

Watershed Observer



NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN CHESTNUT LAND TRUST
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CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

DECEMBER 10 – GREENS SALE & HAYRIDE, WARRIOR'S REST, 1-4 P.M.
SEE DETAILS ON PAGE 11.

FEBRUARY 4, 2006 – ACLT ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING.

FULL 2006 CALENDAR ON PAGE 10.

SEE [HTTP://ACLTWEB.ORG](http://acltweb.org) OR PAGE 10 FOR FULL CALENDAR AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

2005 Fund Raiser Big Success

On October 8, 2005, nearly 300 ACLT members and their guests attended the 10th and most successful Annual Chili Cook-Off, Silent Auction and Dance ever. Despite the threat of torrential rain, it was a wonderful evening of lively conversation in a beautifully decorated setting. Magical lighting provided an intimate ambience in the dining tent and beautiful illumination of 120 outstanding auction items. Attendees sampled great varieties of appetizers, chili, salads, breads and desserts; all donated by members. While the crowd mingled and meandered between the auction tent and the dance floor, they were entertained by the bluegrass sounds of *Rockfish* outdoors and *The Calvert Dance Band* playing swing music indoors.

Congratulations to the winners of this year's Chili Cook-Off, Jack and Emma Dodsworth - kid's category winners, Robyn Truslow—hot category winner, Tina Boesz, Joy Bartholomew and to my brother, Paul Rickel, from New York City, who won second place in the vegetarian division.

The auction items at the Cook-Off are getting more creative every year. This year I was especially interested in a basket of books (including a beautiful book on sea glass) also including champagne and chocolates donated by Mary Blayney and Betsey Saunders. Anne Brown's home-harvested *Little Brown Bee's* honey was a hot item with many bidders vying for her bees' product. Bidders had many vacation getaways to choose from—Rehoboth

Beach, across the Bay (the Dwan/Slaughter family) to more exotic locals such as the Bahamas (Pat & Abbey Griffin) and Costa Rica (Marilyn Oliva). I hope everyone noticed the new Parkers Creek pendant, designed by Maertens Jewelers in Solomons that made its premier debut at



the Cook-Off. This pendant will be available for sale at the *Greens Sale & Beach Hayride* on December 10th at Warrior's Rest Sanctuary. Other jewelry items from the Maertens Jewelers *Parkers Creek Collection*, from earrings to bracelets, will be introduced throughout 2006 to celebrate the ACLT's 20th Anniversary.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)



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From the President's Desk 1/4

Reflections on the Land Trust Alliance Rally

Executive Director Peg Niland, former Board member Peter Vogt, who is now on with the Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust and I attended this year's Land Trust Alliance (LTA) Rally in Madison, Wisconsin. Held in the home state of John Muir and Aldo Leopold, in my view it was a distinct success, simultaneously inspiring, cautionary, instructive and thought provoking.

LTA is an association representing more than 1,500 land trusts across America. It provides an important support system for land trusts by promoting land conservation, offering training, lobbying and generally working to strengthen land trusts and the land trust movement. Its annual conference, the "Rally", offers an opportunity for land trust board members, staff and committed volunteers to attend seminars, take field trips and meet peers from other land trusts. This is the second Rally I have attended. It was personally and professionally worthwhile.

Inspiring - The Rally draws about 1,800 people committed to land conservation. A diverse lot, they are protecting a staggering variety of landscapes including wilderness ecosystems, farms, working ranches, threatened habitats, scenic vistas and urban gardens. I took two field trips, one to see the intriguing geology and biology of the Baraboo Range north of Madison and the other to the highly developed yet scenically protected Lake Geneva, long a recreational center for Chicago. Part of the value of these trips comes from seeing first hand what others have accomplished and also from lengthy discussions with staff and volunteers from other land trusts throughout the country.

Cautionary - In January 2005, the Joint Committee on Taxation of the U.S. Congress proposed a drastic cut on tax benefits for donations of land, conservation easements and bargain sales. These proposals, energized in part from real abuses, threatened some of the financial tools critical to successful land conservation. LTA became a catalyst for action, triggering a strong grass roots lobbying effort. Much of the rally was devoted to this topic, including presentations from IRS representatives. I heard anecdotes of real abuses (e.g., an easement on a golf course that is not going to be further developed, double easement donations and grossly inflated appraisals). This serves as a reminder that it's critically important for land trusts to achieve and maintain a high degree of professionalism and high ethical standards. Peg has regularly emphasized to me and to the Board the importance of adopting and adhering to LTA's "Standards and Practices" that are designed to help land trusts avoid the kinds of problems that have arisen elsewhere.

