 2007, it was found that the lack of dispersal of native species' seeds into abandoned wheat fields caused a 45-year delay in the recolonization of those native species (Standish et al. 2007). At ACLT, we often see disturbed areas where the seeds of many plants are deposited but are out-competed by non-native invasive plants. However, the dispersal of native plants' seeds into small disturbed microhabitats such as tree-fall gaps or openings left from selective

logging is beneficial to forest regeneration, as competition from invasive species is not the only difficulty that seedlings encounter.

Seed dispersal allows for seeds to be moved to a location where conditions exist that are beneficial for seed germination and seedling survival. Such conditions can include optimum light, moisture, and temperature levels, increased nutrients, and reduced competition (Beckage et al. 2008). A third, and perhaps most important, benefit of seed dispersal is that seedling survival rate increases as distance from conspecifics, or plants of the same species, increases, due to the presence of fewer species-specific pathogens, seed predators, and herbivores. In fact, this interaction between seeds and the specific predators and pathogens that attack each species has been widely accepted as one of the main driving forces behind the famous biodiversity found in tropical forests. While temperate regions sustain far less biodiversity than tropical ecosystems, the same processes are in effect and playing a role in driving large-scale biodiversity.

Take, for example, an ash tree that is supporting a large population of emerald ash borer. Ash seeds that land and germinate in close proximity to the parent tree are likely to be predated upon by the emerald ash borer and suffer higher mortality rates. On the contrary, ash seeds that are dispersed away from the parent tree, and the large population of emerald ash borer, are less likely to be predated upon and more likely to have a higher survival rate. Since the 1970's this process has been referred to as the Janzen-Connell Hypothesis and is thought to help prevent large patches of a single plant from taking over an area, thus increasing the species richness, or number of species, in an ecosystem (Connell 1971, Janzen 1970).

Lastly, seed dispersal not only increases the species biodiversity of an area but also impacts genetic variation within a plant population. The impact of seed dispersal can be either beneficial or detrimental to the genetic make-up of a population. Seed dispersal can help reduce the negative effects of inbreeding depression in small populations of closely-related individuals by introducing new genetic material into the population and reducing the frequency of deleterious recessive alleles (one of two or more copies of a gene found in the same location on a chromosome) (Frankham et al. 2010). However, seed dispersal can also result in genetic swamping when gene flow occurs between populations that are adapted to different environments (Field et al. 2008). In such cases, gene flow into new populations may decrease the fitness of individuals in the population if the new alleles are detrimental in that particular environment (Field et al. 2008).

The adaptations highlighted in this article are products of millions of years of co-evolution between plants and animals. The end results are intricate and important processes that are easily carried out in nature but require

days of work for humans to emulate. We should keep this single ecosystem process in mind when we contemplate the impact humans are having on all of the ecosystem processes that maintain our temperate ecosystem as we know it.

Autumn Phillips,
ACLT Land Manager

Literature Cited:

