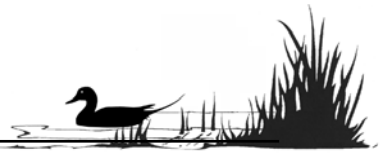


# Watershed Observer



NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN CHESTNUT LAND TRUST - VOLUME 24 NO. 4, FALL 2010

## CONTENTS

CEMETERY WORK: REPAIRING THE STONE,  
PLANTING THE TREES, IDENTIFYING THE  
MAKERS 1

A MAJOR POWER TRANSMISSION PROJECT  
IS COMING TO CALVERT COUNTY 2

LOCALLY YOURS — ACLT'S 15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
DINNER & AUCTION 4

AN ACLT EIGHT-LEGGED HALLOWEEN 5

ACLT DOUBLE OAK FARM CSA SURVEY 6

DIARIES FROM THE FARM 6

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT — MIMI LITTLE 7

ENVIRONMENTAL SITE DESIGN 8

NATURAL PLAY, NATURAL LEARNING 9

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 11

CONTRIBUTIONS AND NEW MEMBERS 11

ACLT ON FACEBOOK 11

## CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

DECEMBER 5 ARBORETUM WORK DAY AT  
WARRIOR'S REST (1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.)

DECEMBER 11 GREENS SALE & BEACH HAY-  
RIDE (11:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.)

FEBRUARY 5 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEET-  
ING (9:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.)

SEE ADDITIONAL CALENDAR ITEMS ON PAGE  
11 OR ON THE WEB.

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

## Cemetery Work: Repairing the Stone, Planting the Trees, Identifying the Makers

**Volunteer restoration crew.** A group of volunteers led by Susan Curley maintain the Hance-Chesley cemetery on Scientists Cliffs Road in spring and fall each year. Activities in 2010 included repairs to one headstone and the planting of five trees.

The earliest headstone marks the grave of Benjamin Hance, who died in 1812. His wife Elizabeth was laid to rest at his side in 1823. Both were born before the signing of the Declaration of Independence: 1755 and 1766, respectively. The ACLT has worked to restore this cemetery over the years, supported by the Calvert Garden Club's 1996 contribution of landscaping and signage. In 2005, the restoration effort won a historic preservation award from Calvert County government.



Susan Curley repairing a headstone. Photo by Carl Fleischhauer, October 2003.

**The wobbling headstone.** The seeds for the 2010 effort were sown last year, when Susan noticed that the headstone for Dr. James Chesley (1802–63) was wobbling. This stone is thicker than the others in the graveyard and it is the only one that stands on a base. Members of the team determined that the base was no longer level and that it was loose in the ground.

In March, Ken Romney rounded up five other volunteers and—with two 2x4s clamped across the stone—the men lifted the heavy piece of marble off of its base and set it to one side, about fifteen feet away. This removal revealed the pair of three-quarter-inch copper pins that positioned the headstone on its two-part base.

On Earth Day in April, Susan's crew—including Janice Rodgers, Glynn Frank, Ed Haack, and Carl Fleischhauer—dug out the base, applied a light layer of special mortar to bind the two parts, and reset it in soil and sand, taking care that it was level. During this same spring visit, the team planted a trio of Eastern red cedars at the front of the site.

**Maker's mark.** The team did not find a maker's mark on the Chesley stone but Janice spotted marks elsewhere in the graveyard. On the stone for Young D. Hance (1791–1855), for example, she found the label "A. Gaddess, Balt."

In May, Dave Bohaska provided some related information from his 1870 copy of *Woods's Baltimore City Directory*, published fifteen years after Y.D. Hance's burial. Under the heading *Marble and Stone Workers*, this directory

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)



**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 911 acres, manage 1,780 acres owned by the State of Maryland, and hold conservation easements on 360 privately-owned acres.