Instructive - The nuts and bolts of the Rally is about instruction. There are upwards of 200 seminars and workshops on all aspects of making land trusts work and work well. There are sessions on controlling invasive species, tax law, fundraising, biodiversity, lobbying, developing communication skills, recruiting and managing volunteers, urban lands, enforcing easements and many more. Among those I attended was an overview of LTA's new Land Trust Accreditation Program. It has received renewed attention and importance because of recent adverse publicity and the potentially onerous legislative and regulatory reaction. The goals of accreditation include building credibility, public confidence, and ensuring ethical, legal and technical standards. Accreditation deserves serious consideration by ACLT.

Thought Provoking – Among the most stimulating talks was one by Professor William Cronon of the University of Wisconsin: “Saving the Land We Love: Land Conservation and American Values.” He argued that the “natural places we protect need also to be described and understood as **cultural** landscapes.” These include the spectrum from wilderness to working landscapes (farms, ranches and forests) to suburbs to cities. “Whether we protect deep wilderness or an inner city community garden, from a human

cultural point of view we are protecting a human **symbol** of nature.” This perspective has deep historical roots and “the work of land conservation is not just about protecting material nature—plants, animals and ecosystems—but also about protecting human values and cultural landscapes.” Underscoring the importance of land trusts across the country, he emphasized that, “Public land is land we hold together, land that reflects and stands for the values we share: We the People.”

The Rally was an important opportunity to reflect on the role that land conservation and land trusts plays in modern society and the importance of ACLT to the Calvert County community. It has helped shape my continually evolving perspective on land conservation and suggested some ideas that may be worth pursuing. I’m very much looking forward to next year’s Rally which will be in Nashville, Tennessee.

Ted Graham
President, ACLT

AROUND ACLT ¼

Calvert County Big Tree Tour Comes to Warrior’s Rest

Every year and a half the county holds a “Big Tree Tour”; a tour of our local champion trees. It is held each year and a half so that a variety of trees can be seen in spring some years and alternating years, in the fall. This year the tree tour’s focus was on evergreens and conifers (cone bearing trees), so it was a natural fit for the ACLT-managed Warrior’s Rest Sanctuary to be included on the tour.

Although everyone knows about the holly collection (130 varieties) at Warrior’s Rest, surprisingly few people know that there are also great collections of other unusual evergreens and conifers as well.

Our tour bus loaded up at Battle Creek Nature Center on Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m. and every seat was filled. The majority of big tree seekers were from Calvert County, but one couple came from St. Mary’s County and another from Silver Spring, Maryland. Our guides

were Tania Gale, naturalist for Calvert County Parks and Recreation; Kirsti Uunila, historic preservation specialist for Calvert County Planning and Zoning; and Brian Stupak, regional forester for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

When the group was asked how many of us were born and raised in Calvert County, only one person responded. We were then likened to the champion trees, which were here from different places and had found new homes. Most of the champion trees are non-native (brought from other countries or areas of the U.S.) and planted in yards as landscaping for houses. The protected surroundings, especially around older homes, allowed the trees to grow quite large. Most large native evergreen trees growing in open fields or forests in Calvert County were often cut to clear areas for growing tobacco or used for timber.

Our first stop was a private estate in Huntingtown that had a significant number of unusual evergreens and county champion trees. Many champion trees are on private property and viewing them is not always possible. These landowners kindly opened their gates to us and let us walk from tree to tree.

We learned all about the origins of the trees as they traveled around the globe. Some of the trees were found in fossil records (such as Metasequoia and Ginkgo trees), thought to be extinct for thousands of years, but were found in remote areas of China and Japan and



brought here by botanists. Sailors and other world travelers like the Jett family (who planted the Arboretum at Warrior's Rest), brought some of our more unusual trees here, too.

We went to Prince Frederick, visiting trees at the Phillips House, a county-owned historical house, and the Old Field Inn, a local restaurant. Here we learned about the challenges of owning land in a Historic Preservation District that is highly taxed and the choices that the landowner had to make by in filling with commercial buildings to hold on to their property. The landowners have had considerable expenses in trying to preserve and protect the remaining champion tree.