- Beckage, B., B. D. Kloeppel, J. A. Yeakley, S. F. Taylor, and D. C. Coleman. 2008. Differential effects of understory and overstory gaps on tree regeneration. *Journal of the Torrey Botanical Society* 135:1-11.
- "Chestnut Anyone?" 2007. University of Wisconsin. (http://bioweb.uwlax.edu/bio203/s2009/dorman_step/life_history.htm)
- Connell, J. H. 1971. On the role of natural enemies in preventing competitive exclusion in some marine animals and in rain forest trees. Pp. 298-312 in *Dynamics of populations* (P. J. den Boer and G. R. Gradwell, eds.). Center for Agricultural Publication and Documentation, Wageningen, Netherlands.
- Cruden, R. W., S. M. Hermann. 1983. Chapter in Book: *The Biology of Nectaries*.
- Field, D. L., D. J. Ayre, R. J. Whelan, and A. G. Young. 2008. Relative frequency of sympatric species influences rates of interspecific hybridization, seed production and seedling performance in the uncommon *Eucalyptus aggregate*. *Journal of Ecology* 96:1198-1210.
- Frankham, R., J. D. Ballou, and D. A. Briscoe. 2010. Inbreeding depression. Pp. 285-306. in *Introduction to conservation genetics*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom.
- Janzen, D. H. 1970. Herbivores and the number of tree species in tropical forests. *American Naturalist* 104:501-528.
- Plant Pollination Strategies. US Department of Agriculture Forest Service. (http://ftp.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/Plant_Strategies/index.shtml)
- Schiestl, F. P. and M. Ayasse. 2001. Post-pollination emission of a repellent compound in a sexually deceptive orchid: a new mechanism for maximizing reproductive success? 2001. *Oecologia* 126:531-534.
- Standish, R. J., V. A. Cramer, S. L. Wild, and R. J. Hobbs. 2007. Seed dispersal and recruitment limitation barriers to native recolonization of old-fields in Western Australia. *Journal of Applied Ecology* 44:435-445
- Stensmyr, M. C., I. Urru, I. Collu, M. Celander, B. S. Hansson, and A. Angioy. 2002. Pollination: Rotting smell of dead-horse arum florets. *Nature* 420:625-626.
- Wunderle, J. M. J. 1997. The role of animal seed dispersal in accelerating native forest regeneration on degraded tropical lands. *Forest Ecology and Management* 99:223-235.

invited ACLT to include our lands in the natural area. The main thrust of this program was to develop a web-based Guide to Maryland State Natural Areas designed to “encourage Marylanders to explore some of our natural areas,” “develop a deeper understanding and appreciation for our natural systems, and perhaps even turn their interest in wild places into a desire to protect and conserve them.” Notably, the summary states, “*State Natural Areas are not new land management units.*” Rather, state natural areas are “a recognition that certain places in Maryland are exemplary and should be conserved as such in order to pass them on to future generations.” ACLT looked upon this as an opportunity to receive recognition for the significance of the resources we are conserving in Parkers Creek and publicity about our site through the DNR website. http://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Publiclands/Natural_Areas/ParkersCreek.asp.

In 2013, ACLT received notice that DNR wanted to introduce legislation to the Maryland General Assembly designating the **Parkers Creek Wildland Area**. Wildland areas, by law, are “devoted to public purposes for recreational, scenic, scientific, educational, conservation, and historical use.” Md. Natural Resources Code Ann., Section 5-1214. They are not a separate land management unit, but are managed for passive recreation, including hiking, hunting, fishing, bird watching, horseback riding and nature interpretation, depending upon which uses are already permitted on the land according to existing laws, regulations and administrative policies. This designation can only be applied to state-owned lands and can only be made effective by an act of the General Assembly. The benefit of a Wildlands designation is that it would also take an act of the General Assembly to undo the designation. In other words, the Wildlands designation enhances the protection already afforded to DNR’s Parkers Creek lands by including in Maryland law a requirement that the state provide for their protection and wildland character. To view a power point presentation about recently added wildland areas, see <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/land/stewardship/pdfs/WildlandsOverview.pdf>.

ACLT was consulted about our support for the Wildlands designation and the Board of Directors expressed some concerns. Wildland areas are essentially roadless wilderness areas similar to federal lands preserved under the Wilderness Act and, therefore, there are restrictions on “roads, structures and installations.” ACLT’s master plan contemplates a possible future trail to connect the north and south sides of the creek by means of a pedestrian bridge at the old Parkers Creek bridge site, and we wanted to make sure that a new structure would be permitted. In response to ACLT’s concern, language was incorporated into the law to accommodate ACLT’s master plan. Motorized equipment is also prohib-

ited within a Wildland. Our Board wanted to make sure that, as the land manager, we could continue to use motorized equipment for land management purposes including work on structures, trails and invasive species. Again, a specific provision was inserted allowing this. Finally, although hunting is a permitted activity in a Wildland, ACLT wanted to make sure that our hunting program would continue. Our comments in support of the Wildland designation were based on the condition that DNR lands would continue to be governed by the existing written agreements between DNR and ACLT, which give ACLT hunting rights.

