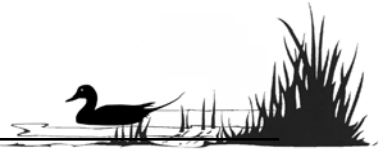


# Watershed Observer



NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN CHESTNUT LAND TRUST - VOLUME 22 NO. 4, FALL 2008

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## CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

DECEMBER 6 – ARBORETUM WORK DAY

DECEMBER 13 – GREENS SALE AND  
BEACH HAYRIDE

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DAY

FEBRUARY 7 – ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP  
MEETING

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

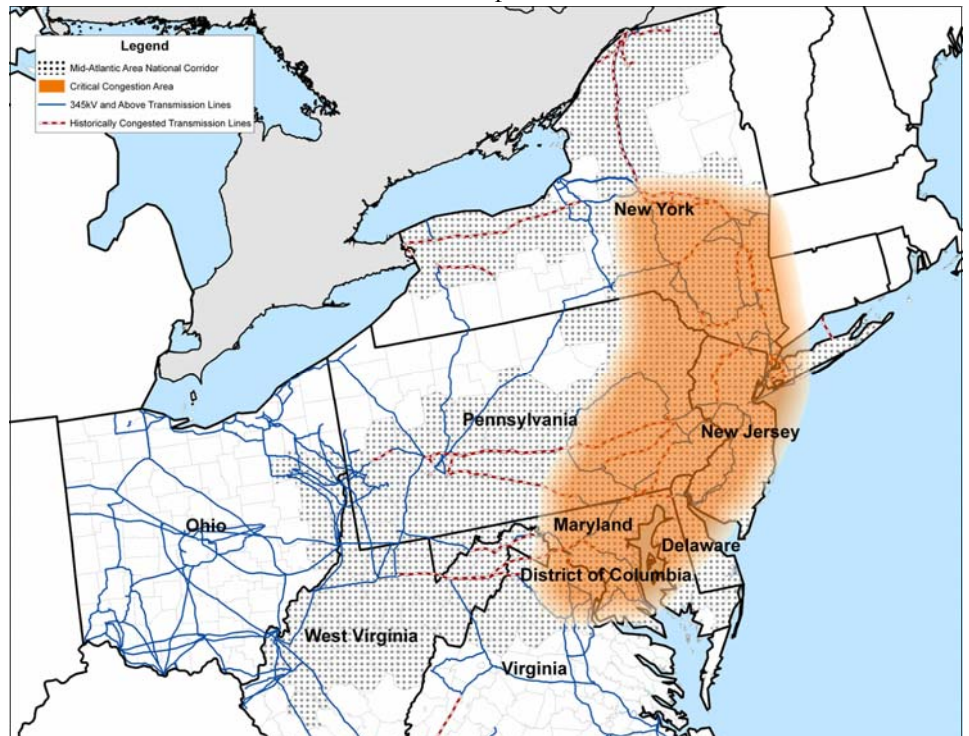
[Readers will notice a recurring theme in the major articles and the president's message in this issue—the increasing tension between energy production and distribution and the preservation and conservation of land and ecosystems. Of immediate interest to ACLT is the Mid-Atlantic Power Pathway project which involves the construction of electric power transmission lines. ACLT Executive Director Karen Edgecombe provides details of the project and how it might affect ACLT lands, ACLT Land Manager Liz Stoffel provides information on the factors involved in the maintenance of the power lines, and ACLT member Leslie Starr discusses how power line rights-of-way can be a conservation habitat. These articles should help ACLT members better understand the factors involved in the Mid-Atlantic Power Pathway project. – The Editors]

## Does Energy Independence Threaten Land Conservation?

In October 2007, the US Department of Energy (DOE) designated more than 116,000 square miles from upstate New York westward through Ohio and south to and including Southern Maryland, the District of Columbia and portions of Northern Virginia as a “National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor.” This designation provides electric utility companies with federal condemnation authority to site transmission lines, is exempt from environmental review, and preempts traditional state regulation of transmission lines and local land use laws. See *Mid-Atlantic Area National Corridor Map* below. This designation was made pursuant to the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAc) which authorizes DOE to designate corridors that are “experiencing electric energy transmission capacity constraints or congestion.” The federal preemption of

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

Mid-Atlantic National Area Corridor Map





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Editors: Ellen and David Farr

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## From the President's Desk ...

### Land Trust Alliance 2008 Rally Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Each year I look forward to attending the Land Trust Alliance (LTA) Rally. This is my fifth Rally and, like the others, it provided an excellent opportunity to catch up with old acquaintances, meet new friends, learn about emerging issues and come away with ideas for use at home.