We went back to the Battle Creek Nature Center for lunch and a tour of the cypress swamp, where a discussion about why cypress trees have "knees" transpired. After lunch we headed to Port Republic, visited the Steiner's yard in Scientists' Cliffs Community that had an array of unusual evergreen trees including a Port Orford Cedar (*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*). Nearby, a golden para-

sol tree that is not an evergreen or conifer but was quite striking with its unusual seedpods, also caught our attention.

Our final stop of the daylong tour was our own beloved Warrior's Rest Sanctuary. Warrior's Rest has limited public access but the Big Tree Tour was an opportunity for the public to see a more unusual side of the property. Many ACLT volunteers worked hard in September and October to clear vines around trees and mow for this tour. Their efforts made for a beautiful setting.

Our group traveled around the world at Warrior's Rest, walking past a native white pine (*Pinus strobus*) into the woods, visiting a golden larch (*Pseudolarix amabilis*) from China, a Japanese cedar (*Cryptomeria japonica*), Chinese fir (*Cunninghamia lanceolata*), a tall native Loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*), past the Purple Beech (not an evergreen but beautiful nonetheless), and the large blue spruce (*Picea pungens*) from the Rocky Mountains. Crossing the yard, we went to a tree from North Africa, the giant

Blue Atlas Cedar (*Cedrus atlantica "glauca"*) full of male cones, yellow with pollen. We walked over to the Holly Arboretum where an injured Dawn Redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*) still stands tall. After taking some time to visit with the hollies, we went over to our final tree of the day, the amazing Monkey Puzzle (*Araucaria araucana*), a tree from Chile, South America.

Before they left, the group told me to thank the ACLT and its volunteers for all their care and hard work to make this part of the tour possible. It made me very proud to be the land manager of the ACLT and the resident steward of Warrior's Rest. I hope our members will visit these same magical trees on December 10th when we host our annual Greens Sale and Hayride at Warrior's Rest from 1 to 4 p.m. This year's event kicks off our 20th Anniversary of the ACLT's founding.

Liz Stoffel
Land Manager

Silent Auction 2005



(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

An event like the Chili Cook-off cannot take place without the help of many, many people. Alan Wilson and I chaired the event this year, but it is the committee chairs and the many other volunteers who make any event a success. I would personally like to thank the chairs of this year's Chili Cook-Off and hope you will all let them know what a great job they did when you see them next: Jerry Adams - *Auction*, Janette Petersen - *Food*, Mark Smith & Denise Breitburg - *Brochure and Database*, Steve Peters, Niki Baker & Donna Wilson - *Decorations*, Cheri DeLaVergne - *Advertising*, Harriet Yaffe - *Music*, Jack Andrews - *Lighting*, Bill Haile & Peter Stathis - *Finance*, Dave & Ellen Farr - *Web site*, Ellen Dodsworth - *White Elephant Table*, Marie Bundy - *Refreshments* and an immense thank you to all of the volunteers who helped set up tables and chairs, put up lighting, greet guests, set up the auction tables and clean up after the event. It was great fun to work with each and every one of you. If you'd like to be part of the auction next year, please let us know!

This year's advertisers and sponsors helped to bring our total earnings from the event to a record high. We would like to thank all those who sponsored or advertised in the auction brochure (listed below) and hope that you will think of them when you need any of the services that they may offer.

And last but not least, thank you to the staff of the ACLT. Seaona DeGennaro was the point person on the staff for all of our questions and requests. She helped Mark Smith with our program and the development of an incredible database system that will make all of our events so much easier in the future. Seaona, ACLT's Community Relations Coordinator, is a pleasure to work with and makes being a volunteer for the ACLT a delight! Volunteer and you too will have this wonderful

experience. Thank you to Peg Niland for allowing us to utilize so much of Seaona's valuable time and for being there to help with all the things that are overlooked during such a big event. Liz Stoffel, ACLT's land manager, was there to help with the lighting all day on Friday and Saturday, cleanup on Sunday and all on the weekend of her birthday. We are privileged to have such a dedicated staff.

Two-thousand and six is the 20th Anniversary of the founding of the American Chestnut Land Trust. There are many events planned for the year that we hope you will all be able to attend and help celebrate this great occasion with us.

Mimi Little, Chairman



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Where Do My Gifts Go?

Everyone who donates to a non-profit organization undoubtedly asks this question, and they should. We are all asked to support many causes, be they humanitarian, religious, emergency services, educational, animal welfare, catastrophe relief, or environmental. Our reasons for choice in giving are varied and very personal. Do you find yourself wondering as you write that check if your donation really does make a difference to the cause you are supporting? I do, and I appreciate my charity of choice putting my money to work in a responsible manner.