In May of this year, DNR notified ACLT that it had designated state-owned lands in Parkers Creek as a **Wildlife Management Area (WMA)**, effective immediately, without any prior consultation with us. DNR’s website explains that WMAs are “primarily managed for hunting, trapping and other wildlife dependent recreational uses.” In contrast, the current management objective for DNR’s Parkers Creek properties is “the protection of sensitive ecosystems and rare, threatened and endangered species.” Consistent with the current objective, the properties may be used for environmental and biological research, environmental education, interpretation of cultural resources, and public access to open space. It seemed clear that the WMA designation would likely be the end of ACLT’s hunting program, which would eventually be replaced by a public hunting program administered by DNR. Needless to say, this caused considerable concern for the ACLT staff and Board of Directors. Not only are the ACLT hunters an integral part of the ACLT, but there was the significant possibility that Parkers Creek would be opened up to other hunting seasons besides deer resulting in substantially more days when the ACLT trails would have to close.

ACLT was concerned enough to write a letter to DNR Secretary Gill requesting a meeting to discuss the proposed WMA designation. In our letter we stated our concern that the WMA designation seemed to signify a major shift in the management objectives for the Parkers Creek lands that would have a detrimental impact on other users and activities currently allowed on the properties that ACLT leases from DNR. In Secretary Gill’s written response, he explained that the WMA designation for Parkers Creek was needed because most Maryland law and regulation refers specifically to state lands as either a state park, a state forest, or a wildlife management area and it is “difficult or impossible to enforce the laws required to protect the resources” on undesignated lands. The WMA regulations govern things like prohibiting a person from starting a fire outside of an approved camping area; trapping animals without written permission; removing any plant, rock or animal without written permission; releasing any animals or plants onto DNR

land; depositing refuse; vandalism; or interfering with or hindering any employee performing management activities. Since the DNR-owned lands in Parkers Creek were not designated, there was concern that necessary regulatory precautions were not in place to protect the resources if legal enforcement became necessary.