Editors: Ellen and David Farr

**Board of Directors**

Edward U. Graham, President  
Patrick J. Griffin, Vice President  
Paul L. Berry, Treasurer  
Caroline E. VanMason,  
Corporate Secretary  
Denise Breitburg  
Martha C. (Marcy) Damon  
Carolyn Ebel  
David F. Farr  
James B. Greene  
Steve Kullen  
John Little  
Gary Loew  
Steve Stadelman  
Peter N. Stathis  
Randi Vogt

**Executive Director**

Karen H. Edgecombe

**Community Relations  
Coordinator**

Joy Woppert

**Land Manager**

Elizabeth Stoffel

Ann White, Contract Accountant

**Volunteer Staff**

Paul Berry, Treasurer  
Jeff Klapper, Farm Manager  
Ginny Murphy, Membership  
Coordinator

Printed on recycled paper.



# From the President's Desk

## A Major Power Transmission Project is Coming to Calvert County

About two years ago, representatives from Pepco Holdings Incorporated (PHI) attended an ACLT Board meeting to talk about a proposed major electric transmission project called Mid-Atlantic Power Pathway or MAPP. The purpose of the project was (and is) to provide enhanced electric transmission capacity in the mid-Atlantic region. The PHI representatives came to ACLT to describe the project and inquire about the possibility of acquiring ACLT's Kenwood property for a large switching station which would be a take-off point for a major cable crossing under the Bay to the Eastern Shore. At that time, the Board made it clear that the Kenwood Tract is part of ACLT's conserved land. We felt that property in the vicinity of the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant (CCNPP) would both meet their needs and be much less intrusive than the Kenwood site which is in the Governors Run watershed.

Two years later, MAPP is still moving forward. The purpose of the project is summarized in this excerpt from the MAPP web site:

"The Mid-Atlantic Power Pathway Solution - The Mid-Atlantic region relies on a congested power system that can't meet rising demand without significant upgrades. In the past 30 years, the population of this region has risen dramatically and today's American home uses 21 percent more power than in the late 1970s.

As a result of this increasing demand for power, the existing transmission system in the region will not be able to keep up in the years ahead. Experts like the U.S. Department of Energy have said that building new transmission will help address this problem.

The MAPP project is a transmission line that would significantly increase the region's ability to transport power. Local utilities and electric cooperatives rely on this transmission system to keep the lights on for their customers. The MAPP line, which crosses three states, will bring reliable and more economical power to the region."

The MAPP project web address is: <http://webapps.powerpathway.com/mapp/>

In September 2010, another representative of PHI came to the ACLT Board meeting to provide a status report on MAPP. He focused particularly on that part of the project in Calvert County and in particular near ACLT lands. As we understand the project in its current configuration:

The basic purpose of MAPP is to provide additional power transmission capacity in the Mid-Atlantic region. The route begins in the vicinity of the Possum Point power plant in Virginia and continues to the vicinity of the Indian River power plant in Delaware.

There are to be a new set of transmission towers crossing the Patuxent River at the Chalk Point power plant near Aquasco, MD a little north of the Route 231 Bridge.

New above ground transmission lines (carrying AC current) are to cross Calvert County along existing power rights-of-way to Port Republic to a site

*(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)*

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

carries a listing for Alexander Gaddess on South Liberty Street, an address that seems to have disappeared under the 1<sup>st</sup> Mariner Arena. There is also a listing for a “steam marble works” in the same general area operated by three Gaddess Brothers, very likely relatives of Alexander Gaddess.



Gaddess Charles W. laborer, 189 East  
Gaddess Alexander, 13 s Liberty  
GADDESS BROS. (T. S., C. W. and V. Gaddess.) proprietors steam marble works, s w cor Sharp and German and 25 German  
Gaddess Chas. W. (Gaddess Bros.) 298 e Chase  
Gaddess Jane, boarding, 23 Waesche  
Gaddess Thos. S. (Gaddess Bros.) 134 Boltou  
Gaddess Virginius, (Gaddess Bros.) 298 w Fayette  
Gaddis James, tinner, 125 Albemarle  
Gade John, lace weaver, 85 e Pratt  
Gado Michael, basket maker, 26 s Eutaw

Top: The maker’s mark, “A. Gaddess, Balt.,” from Y.D. Hance’s headstone. Photo by Carl Fleischhauer, October 2010.

Bottom: From the *Marble and Stone Workers* listing in an 1870 city directory for Baltimore. Courtesy of David Bohaska.