Every year at ACLT's annual meeting, our treasurer gives a report on our financial well being, summarizes our expenses and income, and reports on the status of our land preservation account and land management endowment fund. Attendees receive a condensed accounting of what our auditors explain in a 40-page document. Our committee chairs and staff report on our accomplishments and occasional setbacks and everyone goes away feeling really good about their contributions to our success. It occurred to me as I wrote yet another check for Katrina relief, that I don't know how much of my money goes directly to the victims and how much goes to administer the programs that I am supporting, and that the same holds true for our members who can not attend our annual meeting—how do you know *where your gifts go?*

While we always notify our members in our newsletter that our annual audit is available upon request, very few of our members ever make a request for a copy. In reality,

reading and understanding one of those is a bit challenging unless you are a certified public accountant or a bank president. Our stationary acknowledging your gifts also tells you that you can obtain a copy of our financial records through the Maryland Secretary of State's Office. Only once in my 14 years with ACLT have I known anyone to go to that effort. So in layman's terms, I am going to do my best to tell you where your money goes or does not go:

Expenses:

- We make every effort we can to cover the costs of our three salaried staff with grants from foundations: 76% of salaries and benefits in 2003; 74% in 2004. Other administrative costs are office supplies, utilities, insurance, and accounting. Our cost of management and fundraising, as certified in our Maryland Charity registration in 2004, was less than 13%.
- Our biggest two program expense categories are Land Management at 40% of our budget, followed by Outreach and Membership at 28%. Managing land includes expenses for aquatic habitat improvement, water quality monitoring, cultural and structural preservation, Double Oak Center, invasive plant control, trail upkeep, operation and maintenance of forestry and trail equipment, filling old wells, etc. Outreach and Membership expenses include our annual meeting, auction, education material and school programs, canoe trips for the public, and other outreach and partnership events.

Income:

- Our major income going toward expenses, after grants, is membership contributions at 29%, which include our spring and fall appeals,

memorial gifts, new memberships and renewals, and workplace giving.

- We receive additional income from leases and fees from managing land at 13%, sales of merchandise and the annual auction account for 11% of our operating budget receipts.
- In addition to our operating budget, we receive designated gifts and income from the retirement of transferable development rights that are restricted to building our Land Management Endowment Fund, now at \$1 million and our Land Acquisition Fund, currently at \$270,000.

Simply put, your donations go to cover the trust's mission to protect the natural and cultural resources in the Parkers Creek and Governors Run watersheds and make the land we have protected open for public enjoyment and education. So, when you respond to an appeal letter or a membership renewal reminder, you can do so with trust that your gift is appreciated, respected, and well used.

"Conservation investment is an expression of our faith in the future of natural systems that are essential to life on Earth. It is an expression of our faith in the future of deeply loved natural wonders. And it is an expression of faith in the future of our families and communities, whose lives will be immeasurably enriched by the living world that we are striving to sustain." [James N. Levitt, 2005. *From Walden to Wall Street: Frontiers in Conservation Finance*]

Have faith that we also regard your gifts as an investment in the future.

Peg Niland, Executive Director

Volunteer Spotlight – Warren Carter

Warren Carter usually arrives at the ACLT after the office is closed, the gates are locked, and the lights turned off. He arrives with his truck, loads up ACLT equipment and hauls it away to perform general maintenance and repairs and then brings it back to us working and ready to use. Warren not only performs routine maintenance on our mowers and miscellaneous trail equipment, he also fixes them with a quick turnaround when they break down.

This is an incredible service to us here at the ACLT. We have dozens of volunteers on our mowing crew showing up at different times and different days, from spring until fall, to mow, prune, and weed whack ACLT trails, trailheads, fields, around barns, and along roadsides all needing working, functional equipment. Warren is incredibly organized, calling the office during the day to check in, let us know what equipment he'll be picking up or dropping off, and checking to see if all of the equipment is working properly. At the end of fall, he winterizes all of our equipment and prepares it in the spring for a long mowing season, without us even needing to ask. The ACLT staff continually comments on Warren's resourcefulness and ability to diagnose and fix such a vast array of equipment. I, as did my coworkers, assumed Warren had been a mechanic all his life. But during this interview, I found out that for 13 years he worked in computer repair and only recently, since moving to Southern Maryland, had made a transition to auto repair and maintenance working for Tires Plus in California.