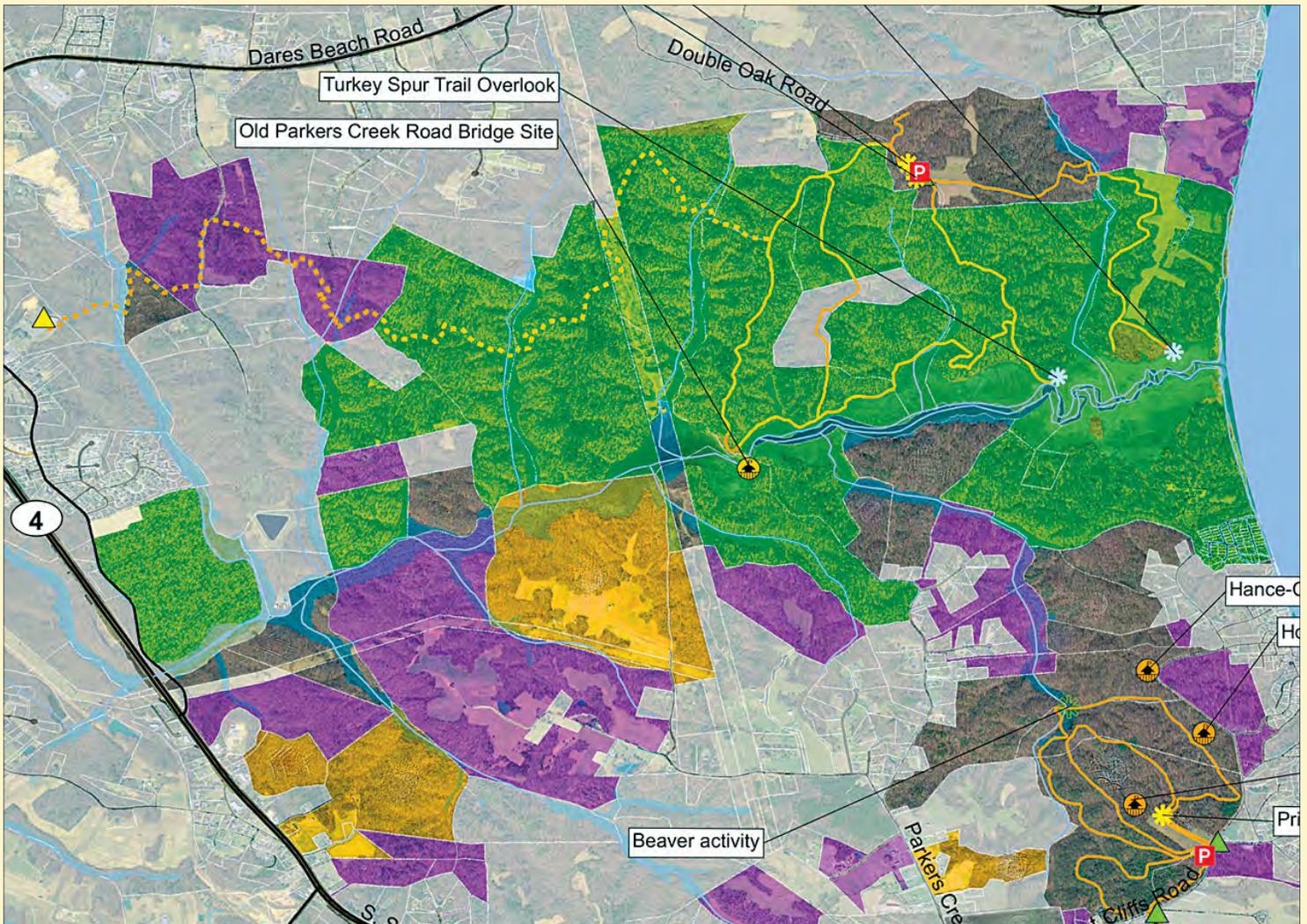
In mid-July, we met with Secretary Gill and Director of DNR's Wildlife and Heritage Service, Paul Peditto. ACLT explained our concern that the potential elimination of ACLT's hunting program on DNR lands would remove a significant source of volunteers who contribute critical stewardship services to assist ACLT in clearing the trails, maintaining the boardwalks, and a host of other land management tasks on DNR lands. We also expressed our concern that if hunting is expanded beyond the current deer herd management objective, this

could significantly impact the number of days the trails would be closed to other users since ACLT's policy has always been to close the trails during gun-hunting season. Both Secretary Gill and Mr. Peditto explained that the WMA designation has not been finalized and promised to get back to us with a proposal that takes our concerns into account.

As board president Pat Griffin writes in his "From the President's Desk" column, we will keep you informed on the status of our negotiations with DNR concerning this important new designation of DNR lands in Parkers Creek. If you have any questions or wish to lend your support please email me at kedgeombe@acltweb.org.

Karen Edgecombe,
Executive Director

Current Protected Lands in Parkers Creek: 4,244 acres (2014)



The map above illustrates the relationship between DNR-owned lands (bright green), ACLT-owned lands (gray), ACLT-held conservation easement lands (gold), and other protected lands (purple). Trails are shown in yellow.