**Headstone back on the base.** On October 2, Susan, Ken, and Carl returned to the cemetery for another round of landscaping and to reset the headstone on its base. That day’s landscaping entailed planting two redbud trees, requiring a bit of digging and the transfer of the saplings from plastic containers to the holes in the ground. The resetting of the stone, however, was far trickier to accomplish.

The March removal of the heavy stone had required six men. How would Ken and Carl reposition it, with Susan cheering them on? To

solve the problem, Ken drew upon his well-honed and widely respected engineering insights and skills. Joking that he was inspired by how the pyramid builders of ancient Egypt had moved immense blocks of stone with hand labor and ingenious ramps and levers, Ken proceeded to pull two small pieces of plywood and some planks from the back of his truck. And a simple handcart to move the stone.

The pieces of plywood were to form a platform-ramp that would bear the weight of the stone and cart. But they were too small to cover the full fifteen-foot distance, so the move was carried out in two steps. At the halfway point, Ken and Carl picked up the first plywood segment and moved it to the front, thus permitting the handcart and stone to reach the base. So far so good, but how would the pair lower the stone onto the pins and apply the special caulking between stone and base?

While Carl held stone and cart on the ramp adjacent to the base, Ken laid two small dowels across the top of the base. The stone was then lowered carefully on top of the dowels, leaving a quarter-inch gap into which Ken applied the PermaChink caulking. Next, the 2x4 handles were clamped back on the stone. Ken lifted one side while Carl pulled out one of the dowels. That side was then lowered, spreading out the caulk. Then Ken applied caulk on the other side and lifted the stone while Carl removed the second dowel. After lowering this side of the stone and smoothing out the caulk, the job was done!

Carl Fleischhauer



Ken Romney and Carl Fleischhauer with the Chesley headstone. Blackberry photo by Susan Curley, October 2, 2010.



**GREENS SALE & HAYRIDE**

Saturday, December 11, 2010  
11a.m. - 2p.m.

Purchase swags, wreaths, and garlands for holiday decorating to benefit Warrior’s Rest Sanctuary.

*ACLT logo merchandise also available for purchase to benefit the ACLT. Great gifts for friends, family, and co-workers!*

---

Greens Sale & Hayride located at  
**WARRIOR’S REST SANCTUARY**  
1920 Scientists Cliffs Road,  
Port Republic, MD 20676



# Around ACLT

## Locally Yours — ACLT's 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner & Auction

Just fifteen minutes after opening, the Dinner & Auction was already a bustling scene of members, neighbors, friends, and family. Guests were welcomed into the St. John Vianney Family Life Center atrium by the registration volunteers who sent them along a trail bordered by ACLT photographs that portrayed the beautiful preserved lands to the gymnasium. But on this night, it was not a gymnasium. Upon entering, guests found it transformed into a venue suggestive of a farmers' market with tented tables decked out with delicious foods, numerous auction tables for bidding, and a dining area surrounding the stage that was accented by a large barn mural. Welcome to Double Oak Farm!

With the popular local theme of the evening, ACLT's annual fundraising event was sure to hit "close to home" in the hearts of all the guests. *Locally Yours* celebrated not only that ACLT is your local land trust, but also our new CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) program and the proposed Prince Frederick to the Bay Overlook Trail which will start behind the Family Life Center.

A tapas-style meal was prepared by Dreamweaver Catering & Events with meats, seafood and vegetables from local farmers/producers, including ACLT's Double Oak Farm, as well as local wine served during the appetizer portion of the evening. Guests enjoyed mouthwatering tomato bruschetta; rockfish, crab, and beef sliders; a potato bar; grilled fresh veggies; squash soup shooters; and apple, pumpkin, and sweet potato desserts.

A mixture of familiar auction items and new items put an excitement in the air to start off the bidding. Guests bid on vacations to Tybee Island, Georgia; Boulder, Colorado; the coast of Brittany, France; and Ft. Meyers Beach, Florida to name a few, as well as many

a sailing or fishing excursion to be had on the local waters. Local artists also supported the Auction by donating photographs, paintings, home goods, and ceramic pieces.