**Field Trips** - Rally always offers an excellent choice of field trips. In addition to the destination itself, participating in field trips offers a chance to meet others from across the country. On Thursday, I visited Fallingwater, the magnificent Frank Lloyd Wright-designed home in the Pennsylvania countryside. It's owned by the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, a land trust that dates to 1932. On Friday, I joined in on a green building tour in Pittsburgh, hosted by the Green Building Alliance. From solar power to energy management to green roofs to efficient water and waste management, the legacy of this tour is many ideas that could be applied to ACLT buildings, current or future.

**Conservation Policy** - Being something of a policy person, I tend to opt for sessions with policy overtones. Here is a sampling of several issues of national concern with possible applicability to ACLT.

**Defending conservation easements** is a chronic worry to many land trusts. Often fueled by increasing land values, the temptation to "break" an easement is increasingly common. This may be associated with new owners that may not have the same commitment to conservation as the original grantor of the easement. Some land trusts are also reporting damages to and trespassing on fee-owned conservation land. Litigation costs to mount a defense are high and may be well beyond the means of most land trusts. To address this, LTA asked a consultant to explore insurance options to cover the cost of litigation. LTA is considering setting up a "captive" insurance program. The annual premium would be \$55 per easement or fee-owned property. The consultant determined that initial commitments from land trusts holding at least 7,000 easements is the threshold for feasibility. This would provide LTA with a war chest to take on the defense of easements that have been violated.

**Conservation development** is one approach that has been successful in conserving a large portion of a parcel of land that would otherwise have been fully developed. In Groton, Massachusetts, a 70-acre parcel with an important habitat came on the market. The price tag was far too high for the local land trust. Working creatively, however, the land trust was able to: agree to purchase the site; lay out a 12-house subdivision on about one-fourth of the land, avoiding the critical habitat; sell the permitted land to a developer for more than the cost of the original 70 acres; and purchase an adjoining 40-acre parcel. The message from that workshop is that conservation development can be a pragmatic approach to protecting significant amounts of land that otherwise face almost certain total development.

LTA takes a lot of satisfaction in persuading Congress earlier this year to

*(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)*

extend the **Conservation Easement Tax Incentive**. It works to help landowners of modest means choose conservation by raising the maximum deduction a donor can take for donating a conservation easement from 30% of their adjusted gross income (AGI) in any year to 50%; allowing qualified farmers and ranchers to deduct up to 100% of their AGI; and increasing the number of years over which a donor can take deductions from 6 years to 16 years. However, this act of Congress is not permanent; one of LTA's priorities is to get the next Congress to make it permanent. At the time of Rally, 174 members of the House and 27 Senators had signed on to proposed legislation to do just that. LTA is asking its members to encourage their legislators to join the other cosponsors if they have not yet done so.

In the lengthy and spirited session on **Public Policy Review**, at least ten issues were considered important. To cite just two, many land trusts view **Climate Change Legislation** as a real opportunity by creating an opportunity to sell credits for carbon sequestration. This will take work by LTA and others, however, to get appropriate provisions in any such legislation. Another frequently cited area of concern is the threat posed by **Energy Development**. Conserved land may provide a tempting target to power utilities looking for rights-of-way or sites for facilities. Given their condemnation powers, this is a national concern for many land trusts. It's not just a theoretical concern. Take a look at the article by Karen Edgecombe elsewhere in this newsletter.

**Conservation Speakers** – Among the treats of Rally is exposure to the many diverse stories of conservation that touch and inspire. As the Rally was coming to a close we were treated by two very different but equally engaging speakers with a strong personal conservation story to tell. The first was Martha Teichner, an EMMY award winning correspondent for CBS News Sunday Morning. She shared with us a personal and moving story of her childhood at Lime Lake in Michigan. She donated 20 acres on the lake that she inherited from her parents to the Lee-lanau Conservancy. Later, through a fortuitous sequence of events, she helped purchase another 20 acres. In an essay about this donation, she said, "I'd like to think that somehow my parents, together again under the pine tree in the cemetery, conspired to make sure I was where I needed to be at just the right moment."

The second speaker was Chuck Leavell, another celebrity and conservationist. Keyboard player for the Rolling Stones and previously with the Allman Brothers, Chuck and his wife own the Charlayne Plantation near Macon,

Georgia. A substantial part of the plantation is under conservation easement. An ardent forester, Chuck has written three books including "*Forever Green: The History and Hope of the American Forest*." He, too, was an engaging speaker, touching on his passion for both music and conservation. (Chuck at age 8 to his mother, an accomplished pianist in her own right: "When I grow up, I want to be a musician." Mother's response: "Chucky, you can't do both.") He wrapped up by playing three songs on the keyboard that just happened to be on stage.

**Portland in 2009** – So for me, Rally was once again a success. I made some new friends, saw new places, came away with some ideas applicable to ACLT and tuned into the energy of 2,000 fellow conservationists. For those of you that might be tempted, next year's Rally will be in Portland, Oregon, October 11-14. Mark your calendar now. I'd love to see others from ACLT there.