If ever there is a person in this world who you meet and instantaneously have an added feeling of hope in humanity, it's Warren Carter. He was born in Baltimore City and raised in Baltimore County. At the young age of 11, his father died and he recalls that being the time he learned a great deal of responsibility, including how to cook for a family. At 19 he had saved enough money to buy his own home in Prince George's County where he resided until he bought a home in Prince Frederick just five years ago. I'm incredibly impressed at the thought of a 19-year-old knowing not only how to budget their money, but having the drive to own their own home at such a young age. When asked why he decided to move down to Southern Maryland he remarked on his longing to live in a small community. Conveniently for us, he lives just a stone's throw from our north side properties, which is how he first came to find out about the ACLT and the Double Oak Hunt Club. After a few phone calls he contacted then ACLT land manager, Dan Sampson, and the rest is history.

After asking our *Volunteer Spotlight* recipient what some of the rewards of being a volunteer for the ACLT are, he thoughtfully responds that he is comforted knowing that this land he spends time on hunting, hiking and canoeing is preserved forever. He goes on to account of his first year hunting when he saw an eagle nesting nearby and the sense of reward at seeing it in its natural habitat. He shares with me that learning the history of the parcels of land has provided him with a

further connection to the area and to the past. He tells of other hunters who have mentored him, passing along stories of tobacco farming in the region, old structures and the past families who inhabited them. I see a glimmer in his eye as he talks about the history and am reminded of the importance of knowing what has taken place in the past. Hunting is a part of the past, keeping a spirit of self-sufficiency alive, fostering a sense of connection to the land beyond appreciation for the natural beauty, and relating to a past of living off of the land as our ancestors did before us.

For two years now, we have thanked our lucky stars for Warren's services and kind disposition. His kindness for others and the environment, his love for the outdoors, and his dedication to volunteerism speak volumes of his character. He is always pleasant, and always gracious in helping us. It is wonderful when you think about how this one little organization can attract and involve so many wonderful people, including Warren Carter—Calvert County citizen, mechanic, ACLT member and Double Oak Hunt Club member.

Seaona DeGennaro
Community Relations Coordinator

During the fall, campaigns for workplace giving are taking place all over the DC Metro area. Please look for the **American Chestnut Land Trust** in your workplace campaign brochure under "local environmental organizations" by itself or as a member of the **Environmental Fund for Maryland**. Your contributions support the preservation and protection of the land and water for this and future generations.

LAND MANAGER'S CORNER

Why Mow a Field?

Those of you who frequent our south side trails may have seen me out on the old Massey Ferguson tractor bush hogging the fields near the ACLT equipment barn. I know some people thought, "Why is she doing that? There is lots of bird habitat, cover for small animals, and lots of food available for butterflies and birds, etc." Others thought, "Good! It looked a mess."

I want our members to know that Natural Resource Managers, in general, do not make changes to an area without a lot of thought behind their actions. Unproductive actions, such as constructing wetlands where the hydrology is all wrong, reforesting an area where the trees are going to get plowed down for a farm field, or building trails that no one will use are useless and counter to the natural world we hold so valuable.

After noticing a large number of trees and non-native invasive plants growing in the field, I started asking questions.:

What was the historic purpose of the fields? Answer: tobacco farming.

What was ACLT's use of the fields in the past? Answer: tobacco farming demonstrations and agriculture (pumpkins).

What other uses have the fields had? Answer: extra parking and bird watching.

What might be expected uses of the fields in the future? Answer: open space for events and agricultural demonstrations, hunting area for predator species of birds such as owls and hawks.

I then asked the Land Management Committee (LMC) if they thought the fields should be allowed to revert to forest or should the fields be left as an open area. ACLT manages nearly 3,000 acres, most of it is densely forested, some of it is open marshland, the only open fields (about 3%) exist at this area of the south side trailhead, the Goldstein Bay Farm, and a small part of Double Oak Farm; the later two are still in agricultural production. The Land Management Committee, after some consideration, decided that the fields should remain open. With them open, the fields may be used for crop demonstrations, for events, or just as a grassy field people can picnic on, and they will provide important hunting areas for predatory birds and other animals.