Ongoing Concerns about Air and Water Quality Impacts of Cove Point LNG Expansion

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued their draft Environmental Assessment (EA) on May 15, 2014 finding that the expansion of the Cove Point LNG facility would not have a significant impact on the environment and therefore a more detailed Environmental Impact Statement was not warranted. ACLT responded during the 30-day comment period with the following concerns:

FERC required Dominion to conduct additional air quality modeling including the impact of emissions from the LNG tankers. The FERC-requested modeling predicts that for two pollutants that are known contributors to acid rain, Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂) and Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂), the combined impact of emissions from the facility and the tankers is very close to exceeding the one-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS). In the case of SO₂ the model predicts ambient air quality of 195.997 micrograms per cubic meter while the one-hour maximum permitted by the Clean Air Act is 196. Similarly, for NO₂ the model predicts ambient air quality of 187.9 and the one-hour standard is 188. The modeling Dominion supplied was based on an assumption that 85 tankers per year will visit the terminal although up to 200 tankers per year are permitted to dock at the terminal. ACLT's comments requested that FERC add a condition limiting the number of tankers to 85 per year to ensure that the national ambient air quality standards for SO₂ and NO₂ are not exceeded.

With respect to the introduction of non-indigenous invasive species to local waters from the discharge of ballast water at dock and from ships' hulls, we found FERC's analysis that "ship traffic and ballast water discharges would not have any *noticeable*, long-term impact on the Chesapeake Bay or aquatic resources beyond those that have already occurred within the Chesapeake Bay" (emphasis added) was not a serious assessment of this potential risk. ACLT requested that FERC consider the comments by Dr. Tamburri who submitted an expert opinion for the record as Director of the Maritime Environmental Resource Center, part of the first of U.S. Coast Guard approved Independent Laboratory for certification of testing of ballast water management systems.

Karen H. Edgecombe,
Executive Director

Recruit New Members and Join Us!

Take a walk along the Bay
with Smithsonian Marine Biologist
Denise Breitburg
and Geologist Guy Tomassoni

September 27, 2014*
Warrior's Rest Sanctuary

*This event is a special thank-you incentive to current members who recruit new members before September 27th as well as the new members they recruit!

Annual membership for individuals or families - only \$35



For sign-up information contact
410-414-3400 or info@acltweb.org
web: acltweb.org/np



Please Consider Opting to Receive Your Newsletter Electronically

The newsletter is an important communication tool for ACLT to keep our members informed and engaged on a wide range of topics relating to the work of the land trust. In the membership survey that ACLT conducted in 2012, 45% of our members ranked ACLT's quarterly newsletter, the *Watershed Observer*, as a very important membership benefit, while another 46% ranked it as somewhat important.

Did you know that you can receive your newsletter electronically and thereby help ACLT reduce our printing costs and save more trees? If you would prefer to receive your newsletter electronically, please notify Tricia Realbuto at volunteer@acltweb.org.

Thank you for your support ...

New Members

ACLT would like to welcome the following new members since the Spring 2014 newsletter:

Ms. Barbara Aunchman
Ms. Mary Bolen
Mr. & Mrs. Doug Cochrane
Ms. Christa Conant
Ms. Morgan G. Gates
Mr. & Mrs. Dan Pipeling
Ms. Theresa Reynolds
Mr. & Mrs. R. T. West
Mr. Wiley Reed Wright

Sustaining Membership

Congratulations to the following member who has reached the level of Sustaining Membership:

Ms. Crawford Feagin Stone

In Memory of Contributions

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

In memory of **Mrs. Rita Amtmann** who was a longtime member and dedicated supporter of the ACLT:
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Cunningham
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Head

In memory of **Dr. Christine Boesz** who was a Charter Member, a longtime supporter and dedicated volunteer:
Ms. Denise Breitburg & Mr. Mark Smith
Mr. Brian Rowe
Mr. David Storm

In memory of **Charles Hardies**, father of Mr. John Hardies, a longtime supporter:
Mr. & Mrs. John Crawford, Jr.