Ted Graham  
President, ACLT

## MARK YOUR 2009 CALENDAR

### Member Notice

The 2008 Annual Membership  
meeting of the American Chestnut

Land Trust will be held on

Saturday, February 7, 2009

from 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon

at St. John Vianney Catholic Church

in Prince Frederick, Maryland.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

state and local authority comes into play only in circumstances where a state has either withheld approval or has failed to act for a period of more than one year.

The Land Trust Alliance (LTA) lists a recent decision by the Virginia State Corporation Commission (the equivalent of the Maryland Public Service Commission) approving a 500-kV electric transmission line in Northern Virginia at the top of its list of “Latest Conservation Defense Issues” (<http://www.landtrustalliance.org/about-us/programs/conservation-defense/latest-issues>). Opponents of the line, including the Piedmont Environmental Council, had argued that the Commission should adopt a plan that considers an integrated approach to planning for transmission, generation and conservation. However, the Commission found “a clear reliability need [had] been shown” (<http://www.landtrustalliance.org/about-us/programs/conservation-defense/virginia-commission/>).

Six representatives of Pepco Holdings, Incorporated (PHI) attended the ACLT Board meeting on September 13, 2008 to give a presentation on the Mid-Atlantic Power Pathway (MAPP) project. This project is a “230-mile interstate transmission line” intended to “enhance electric reliability and improve transmission in Washington, DC, Maryland, Delaware, and southern New Jersey.” The line would begin at a fossil fuel electric generating station at Possum Point in Virginia, connect to Calvert Cliffs nuclear power plant, and then cross under the Chesapeake Bay and continue across the eastern shore through Maryland to Indian River, Delaware and ultimately to a nuclear power plant in Salem, New Jersey.

As they described it, the transmission lines in Calvert County that would be upgraded by the MAPP project would include an existing PEPCO right-of-way that travels diagonally across the center of Calvert County from the vicinity of the Chalk Point power plant in neighboring Prince Georges County and connects with the existing BGE transmission line to run south to the Calvert Cliffs nuclear power plant. See *Preliminary MAPP Route* below. A new right-of-way would then be needed to cross under the Bay and travel through Dorchester County. This new route has yet been selected.

The regional grid operator for the mid-Atlantic region has recommended that the new line under the Bay be built using Direct Current (DC) rather than Alternating Current (AC). This will necessitate that PHI “purchase land for a switching station” to convert AC to DC. This switching station has been described as requiring an area of cleared land approximately the size of two football fields. It is housed in a building 30 feet high. PHI is looking to purchase a parcel of land in Calvert County for this purpose of “about 50-75 acres along the existing [power line] right-of-way starting north of Kenwood Beach and about 2-4 miles on either side of the line corridor.” One of the sites that drew their attention is ACLT's Kenwood property. PHI is also exploring at least two other properties within the Parkers Creek watershed that were identified at the board meeting. PHI is operating under a very aggressive schedule, with construction to begin in late 2009.

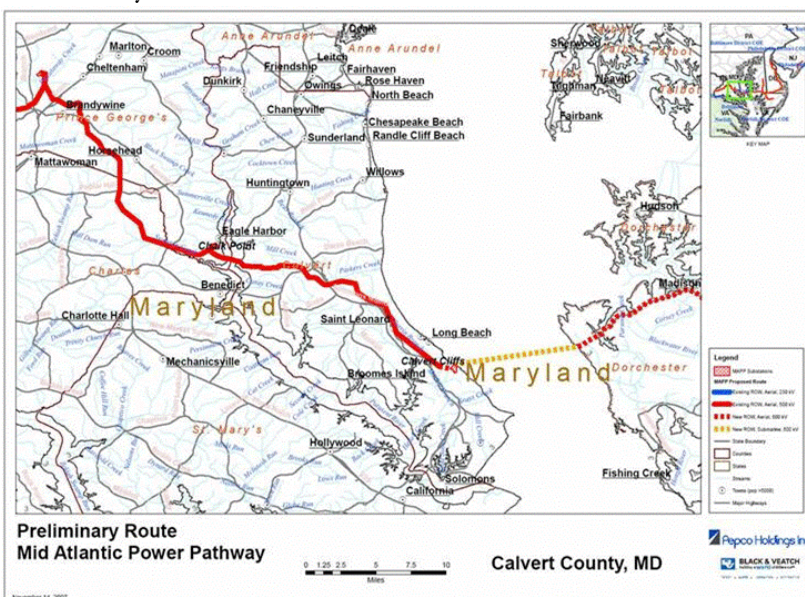
LTA has cited energy facilities, in general, and the Energy Policy Act of 2005, in particular, as a real concern for land trusts and conserved land across the country.

Large conserved properties, such as the Kenwood tract, are particularly vulnerable to the facility needs of power utilities. ACLT is strongly encouraging PHI and local and state officials to co-locate the switching station and bay crossing at the Calvert Cliffs nuclear power plant and not in the Parkers Creek or Governors Run watersheds. Given the public interest and investment in land conservation in these two watersheds, it only makes sense to utilize available land that has already been dedicated to energy production and transmission in Calvert County.