To close out the evening with a bang, local singer/songwriter Courtlyn Carr performed with her band an array of country music for guests to enjoy while checking out and saying their goodbyes. While there might have been some apprehension about the new venue, everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy the comforts that came along with an all-weather, fully-equipped facility.

*Locally Yours* truly captured the grassroots-style of the ACLT for all who attended. As many of you know, the Dinner & Auction raises money to further support the ACLT's efforts to preserve the natural and cultural resources of Calvert County which began with the forward-thinking vision of a small group of people in 1986. Thank you for your continued support and a very BIG thank you to our volunteers who stepped up to the plate to help organize, plan, and execute such a wonderful evening for all!

Joy Woppert  
Community Relations Coordinator



Marie Bundy visits one of the food tables to pick up a sampling of the butternut squash bisque.

Photo by Bruce Armstrong.



Left to right: Fran Armstrong and Marcy Graham bid on one of the many auction items available at this year's *Locally Yours* Dinner. — Live Auctioneer Jerry Adams calls out the highest bidder for an auction item. — Paula Johnson claps in excitement for winning one of the live auction items! We hope you enjoy your trip to South Carolina! — Even the kids joined in the fun! Elizabeth Cristo assists in passing out the mystery bags to winning guests. Photos by Bruce Armstrong.

Thank you for your support of  
*Locally Yours*, ACLT's 15<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Dinner & Auction:

Mr. & Mrs. Paul L. Berry  
Mr. & Mrs. David Bonior  
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph H. Dwan, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Martin Flynn  
RADM & Mrs. James B. Greene, Jr.  
USN (Ret.)  
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel M. Head  
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Jackman  
Ms. Paula Johnson & Mr. Carl Fleischhauer  
Del. Sue & Mr. Steven Kullen  
Mr. Joseph A. Mihalcik  
Dr. & Mrs. John R. Saunders, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Craig Shelden  
Mr. & Mrs. Harry M. Tollerton  
Col. Caroline VanMason, USA (Ret.)  
Mr. James McWhorter  
& Ms. Yasmin Abadian  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard D. Woppert, Jr.  
Mr. William A. Wright

In addition to all of our members  
and guests who came to enjoy the  
event, ACLT would like to thank  
those who were unable to attend but  
made contributions in support of our  
annual fundraiser:

Mr. & Mrs. Louis Amtmann  
Ms. Deborah Daniel  
Ms. Marcy Damon & Dr. John Kane  
Ms. Carol Donovan  
Ms. Ann C. Dunnington  
Mr. & Mrs. Percy Edgecombe  
Ms. Kelley Ellsworth  
Mrs. Kady Waterhouse Everson  
Mr. & Mrs. Philip A. Fleming  
Mr. & Mrs. Art Guarinello  
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Hammack  
Ms. Kaite Hanlon  
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel M. Head  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph A. Mihalcik  
Mr. & Mrs. Edwin A. Noell  
Mrs. Eleanor Rickel  
Ms. Wanda Van Goor

We would also like to thank our  
business supporters and sponsors of  
the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner & Auction:

**Habitat Protector Level**

Main Street Gallery

**Land Conservator Level**

Banana Banner Signs  
One Source Imaging Solutions, Inc.  
Perigeaux Vineyards & Winery

**Land Protector Level**

Buehler's Wine Shoppe  
Mullen, Sondberg, Wimbish & Stone, P.A.  
Mr. Jeff Quesenberry,  
Edward Jones Investment  
Flag Harbor Marine Service

L.J. Elter & Son  
Southern Maryland Electric  
Cooperative, Inc.