At first, we were planning to mow late in the season (October or early November), but a volunteer pointed out that *Lespedeza* had taken over the field and was flowering. There are some native varieties of *Lespedeza* and two invasive non-native varieties. I verified, with an invasive plant specialist from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), that the variety in the field was the non-native Chinese *Lespedeza* (*Lespedeza cuneata* or *sericea lespedeza*). At one time, government programs encouraged planting this variety of *Lespedeza* for erosion control and as forage for livestock. This practice has been discontinued because *Lespedeza* has been found to be unpalatable to livestock and wildlife because it is so high in tannin. *Lespedeza* is a tenacious plant; after its seed is spread it can last several years in the soil. It had to

go before seed was set.

Another consideration before bush hogging was a concern for nesting birds and other animals. I knew that very young deer would be out of the field at this time of year. I checked the safe date list for nesting birds and with another expert from DNR since she was in the area working on an invasive control project at Warrior's Rest. She also verified that the field was safe to mow.

The mowing of fields is not as easy as just jumping on the tractor and engaging the bush hog. People who steward their land question the purpose of the land and consider its values. Farmers do this every year in deciding what crops to plant. Land managers also make these considerations, whether it is to control invasive plants, to have a deer management program, to reforest an area, or even to leave a field open and beautiful.

Liz Stoffel
Land Manager



Lespedeza cuneata by G. A. Cooper from the Plant Image Collection, Department of Botany, Smithsonian Institution.

Into the Woods

“Is it safe for me to hike the trails?” That question comes up frequently in the fall. Those asking know I’m a bow hunter and a member of ACLT’s Double Oak Hunt Club. My answer is always the same: “Go take a hike.” There is plenty of room for both hikers and hunters on ACLT properties.

A hiker’s concern is certainly understandable. The deer hunters look fearsome in woodland camouflage, toting compound bows with sharply pointed arrows. And they lurk in trees, for gosh sakes.

The ACLT deer herd management program goes to great lengths to avoid any potential hunter/hiker conflict. When the gun season is in progress the trails on the north side of Parkers Creek are closed to hikers. On the south side, only bow hunting is permitted, not firearms.

Hunters must sign in, put up the “wildlife management program in progress” signs and leave a sign in their vehicle windshield—all so others will know they are there. (It’s a good thing deer can’t read!)

Bow hunting is a very patient, precise and deliberate activity. It does not contain the flash of action found when gun hunting. Here’s how those characteristics help the hiker.

The bow hunter, to avoid wounding game and tedious trailing through the underbrush, must place a shot exactly. To do this takes a lot of practice and the stealth to get very close to the animal. Seeing wildlife close at hand is part of the appeal of this type of hunting. I can see deer whiskers at 20 yards and I sight in my bow and like shots at

that range or less. I want a standing shot, with the deer at exactly the right angle, to ensure a quick clean shot. By aiming down from an elevated stand there is much less chance of arrow deflection from a vine or unseen branch. All these factors make it virtually impossible to mistake a hiker, or even Fido, for a deer.

Other protections are in place as well. Maryland requires hunters to attend a hunter safety course before a license is issued. State game laws are designed to promote safety. The ACLT’s Double Oak Hunt Club has its own additional set of rules to promote safety. An important factor is that all the hunters are also ACLT members. All are required to perform a set number of stewardship work hours for the ACLT before club hunting privileges are extended. In short, the hunters out there appreciate the beauty and tranquility of our natural surroundings as much as hikers do.

Now, I have had other hunters complain about hikers scaring the deer away. I always disagree. Deer are smart. They are also creatures of habit. The deer on ACLT lands see hikers on the trails all year long. They are used to seeing people (and yes, even dogs). Time and again I’ve observed deer react to hikers. They initially bound or trot off, perpendicular to the trail. In some other parts of the country where I’ve hunted a startled deer will run for miles. Not here. They usually go 40–60 yards from the trail and stop. Standing perfectly still, they’ll watch the hikers pass, then resume brows-

ing. My answer to the complaining archer is: If you are in an ideal location it’s more likely hikers will move deer toward you than away.

For hikers who remain concerned, I offer the following fall safety practices:

- Stay on the trails.
- Wear bright colored clothing.
- Keep Fido on a leash, as required by ACLT trail rules.
- Quietly observe nature.
- And most important of all—enjoy your fall hike on ACLT trails.

Paul Blayney

In addition to being an experienced and respected hunter, Paul Blayney is a member of the ACLT Board of Directors and serves on our Land Management Committee.

Besides having a flawless 12-year safety record, the men and women in our program are excellent stewards of our lands in keeping our trails in great shape, responding to natural disaster clean-ups, maintaining cultural structures, and lending their talents on committees and special projects. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Heritage Division tell us that our deer herd management program is the reason we have such a healthy, disease-free deer population and a healthy forest with a strong understory growth not damaged by excessive deer browsing.