We will provide additional information on the ACLT website as it becomes available.

Karen H. Edgecombe,  
Executive Director

### Preliminary MAPP Route



# Around ACLT

## 2008 Dinner and Silent Auction

Despite the soggy, windy weather in the days leading up to this year's Annual Dinner and Silent Auction, the event was truly a success. Rain showers lingered off and on throughout the day while volunteers and staff worked tirelessly to transform the Scientists' Cliffs Community House and adjoining tent into a gorgeously lit scene filled with bouquets of wild flowers and baskets overflowing with fall gourds stacked on hay bales. The auction item layout was handled primarily by our volunteers who did an excellent job at creating a smooth, organized flow from table to table.

Before browsing the auction tables, guests were greeted with tasty appetizers and a fine selection of wines from Ingleside and Boordy vineyards. This year's auction items included a one week stay at a vacation cottage in the heart of Hopetown, in Abacos, Bahamas, fine wine including a bottle of 1880 Blandy's Verdelho Solera Madeira, beautiful handcrafted jewelry, original works of art, gourmet dinners, and a Raku pottery workshop. After claiming their auction items, many guests found their way to the dance floor to finish out the evening with lively big-band music provided by the Calvert Dance Band.

The theme for the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Auction was "Green & Locally Grown." Maryland Country Caterers provided a wonderful array of menu items including artichoke tarts, roasted and stuffed pork loin, butternut squash risotto, and apple crisp. The entire menu was created using ingredients purchased from local Maryland farms. For example, the smoked rockfish was purchased from United Shell Fish, of Kent Island; the fresh eggs, arugula, potatoes and chicken came from Sandy Hill Farm in Calvert County; the root vegetables and butternut squash came

from Stallworth Farm in St. Mary's County; the pork loin was from Grandview Farm in Kennedyville, Maryland; and the apples came from D&S Farm in Charlotte

Hall. Our beautiful flower arrangements, gourds and hay bales were supplied by Chesapeake's Bounty who, in turn, purchased them from a local Mennonite family.

Maryland Country Caterers also enthusiastically heeded our request that the event be green by using china plates, silverware and glassware wherever possible. Any disposable food service items that were necessary were recycled following the event.

As many of you know, the funds raised from the sale of auction items will go toward ACLT's mission to preserve land in the Parkers Creek and Governors Run watersheds and to promote sustainable public access to our preserved properties for educational, scientific and recreational purposes.

"Everyone has told me what a fantastic event this year's auction was—the crowd was very happy," wrote Marie Bundy, Auction Chair. The ACLT Staff and Board of Directors send a heartfelt thank you to all of the auction volunteers, donors, contributors, sponsors and supporters who made the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner & Auction such a success.

Kady Waterhouse, ACLT Outreach & Communications Coordinator



Photos:

Left:

"Should we increase our bid?"

Our tireless bartenders, Paul Blayney and Mark Edmonson

Above:

Auction Chair Marie Bundy and Executive Director Karen Edgcombe celebrating the start of the festivities.

## Thanks for your support of ACLT's 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner & Silent Auction:

ACLT would like to thank those who were unable to attend but made contributions in support of ACLT's 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner & Silent Auction:

Mr. & Mrs. Louis Amtmann  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Caldwell  
Mr. Robert Currie  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Dennett  
Ms. Ann C. Dunnington  
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis Drumm  
Mr. & Mrs. Philip Fleming  
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Hammack  
Ms. Jane Harrell  
Mr. Conrad Hoska  
Ms. Linda Howard  
Mr. Wilson Parran  
Mrs. Rosalind Springsteen  
Ms. Helen Rubino Turco  
Dr. & Mrs. John R. Saunders, Jr.

Thank you to our business supporters and sponsors of the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner & Silent Auction:

Banana Banner, Inc., Brian Treece  
BB&T, Branch Banking and Trust Company  
Brothers' Johnson, Inc.  
Chesapeake's Bounty, William Kreamer  
Edward Jones, Jeff Quesenberry  
Heritage Printing & Graphics,  
Jerry Bohle  
Main Street Gallery, Jeff & Nancy Klapper

Maryland Country Caterers,  
David Benson  
Mullen, Sondberg, Wimbish and Stone, P.A., Mary K. Stone, CPA  
Nick's of Calvert  
SMECO

A special thank you to our volunteers for their help before, during and after the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner & Silent Auction:

### AUCTION CHAIR/PLANNING

Marie Bundy  
Assisted by: Maggie Reynolds

### Catalog & Database

Mark Smith  
Denise Breitburg

### Lighting

Jack Andrews  
Ed Haack  
Mark Edmondson

Jeff Wood

### DINING AREA

Leaders and members of Boy Scout Troop 347  
Elise Schryver  
John Little  
Marie Bundy