In memory of **Dr. Andrea Clarke** who served on the ACLT Board of Directors and was a longtime supporter and dedicated volunteer:
Mr. John Miller
Mr. Bruce Wight

In memory of **Mrs. Molly Ellsworth**, sister of Ralph Dwan, who was a Charter Member and dedicated supporter:
Mrs. Mary Dwan

Gift Memberships

Thank you to the following who gave a gift membership since the last newsletter:
Drs. Judith & Donald Dahmann

General Contributions and Designated Gifts

Thank you to the following for your generous gifts and support:

Anonymous
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis Drumm
Dr. & Mrs. John Saunders, Jr.
Maryland Ornithological Society

Through America's Charities:

Mrs. Dorothy Howe
Mr. Noah Stone

Through IBM Workplace Giving:

Anonymous

Through Workplace Matching:

Mr. Thomas Kirby/Wiley Rein LLP
Mr. Greg Locraft/Macy's Foundation

Land Preservation

Mr. Glen O. Pyles

Harrod Property Donations

The Staff and Board of Directors wish to thank the following for their 2014 donation to the Harrod Property acquisition:
Dr. & Mrs. Glenn Edgecombe
RADM & Mrs. James B. Greene, Jr.
USN (Ret.)
Mr. Brett Raynor
Ms. Mary Parish & Mr. Sherman Suter

Spring Appeal

The Staff and Board of Directors wish to thank the following for their contributions to the 2014 Spring Appeal:
Mr. Louis Amtmann
Ms. Karen Anderson
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Armstrong
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Balinski
Mr. & Mrs. Eric Bargar
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Bell
Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Benning
Mrs. Doris Berry
Col. Daniel Boesz
Ms. J. Longhill & Mr. J. Borell, Jr.

Mr. & Mrs. Greg Bowen
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Caldwell, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Cunningham
Ms. Kathy Daniel
Mr. & Mrs. David A. Didion
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis A. Drumm
Mrs. Ralph H. Dwan, Jr.
Dr. & Mrs. Glenn Edgecombe
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Ellwood
Ms. Lynn Ferris
Mr. Bob Field
Ms. Paula Johnson & Mr. Carl Fleischhauer
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Fleming
Ms. Sandra Foley
Senator & Mrs. Bernie Fowler
Mr. & Mrs. D. Duncan Frazer
Mrs. Magda Freeman
Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Gates
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Graziano & Family
RADM & Mrs. James Greene, Jr. USN (Ret.)
Dr. Edward Hacskaylo
Mr. Scott Hite
Mr. & Mrs. John Hollowell
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Howerton
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Insel
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Jaeger
Dr. Robert Keisling & Ms. B.L. Johnston
Mr. & Mrs. Adam Joseph
Mr. & Mrs. Martin Kilpatrick & Family
Ms. Penny Firth & Mr. David Knapp
Mr. & Mrs. Greg Locraft
Mr. & Mrs. Ron Magnussen
Ms. Anne Warner & Mr. Michael Makuch
Mr. John McGahey, Jr.
Ms. Mary McGahey & Mr. Todd Sheldon
Mr. Frank McPhillips
Dr. & Mrs. Robert G. Miller
Ms. Pamela-Jeanne Moran
Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Noell
Ms. Cheryl Place
Dr. & Mrs. Austin Platt
Mr & Mrs. John Potts
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Rodgers
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Rubino
Ms. Lynne Sneade
Mr. & Mrs. Steven Stadelman
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Stathis
Ms. Elaine Strong
Mr. & Mrs. William Tearman
Mr. & Mrs. David Williamson
Ms. Jeanne Young
Ms. R. Safer and Mr. Klaus Zwilsky

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

facebook

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



American Chestnut Land Trust, Inc.
 Post Office Box 2363
 Prince Frederick, MD 20678

NONPROFIT
 STANDARD MAIL
 PERMIT NO.
 548
 PRINCE FREDERICK
 MD

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
- ___ Land Protector—\$60.00
- ___ Land Conservator—\$150.00
- ___ Habitat Protector—\$500.00
- ___ Trustee of Land—\$1000.00
- ___ 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.