Peg Niland

ACLT Calendar of Events – 2006

Saturday, February 4, 9:30 a.m. – 12 noon – 2005 ACLT Annual Meeting – A chance to meet other ACLT members, find out about what the ACLT has accomplished in 2005 and celebrate the ACLT's 20th anniversary.

Saturday, February 18, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. – Guided Winter Woodland Hike – Wear a winter hat, gloves and scarf for this memorable afternoon hike. Join the ACLT staff for a hike on Parkers Creek Loop for winter tree identification and incredible views of Parkers Creek and the Chesapeake Bay.

Saturday, March 11, 9 a.m. – 12 noon – Hiking Trail Maintenance Day – Join ACLT staff and volunteers as we work on the hiking trails in preparation for spring and summer hikers. Volunteer activities range from cutting, pruning, blazing and vine removal. Cook out and picnic lunch for volunteers at noon.

Saturday, April 22, 8:30 a.m. – 12 noon – Earth Day – Volunteer crews will be working along roadsides and on selected sites. This is a fabulous chance to meet neighbors and improve the Calvert County community. A picnic lunch will be hosted at the end of the day's activities.

Saturday, May 20 – Mind, Body & Spirit Day at Annmarie Garden – Be a part of this relaxing day where visitors are provided creative ways to lead healthier, more enjoyable lives. Volunteers needed to join the ACLT booth where we will host a hands-on nature craft.

Saturday, June 10, 11 am – 3 pm – Family Festival Day at Double Oak Farm – A day of family activities, food & farm fun to celebrate our 20th Anniversary of preserving the natural and cultural resources of Calvert County.

Saturday, September 9, 9 am – 12 noon – Holly Arboretum Day – Join the *Holly Arboretum Volunteer Crew* at the bucolic Warrior's Rest as they prune and maintain these historic trees.

Saturday, October 7 – 11th Annual Chili Cook-Off, Silent Auction & Dance – Enter your best chili recipe, bid at the auction, catch up with other ACLT members and enjoy the evening!

Saturday, October 21, 9 am – 12 noon – Barn Work Day – Interested in historic tobacco barns? Join us as we repair one of ACLT's old tobacco barns. Volunteers with carpentry skills needed.

Saturday, October 28, 11 am – 4 pm – Tales for a Haunted Trail at Annmarie Garden – Put on your Halloween costumes and bring the whole family for a walk through the garden trail lined with fun booths and loads of free candy. We are looking for volunteers interested in manning our booth, handing out candy and catching the Halloween spirit!

Saturday, November 10, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm – Volunteer Appreciation Dinner – The ACLT staff hosts this incredible evening with delicious food and handmade items to honor and thank our dedicated and faithful volunteers.

Saturday, December 9, 11 am – 1 pm – Greens Sale and Beach Hayride – Fresh cut evergreens for holiday decorations, drink hot cider and take a hayride to the beach. A wonderful chance to meet and reconnect with people right before the holiday season!

Canoe Trips*:

- Saturday, April 29th – First Canoe Trip (3 pm – 6 pm)
- Saturday, May 20th – Spring Canoe Trip (9 am – 12 noon)
- Saturday, June 24th – Summer Canoe Trip (1 pm – 4 pm)
- Saturday, July 22nd – Summer Canoe Trip (12 noon – 3 pm)
- Saturday, August 19th – Summer Canoe Trip (11 am – 2 pm)
- Saturday, September 9th – Harvest Moon Canoe Trip (5 pm – 8 pm)
- Saturday, September 23rd – Sunset Canoe Trip (3 pm – 6 pm)
- Saturday, October 14th – Autumn Canoe Trip (9 am – 12 noon)

*Depart from Warrior's Rest and enjoy a scenic tour of Parkers Creek. **Reservations are required.** Please call the ACLT office at 410-586-1570 or e-mail us at info@actweb.org to register. Canoe trips are physically strenuous, requiring paddling for three hours (frequently against wind and tides), and may require participants to help carry a canoe for up to one-quarter mile over sand to access the creek.

Note: Event dates may change. Check our website at <http://actweb.org> and future newsletters or call the office to confirm dates, times and locations.