### TRANSPORT AUCTION ITEMS

### TO AUCTION

Stan and Barbara Benning

### DECORATING

Maggie Reynolds  
Elise Schryver  
Steve Peters

### AUCTION ITEM SETUP

Mimi Little  
Stan and Barbara Benning

### REGISTRATION

Caroline VanMason  
Elise Schryver  
Barbara Benning  
Seaona deGennaro

### HORS D' OEUVRES SERVERS

Sean Bailey  
Tommy George

### BARTENDERS

Paul Blayney  
Mary Blayney  
Mark Edmondson  
Stan Benning  
Carl Fleischhauer  
Paula Johnson

### AUCTION MONITORS

Chris & Maggie Reynolds  
Mike & Jane Manning  
Allan Kennedy & Isa Engleberg  
Stan & Barbara Benning

### FINANCIAL CHECK OUT &

### RECONCILIATION

Peter & Jennie Stathis  
Jeannie Howe & Alan Kreizenbeck  
Dorothy Howe  
Ann White

### CLEAN UP

Marcy Damon  
Seaona deGennaro  
Ann White  
John & Mimi Little  
Ted Graham  
Sandy Burk  
Maggie Reynolds  
Marie Bundy

---

## PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD

Wow! 79 new members since January! Thank you all so much for helping to spread the word. We're making great progress towards our goal of increasing membership 25% by February 2010, but we have a lot of work to do. Because we lose some members over time, increasing our total membership by 25% requires that we attract enough new members to compensate for losses as well as to grow our base. That means we need to attract about 200 new members during the membership drive.

So... How can you help? Our most critical need is to spread the word about ACLT. And what better way than

using the *decals enclosed in your newsletter*. Place one on each car and spread the message as you drive through the county. If you have only one car, put the other decal someplace your neighbors will see it.

And don't forget that the holiday season is rapidly approaching! What better gift can you find for only \$35 or \$60 for your friends and family than a membership to ACLT?

Denise Breitburg,  
Membership Committee Chair

# Land Manager's Corner

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## Power Line Maintenance in Our Local Watersheds

I want to start this article by saying: no one wants the electricity to go out—blackouts, winter or summer, make life uncomfortable and business grinds quickly to a stop. We are all concerned with energy prices, too. However, we would like our power to be not only reliable, but to come from clean sources: sources that consider the environments they are gathered from, the residuals they leave behind, and that respect the special ecosystems they are transmitted through. We are concerned about the long term environmental costs of harsh maintenance practices that do not consider the special habitats and rare species that live in our area.

Our ACLT office has gotten several calls of concern regarding the clear cutting and spraying of the power line properties that run adjacent to our properties and cross through the Parkers Creek and the Governors Run watersheds. The two watersheds are exceptional on the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay, having a variety of habitat types and hosting a number of rare and endangered species.

BG&E owns the power lines that cross Parkers Creek, so I called their Forester, Dan Neal, to find out more. He explained that since the Blackout of 2003 new federal guidelines require them to strictly maintain the vegetation under the power lines at no more than 5 feet tall. In 2007, BG&E did extensive cutting along the transmission lines and its edges. This July they used two herbicides to reduce vegetation further. The herbicide used near the creek, according to its label, “can be applied on emerged weeds and brush in standing water or on banks and shores located on production forestry tracts (if state regulations allow).”

The Blackout of 2003 started in Ohio during a hot August when heavy summer usage slackened the lines causing them to touch some overgrown trees. According to a *Scientific American* article (8/13/2008), “Preventing Blackouts: Building a Smarter Power Grid”, by Massoud Amin and Phillip F. Schewe, “the alarm software failed, leaving local operators unaware of the problem.” The strain was too much on a power grid that is so interconnected. Within two and a half hours, through a cascade effect, the power shut down in eight states in the north-east US and two Canadian provinces including major cities such as New York and Toronto. The Blackout lasted 2

plus days and affected 50 million people.

After the 2003 Blackout the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) required all transmission owners to report on their vegetation management practices. The commission confirmed that there is “a lack of common standards and significant variations among utilities in their vegetation management practices.” <http://www.ferc.gov/industries/electric/indus-act/reliability/veg-mgmt-rpt-final.pdf> According to the report, “The U.S.-Canada Task Force found that clear, unambiguous, and enforceable standards are needed to reduce the potential for reoccurrence of vegetation related transmission line outages and recommended that NERC, in cooperation with the industry and the appropriate governmental agencies, develop such a standard.” NERC is the North American Reliability Corporation certified as FERC's electric reliability organization for the US.

The FERC recommendations included:

- “5) While permitting and environmental requirements properly protect public lands, the procedures implementing those protections may be inconsistent and time-consuming and have the potential to significantly hinder transmission vegetation management. The Commission should work with the CEQ [Council of Environmental Quality] and land management agencies to better coordinate these requirements.
- 6) Federal, state and local land managers should develop “rush” procedures and emergency exemptions to allow utilities to correct “danger” trees that threaten transmission lines, from both on and off documented rights-of-way.
- 7) Five-year vegetation management cycles should be shortened, and the Commission and states should look at the cost-effectiveness of more aggressive vegetation management practices.
- 8) Transmission owners should fully exercise their easement rights for vegetation management and better anticipate and manage the permitting process for scheduled vegetation management.”