**Land Saver Level**

Ms. Courtlyn Carr  
Mr. Jerry Adams  
Nick's of Calvert  
Shelden Studios

**Special Thanks to:**

Calvert Artists' Guild, Inc.  
Dream Weaver Catering & Events

This event would not be possible  
without the generous donation of  
volunteer time in the weeks and  
months leading up to and following  
the event. Thank you to our Dinner  
& Auction Volunteers:

Guenever Aldrich  
Jack Andrews  
Stan & Barbara Benning  
Paul & Mary Blayney  
Steve & Laura Blayney

Denise Breitburg & Mark Smith  
Diane Daly  
Paul & Diana Dennett  
Dave & Helen Didion  
Mark Edmondson  
Isa Engleberg & Allan Kennedy  
Dave & Ellen Farr  
Ted & Marcy Graham  
Ed Haack  
Deb & Dan Hildebrand  
Paula Johnson  
Mimi Little  
Sandra Loew  
Janelle & Patrick Neises  
Chris & Maggie Reynolds  
John & Betsy Saunders  
Elise Schryver  
Suzanne Shelden  
Sue Simon  
Peter & Jennie Stathis  
Randi Vogt  
Andrew Werner  
Donna Wilson  
Rick & Nan Woppert

**An ACLT Eight-legged Halloween  
By Liz Stoffel**

I ride through the deep woods while mowing the trails  
The leaves are turning orange, yellow, crimson and brown  
The sunlight is scattering, making black and white blotches  
Branches entangle my way, thorns grab at my arms and face  
Webs rain down stickily and wrap across my face  
While spiders dance creepily onto my head and hair

I walk through the field grass hunting down weeds  
It is taller than I by half my height, it parts before me  
And bows at my feet, a rust-colored, silken carpet  
Tiny microscopic mites latch onto my skin  
They liquefy my flesh making stylostome tunnels  
Sipping it as a milkshake through a straw

I trek through the swamp land looking for markers  
I walk on a moss covered log carrying a GPS, camera and surveys  
The moss is so slippery and the mud is thick where I fall in  
I pull one foot free with viscous sucking sound, then the other  
I make it out with clumps of mud falling off my boots  
While ticks find their way past all the bug spray and into my skin

These eight-legged creatures that haunt my working days  
They work their way into nightmares and I wake irritated  
Itchy welts having risen that little medicine can cure  
My only revenge is to go after their cousins  
Spread out across a brown paper covered table  
Melted butter, lemon, vinegar and Chesapeake Bay blue crabs –  
Yummm

Happy Halloween!



## ACLT Double Oak Farm CSA Survey

What's a Locavore? The local food movement is a "collaborative effort to build more locally based, self-reliant food economies where production, processing, distribution, and consumption is integrated to enhance the economic, environmental and social health of a particular place. Those who prefer to eat locally grown/produced food sometimes call themselves 'localvores' or locavores." (source: Wikipedia)

ACLT and Calvert County are part of this burgeoning local food movement. To learn more: Join the Calvert Eats Local group that meets on the third Monday of the month at the Calvert Library in Prince Frederick to discuss ways to encourage local agriculture, eat locally, and share resources, energy and good green ideas. You will frequently see ACLT's Double Oak Farm volunteer manager Jeff Klapper there. <http://www.calvert.lib.md.us/calverteatslocal.html>

ACLT's land management and land use policies have, up until now, focused primarily on managing our forested lands and on determining what recreational land uses are appropriate on ACLT-owned or managed lands. Limited attention has been given to use of the fields; however, in fact, ACLT has a long history of keeping our fields in agricultural production, beginning with tobacco farming at the South Side fields (discontinued in 2001) and later corn, wheat and soy production at our Double Oak fields (discontinued in 2005). When both of these activities by private farmers ceased, ACLT began looking for other ways we could put ACLT's fallow fields back into production thereby continuing the tradition of farming and diversifying the ways that ACLT is "connecting people with the land." ACLT Five-Year Plan (2009-2013).

This year, ACLT began its own effort to promote locally grown foods with a small-scale Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program at Double Oak Farm. In September 2010, the ACLT Board of Directors decided to formally adopt a sustainable farm program that will "encourage continued land preservation, promote Calvert County's agricultural heritage, and provide educational and outreach opportunities for the community." In addition to the education and outreach goals, the Board set goals that: 1) the farm program should strive to be self-sustaining; 2) the program should price its products competitively so as not to undercut local for-profit farming operations; 3) the program should donate some portion of its produce to local charities as Project Echo and the Abused Persons Shelter, such as it has done informally for the past two years; and 4) it should seek to partner with other organizations and individuals, including local farmers, to promote locally grown foods and environmentally sustainable agricultural practices.