Greens Sale & Beach Hayride

Saturday, December 10th
Warrior's Rest Sanctuary
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Purchase bundles of magnolia, spruce, holly, boxwood and other evergreens for your home, as well as handmade evergreen wreaths and garlands, drink hot apple cider, take a guided tour of the Holly Arboretum, take a tractor pulled hayride to the beach, and get in the spirit of the holiday season.

Hand made ACLT tiles, t-shirts, 2006 black and white photographic ACLT calendars, the Parkers Creek Collection of hand made jewelry by Maertens Jewelers and hand made cards for sale.

Join us for a beautiful afternoon of celebrating the season!



Special Gift

Special thanks to Ted Graham for the purchase of a 4x8 brick paver at the New Calvert County Library in honor of the ACLT reading, "For the love of the land - ACLT".

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT ...

New Members

The ACLT would like to welcome the following new members who have joined since the Spring/Summer 2005 Newsletter:

Mr. Robert Boxwell
Mr. & Mrs. William Bushnell
Ms. Helen Cummings & Dr. Charles Martin
Mr. Toby Darnbaugh
Ms. Cheryl Dybas
Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd Harrison
Ms. Sandra Jarrett
Mr. & Mrs. George Mlinaric
Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Murphy
Dr. & Mrs. Ray Noble
Ms. Cheryl Place
Ms. Elizabeth Stoffel
Mr. Howard Wellman
Mr. Joseph Wilkinson
Ms. J. Davis Wilson
Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Wilson
Mr. Peter "Buck" Wilson
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Wilson
Ms. Jeanne Young
Mr. Wayne Zion

Sustaining Members

The ACLT would like to congratulate the following members who have reached the Sustaining Member contribution level:

Ms. Lelia Blackwell & Mr. John Watson

Memorial Contributions

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

Donations made in memory of Mrs. Mary Little, mother of ACLT Board Member & Land Management Committee Chair John Little:

Mr. & Mrs. Michael DeGennaro
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Dwan
Mr. & Mrs. William McGillicuddy

Donation made in memory of Mr. George Bickel, father of Gary Bickel ACLT member & supporter since 1987:

Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Dwan

Donation made in memory of Mrs. Anne Hanke, Sustaining Member and strong supporter since 1987:

Ms. Betsy Hill

General Contributions and Designated Gifts

General Donations

Mr. Brian Griffin
Ms. Elaine Loomis
Mr. & Mrs. James McManus
Ms. Sara Carter Staples

Donations toward Corn Crib Restoration on ACLT properties:

Mr. Art Cochran
Mr. Carl Fleischhauer

Donations given to offset costs of the 10th Annual Chili Cook-off, Silent Auction & Dance:

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Berry
Mr. & Mrs. David Bonior
Dr. Denise Breitburg & Mr. Mark Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Carmany
Ms. Marcy Damon & Dr. John Kane
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Freeman
Ms. Magda Freeman
Mr. Peter Johnson
Ms. Jane Lateer & Mr. Arthur Dixon
Mr. John Little, Flag Harbor Marine Services
Mrs. Mimi Little
Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Locraft
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Matteson
Ms. Mary McGahey & Mr. Todd Sheldon
Mr. & Mrs. Leon Myers
Ms. Margaret Niland
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Schoenfeld
Mr. & Mrs. John Theriault
Col. Caroline VanMason, USA (Ret)
Mr. Alan Wilson

Donations made to offset costs of outreach events:

Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Benning
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Berry
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Dennett
Ms. Margaret Niland
Mr. & Mrs. John Little
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Rodgers
Ms. Elizabeth Stoffel

Boat Donations:

Ms. Marcy Damon & Dr. John Kane

Gift Memberships

Thank you to the following member who donated a gift membership since our last newsletter:

Mr. Alan Wilson

Come Join Us!

Detach and Mail to: The American Chestnut Land Trust, Inc., P.O. Box 204, Port Republic, MD 20676

Name _____ e-mail _____

Address _____

Phone _____ I (we) learned about ACLT from _____

Regular Membership

Corporate Membership

___ Land Saver - \$35.00

___ Habitat Protector - \$500.00

___ Land Saver Corporate - \$150.00

___ Land Protector - \$60.00

___ Trustee of Land - \$1000.00

___ Land Protector Corporate - \$250.00

___ Land Conservator - \$150.00

___ Sustaining - \$2500.00

___ 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 204, Port Republic, MD 20676 or call (410) 586-1570. 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.

American Chestnut Land Trust, Inc.
Post Office Box 204
Port Republic, MD 20676

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MD**