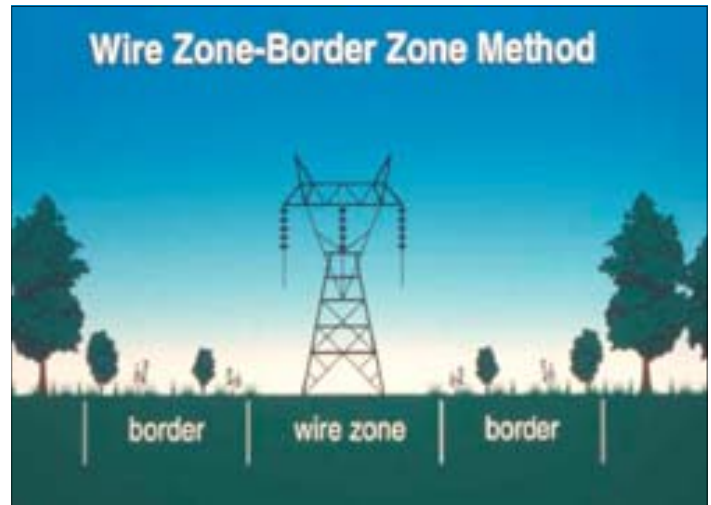
In the Commission's report they state: “We understand that vegetation management practices affect the environment and look forward to working with other agencies to coordinate efforts to assure that neither the environmental quality of federal lands nor regional electric reliability are put at risk.” However, the report seems con-

tradictory to assuring environmental quality and wanting utilities to work with other agencies by “claiming that a variety of local regulations and property owners prevent effective vegetation management. One of the most frequent claims is local and private entities limit the use of herbicides and the removal of trees. For many utilities, attempting to manage numerous local and private restrictions can be extremely burdensome and can result in failure to conduct effective vegetation management. For example, the outage that occurred on Cinergy’s 345 kV Columbus - Bedford line on August 14, 2003 was due to a property owner’s refusal to allow Cinergy to complete the required work. Cinergy had documented rights at the location but work was halted due to a court-granted temporary injunction obtained by the property owner.”

ACLT does not want to hinder proper vegetative management of the power lines but we are concerned about the special species of birds, insects, and other animals that utilize these corridors. Leslie Starr who studied and created a bird atlas for the watershed, *Summer Birds of the Parkers Creek Watershed*, found that the shrub habitat which existed under the power line before the cutting and spraying is extremely important to several species. Please read her separate article about this special habitat.

FERC’s report suggested two good practices that would help environmental quality and educate the public. The first is that “some utilities have public outreach programs that educate the public about tree types and line clearances so that citizens will have the knowledge to report vegetation that is dangerous to transmission wires.” The second practice is called “wire zone - border zone” which is both environmentally friendly and effective in ensuring reliability. According to FERC, “this method involves creating a low-growing vegetation environment directly under transmission lines, which physically prevents dangerous vegetation from encroaching into energized transmission facilities.” FERC relied on a utility consulting firm report that found the wire zone-border zone method had “been proven to be effective in reducing and/or eliminating outages related to vegetation on transmission ROW [rights of way].”

*Achieving the Perfect Transmission Right of Way: Ensure Reliability while Providing Habitat for Wildlife*, by Sam Quattrocchi, explains that this method of vegetation management was devised by Dr. Rich Yahner, Penn State University, who divided “the area along the right of way into two sections. The wire zone is the area di-



rectly beneath the power line, plus 10 feet on each side. In the wire zone, the goal is to produce a community of grasses, forbs (an herb other than grass) and low-growing shrubs. The border zone is the 20-foot-plus area on each side of the wire zone. Low- to medium-sized shrubs and low trees fill this area, which meets the natural forest.” This management method proved to be great habitat for butterflies, birds, amphibians and reptiles. [http://uaelp.pennnet.com/display\\_article/284520/34/ARTCL/none/none/1/Achieving-the-Perfect-Transmission-Right-of-Way/](http://uaelp.pennnet.com/display_article/284520/34/ARTCL/none/none/1/Achieving-the-Perfect-Transmission-Right-of-Way/)

BG&E’s Pruning Standards state that the rural Rights Of Way are mowed once a year and maintained as fields and meadows. Their tree trimming is done on a three to five year cycle and, “The amount of required clearance for the power line depends on the voltage and construction of the line, growth rate and species of the tree, and the trees’ proximity to the line.” It does seem that these standards would allow for the development and planting of native shrubs and grasses using the wire zone-border zone management method.