We are interested in gauging our members' interest in this new program. Please take a few minutes to **complete the ACLT Double Oak Farm CSA Survey** online at <http://wedewergroup.com/aclt.htm>. If you are interested in a CSA share in 2011, return the form enclosed with your newsletter to ACLT, P.O. Box 2363, Prince Frederick, MD 20678.

## Diaries from the Farm

Veronica Cristo

My family always knows when I've had a bad day at work, because I come home and go straight into my garden. It's my therapy. It's been several generations since anyone in my family lived on a farm, but there's still dirt running through my veins. Farming at ACLT gives me an outlet for my passion and a wonderful opportunity to reconnect to the land in a tasty way. Despite years of gardening, this is my first opportunity to grow vegetables on a large scale. There's so much to learn! We have rows of heirloom, delicious vegetables grown with organic practices. Yes we have squash bugs, caterpillars and potato bugs, but we've taken the time to physically pick them off. It's safer than toxic sprays or chemicals and our farm operation is still small enough to do it. The results are vegetables safe enough for my family – and yours. There is a difference between being fed and being nourished. Like all local food, this food is grown with love by the community for the community. I encourage you to join us for a few hours. Pull some weeds, harvest some vegetables, and find your connection to the land and the community. A farmer has been defined as someone who grows something he loves, on land that he loves, for a community that he loves. It's gratifying to finally meet that definition, even if it's only for a few hours a week. If you can't join us at ACLT, I encourage you to at least stop by a local farm stand or farmer's market and help build a stronger community in Calvert.



Veronica Cristo and Karl Adler are directed by Farm Manager Jeff Klapper on how to prepare the raised herb beds. Photo by Joy Woppert



## Volunteer Spotlight

### Mimi Little

When discussing land preservation, I once heard someone say “It’s hard to get [a land conservation organization] recognized in the community because if you do everything right, nothing ever changes.” This may sometimes be the case for ACLT, but with volunteers like Mimi Little, we have another venue for getting the good word out. Mimi shared that she is adamant that “volunteering is an important way to bring what ACLT does to the community. The more people who work with ACLT...the more they will let other people know what ACLT is all about.”

Mimi got involved with the land trust in 1994 when Double Oak Farm was acquired. ACLT sent out invitations to the neighbors to come to a cookout and learn more about what they were doing in Calvert County. After that night, she was hooked and has been a member, supporter, and volunteer on our Outreach Committee ever since.

Mimi came to Calvert County in 1984 and moved into a house on Goldstein Road in Prince Frederick, a close neighbor to the north side properties. She grew up in Staten Island, New York and Stamford, Connecticut. She attended Colorado State University and spent most of her career in graphic arts and crossword puzzle publishing.

Eight years ago, Mimi married John Little and they settled down in the Scientists’ Cliffs community across from ACLT’s south side trails. In fact, their first date was a canoe trip on Parkers Creek! John is currently a board member for the land trust, serves as Chair of the Land Management Committee, and is also a devoted volunteer who comes out to help with property monitoring, work days, and events.

Mimi’s love for parties and her outgoing personality are what drew her to the ACLT Outreach Committee. She has been helping organize, plan, and run many ACLT events in the years she has been involved including the annual Dinner & Auction (formerly the Chili Cook-off), Patuxent River Appreciation Days, and the Greens Sale, among others. She has been known to help out on Double Oak Farm from time to time, as well, and helped by selling produce at the local farmer’s markets before we opened the CSA this past spring. Mimi’s favorite annual project has always been the Dinner & Auction where she brings her artistic flair and passion for the environment every year. This year we celebrated the 15<sup>th</sup> annual Dinner & Auction and Mimi has been here since the beginning.

While you won’t see Mimi pulling out invasive plants with the Weed Whacking Wednesday crew, she loves seeing all the people working together towards a goal for



Mimi Little volunteering at PRAD in 2008 and sharing her excitement for ACLT with visitors

ACLT. And it just goes to show, that there is something for everyone! When Mimi isn’t helping out at the ACLT, you might find her working on her next piece of art, volunteering at Annmarie Gardens, reading, or enjoying the beautiful outdoors. Her artwork can be seen at the CalvART Gallery in Prince Frederick and on her website <http://www.mimilittle.com>.