We are all concerned when the power goes out. The energy grid lights and warms our homes, runs our hospitals, and fuels our businesses. However, if there are alternative methods to clear cutting and spraying of herbicides on the entire right of way, ACLT would be interested in working with the utilities so that the rights of way can continue to provide the early successional shrub habitat that is desirable for certain species and still allows for reliable electric transmission.

Liz Stoffel  
ACLT Land Manager



## Power Line Rights-of-Way as Conservation Habitat

Early-successional shrubland, a weedy mix of bushes and small trees, is a type of habitat that is disappearing. Such areas generally either continue to revert to woodlands or are mowed and manicured into what is deemed a more aesthetic “park like” setting. Bird biologists have found that shrubland birds are suffering more consistent population declines than woodland birds. Since habitat restoration is an expensive proposition, it makes sense to take advantage of human activities which inadvertently create or maintain shrublands.

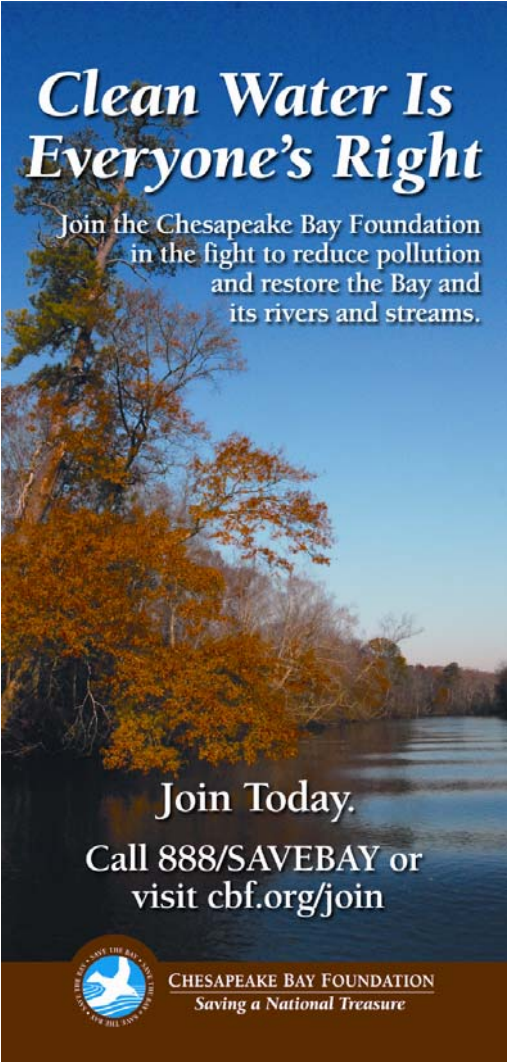
The BGE power line rights-of-way (ROWs), until the recent herbiciding project, provided an excellent example of early-successional shrubland. Grasses, forbs, and bushes were allowed to grow, and larger trees were cut in order to keep them from impacting the transmission lines.

The resulting habitat was rich in diversity. On one walk in summer 1999 (with permission from BGE) I tallied 55 species and 290 individual birds. More important, many of the birds found on the ROW are species of concern as identified by various conservation organizations. Brown Thrasher, Yellow-breasted Chat, Eastern Towhee, and Field Sparrow are bird species experiencing significant decline in Maryland and elsewhere. The Prairie Warbler is on National Audubon’s Watchlist and is considered to be an “at risk” species, as well as losing population on a continental level. The ROW is one of the last places on the western shore where I have seen Northern Bobwhite, the sixteenth-highest declining bird species in North America.

Diversity on the ROW extends to insects as well. Scientists at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center conducted studies which found that there are richer communities of native bee species on power line ROWs maintained as shrubland than on nearby mowed fields. This suggests that the more than five million acres of power line ROWs in the US, if properly managed, may provide a safe haven for bee colonies, which declined 57% between 1985 and 1997 and are a matter for concern for agriculture. Researcher Sam Droge, a co-author of the bee study, points out that constraints on energy and chemicals in the past resulted in more of this type of habitat, and that ROWs maintained as shrubland are key to its future and the future of the animals which depend on it.

PEPCO has maintained 3.5 miles of power line ROWs through Patuxent Wildlife Research Center since the early 1960’s and BGE has had 5.5 miles since about 1990, when Ft. Meade became the Center’s North Tract. In both cases, the power company and the research center entered into an agreement concerning management practices with a goal of maintaining early-successional shrubland. Researcher Holliday Obrecht describes this management as selective basal application of herbicides to larger tree species every four or five years. The last time a comparison was done, this cost approximately the same as annual mowing.


Leslie Starr  
ACLT Member



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Join the Chesapeake Bay Foundation  
in the fight to reduce pollution  
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## American Chestnut Land Trust Calendar of Events – 2009



<b>January</b>	24	Vine Vindicator Work Day
<b>February</b>	7	Annual Membership Meeting (9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.)
	21	Winter Hike at Double Oak Farm (1:30-3:30 p.m.)
	21	Vine Vindicator Work Day
<b>March</b>	14	Hiking Trail Maintenance Day (9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon)
	28	Vine Vindicator Work Day
	29	Barn Work Day (9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon)
<b>April</b>	4	Canoe Guide Training (9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.)
	18	Spring Guided Hike on Gravatt East (9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.)
	25	Earth Day (8:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon)
	25	Guided Canoe Trip (3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.)
<b>May</b>	3	Parkers Creek Celebration at Double Oak Farm (1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.)
<b>May</b>	9	Guided Canoe Trip (3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.)
	16	Vine Vindicator Work Day
	16	Barn Work Day (9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon)
	30	Parkers Creek to Flag Ponds Paddle ( 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.)
	31	Guided Canoe Trip (9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon)
<b>June</b>	20	Guided Canoe Trip (1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.)
	27	Vine Vindicator Work Day
<b>July</b>	18	Guided Canoe Trip (11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.)
	25	Vine Vindicator Work Day
	25	Barn Work Day (9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon)
<b>August</b>	15	Vine Vindicator Training (afternoon)
	30	Guided Canoe Trip (11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.)
<b>September</b>	12	Holly Arboretum Work Day at Warrior's Rest (9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon)
	13	Guided Canoe Trip (10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.)
	19	Vine Vindicator Work Day
	26	Silent Auction & Dinner Celebration
<b>October</b>	3	Harvest Moon Guided Canoe Trip (3:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.)
	10-11	Patuxent River Appreciation Days
	10-15	LTA Rally
	23	Volunteer Appreciation Dinner (6:30-9:00 p.m.)
	24	Vine Vindicator Work Day
	25	Barn Work Day (9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.)
<b>November</b>	1	Fall Foliage Hike at Double Oak (9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon)
<b>December</b>	5	Arboretum Work Day at Warrior's Rest (9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon)
	12	Greens Sale & Beach Hayride (11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.)

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT ...

## New Members

ACLT would like to welcome the following new members since the Summer 2008 newsletter:

Ms. Randi Altman  
Mr. Paul P. Altman, Jr.  
Mr. Ralph Balestrieri & Ms. Leigh Miller  
Mr. Patrick Boyle &  
Ms. Penelope Longbottom  
Mr. David Benson  
- Maryland Country Caterers  
Mr. John Brennan  
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Chambers  
- The Showplace Arena  
Mr. Robert Christensen  
Ms. Kay Collins  
Mr. & Mrs. Zack Everson  
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Garrett  
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Getty  
Ms. Michelle Goodwin  
- College of Southern Maryland  
Mr. Clifford Hudson  
Mr. & Mrs. Brooks Jackson  
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Jaeger  
- Sustaining Membership  
Mr. & Mrs. George Kohl  
Mr. Jonathan Lash  
Ms. Mary Jo Ludvigson  
Ms. Ellen McCormick  
- The SPOT Thrift Shop  
Mr. Nick Ferrante - Nick's of Calvert  
Mr. Kevin O'Connor  
Mr. Christopher Rasmann  
Ms. Vickey Spore  
Ms. Elaine Stonebraker  
Mr. & Mrs. Surgent - Sea Worthy Small Ships, Inc.  
Mr. Richard Walsh  
Ms. Kady Waterhouse  
Mr. Mike Williams

## Fall/Spring Appeals

ACLT would like to thank the following members who made a contribution to the Fall 2007 and Spring 2008 Appeals:

2007 Fall Appeal:  
Mrs. Rhoda Switzer

2008 Spring Appeal:  
Mr. Joe Wilkinson  
Mrs. Rhoda Switzer  
Mr. & Mrs. John Bailey

## General Contributions and Designated Gifts

Thank you to the following member who donated through Workplace Giving: Through America's Charities:  
Mrs. Dorothy Howe

## Gift Memberships

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

Mr. & Mrs. Ralph H. Dwan, Jr.  
Dr. & Mrs. Glenn Edgecombe  
Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Griffin

## Memorial Contributions

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

In memory of Albert Stoffel, father of ACLT's Land Manager, Liz Stoffel:  
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph H. Dwan, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Griffin

In memory of Jim Stone, a longtime member and supporter of the ACLT:  
Ms. Olivia Evans Alison  
Mr. Jeffrey Feagin

## In Honor of Contributions

In honor of Victor and Deborah Kennedy on their 40<sup>th</sup> Wedding anniversary:  
Mrs. Elaine C. Dunkle & Mr. Peter Cochran

## Matching Gift

Thank you to the following company who matched Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Kirby's donation:  
Wiley Rein & Fielding LLP

# Go Green with an ACLT Tote Bag!

Renew your membership with ACLT and receive this 100% recycled tote bag as our gift to you in appreciation of your continued support! The bags are also an excellent gift idea for the upcoming holiday season! Purchase a bag at our member rate of \$5 (\$5.50 for non-members).



# 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

## 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 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.



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

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