When asked why volunteering is important to her, Mimi shared that she knows most non-profit organizations wouldn’t survive without volunteers. “Volunteering for organizations that interest me brings me together with people who share these interests and I have made some lifelong friends through volunteering.” She grew up in a family where charitable giving was important – both monetary donations and giving of your time.

“I’ve been proud of ACLT for helping to preserve the Parkers Creek watershed and making it accessible to everyone in Calvert County. The trails are being used by more and more people every year and the canoe trips down Parkers Creek allow people to see one of the most beautiful sites in Calvert County; a vista that once was available to only a privileged few,” she adds. And to Mimi, for helping us share our successes with the world through your hard work and dedication, we want to extend a big THANK YOU from the board of directors, staff, volunteers, friends, and neighbors of ACLT! We couldn’t have done it without you!

*If you would like to check out Mimi’s recent artwork, please join her for a show (jointly with ACLT member and friend Abbey Griffin) at the CalvART Gallery that runs from Nov. 3–21.*

Joy Woppert  
Community Relations Coordinator

# Environmental Site Design

In the Summer 2010 issue of the newsletter, *Calvert County must go on a 'Pollution Diet' to Restore Health to our Waterways*, ACLT reported on the actions being taken at the federal level to restore the Chesapeake Bay and the impact they will have on decisions at the local level. One of the actions recommended was that Calvert County move quickly to implement new state-mandated stormwater management and Environmental Site Design requirements. The third time was the charm, as the Board of County Commissioners unanimously adopted the revised stormwater management regulations in early August.

Taken at their best, these regulations call for a paradigm shift from stormwater management solutions that are superimposed on an already planned development, almost as an afterthought, to the incorporation of site-specific environmental considerations into the design of a development site from the outset. For example, they call for an examination of the soils on site in order to identify the location of soils with the best drainage capability so that stormwater can infiltrate rather than runoff the site. They also call for development to be as compact as possible to minimize impervious area and maximize the amount of forest that can be retained on site. For additional information on Environmental Site Design, visit <http://ceds.org/esd.html>.

A recent project at ACLT illustrates how even a small project can potentially contribute to modest improvements in water quality. It's important that we all consider our impacts on the environment and attempt to make minor modifications in our behavior to improve the Bay.

In the course of eradicating the invasive bamboo at the South Side trails, ACLT exposed the long hidden "frog pond." Last spring was unusually wet, and it was determined that the outfall from the frog pond was combining with runoff from a stormwater catch basin on the opposite side of Scientists Cliffs Road and running down the Swamp Trail. Along came a boy scout named Joe Foley interested in an Eagle Scout project and our Land

Manager Liz Stoffel suggested that Joe create a foot bridge over the Swamp Trail and divert the water away from the trail. A traditional culvert was planned and undoubtedly would have worked quite effectively to divert the water off the trail, but it would have diverted it directly into the small tributary stream that runs alongside the Swamp Trail.

Having just attended a workshop on Environmental Site Design (ESD), I wondered whether ACLT couldn't improve on the project design by allowing what was primarily stormwater runoff from the road to be infiltrated into the ground rather than directing it into the stream. At the workshop, I learned that Mighel Jackson was the individual responsible for implementation of ESD for Calvert County and so I gave him a call. He agreed to meet Joe Foley at the site and proposed a solution called "Landscape Infiltration" which utilizes on-site vegetative planting areas to capture, store and treat stormwater runoff. The water filters through the planting soil and gravel media below, and then infiltrates into native soils. The Sassafras loam soils at the site are considered to be well-drained and should be suitable for this purpose.

Although the ESD solution will require some additional engineering before it can be implemented and time did not permit Joe Foley to complete this portion of the project, you can now enjoy the new foot bridge that Joe and his crew, with help from ACLT volunteer Ken Romney, have constructed. The remainder of the project will be completed in the spring. Thanks to Joe, Mighel, Liz, Ken and all of the others who helped make this project possible. Coincidentally, I noticed that Mighel Jackson recently became an ACLT member through an event sponsored by ACLT Board members Denise Breitburg and Marcy Damon called "A Walk Along the Bay." Thanks to Denise and Marcy, as well!

Karen Edgecombe, Executive Director

Left: Joe Foley and the completed project.

Below: left to right: Stan Foley, Dan Wells, Mike Bell, George Kemp, Joseph Kemp, Joe Foley and Nick Foley standing on the completed boardwalk.





# Land Manager's Corner

## Natural Play, Natural Learning

At this time of year children are back in school, the weather is cooler, and swimming pools are closed. Families are making time to get outdoors, hike the trails, wander through pumpkin patches, take hayrides and visit corn mazes. Here at ACLT we are also blessed with the happy voices of children enjoying the farm and trails. Through exploring the woods, working in the garden, and experiencing nature, children are learning to care about the land. Fun and stewardship are the keys to children making a connection to the environment.

ACLT is finding ways to make it easier for families to enjoy our resources by: developing easier-to-read trail maps with matching numbered trail signs; offering special guided hikes; providing opportunities for service learning for scouts; and partnering with local schools at our Double Oak Farm.

On a beautiful Sunday morning this October, board member Steve Stadelman recently led a Children's Hike on the South Side Trails for families of the Congregation Beit Chaverim. Steve, a former DNR forester, walked along the trail talking about the trees. He pointed out the pinkish-orange fruit and the alligator skin (bark) of the persimmon trees. He talked about habitat for animals, which includes water, food and shelter. He showed us pawpaw trees and talked about their smaller size and importance in the forest. We saw the striped bark of the cherry and the lenticels, which help with air exchange. Stopping under a chestnut oak, we learned about the two families of oaks: red and white. We learned that the acorns germinate and begin to grow at different times of the year, white oaks in fall (we could see some had already started to sprout and were popping out of their shells) and red oaks in the spring. Steve even explained the reason why leaves change color in the fall. Along the way we smelled sassafras leaves and black walnuts, we picked up prickly sweetgum balls, rolling them in our hands, and we touched a soft green carpet of moss. Flying in the trees ahead of us, we heard the laughing call of a pair of pileated woodpeckers. At the end of the hike we tasted apples—a tree product.

Listening to the children's questions and hearing Steve's answers, I learned quite a lot on the Children's Hike. The children learned, too, because we made it fun. Before the Children's Hike we developed a Scavenger Hunt. Parents helped their children with reading the

questions, while the children answered and collected pine cones, feathers, bits of bark, small sticks in the shape of letters, tiny rocks and sweetgum balls. What better way is there to learn about loving nature than to explore it, touch it, smell it, hear it and be part of it?

Environmental education is based on the premise of immersion in nature, play, exploration, and science learning. Letting children use all their senses, their imaginations, their natural inquisitiveness and making it both fun and challenging reinforces what they learn. They often don't even realize they are learning.

I've been asked to teach a workshop for the National Garden Clubs Environmental Studies School on Youth Programs in Environmental Education. I have a few rules that guide me in designing good environmental education programs for children that connect them to the natural world and engage them in the science.

- **Find your "Niche"**. What does your site or garden have to offer? What makes your place different? Unusual? Unique? Why do you care about it?
- Our site (ACLT's) has the Parkers Creek watershed which goes through all the ecosystems of the Chesapeake Bay in 1 ½ miles, the watershed has 3,000 acres of undeveloped land and there are species here that are rare and some so rare they haven't been found anywhere else in the world. Our watershed is varied with deep ravines, tall trees, interesting birds, seeps, wetlands, farmlands and salt marshes.
- **Don't Reinvent the Wheel**. There are lots of good programs and activities out there – use them!
- Use activities that have been proven to work and have something that can be adapted to your site: Project Wet, Project Wild, Project Learning Tree, the Aldo Leopold educational program. When you go to other sites notice what they are doing right. Try to pick up materials that you can use to make your programs better. The web has an incredible number of resources. [A caution: do not duplicate exactly what a neighboring site is doing – that leads to unfair competition.]
- **Incorporate Play**. Keep the learning fun, use games to teach, let the kids get dirty and you should dig-in with them, show them how to enjoy learning!
- **Green your Site**. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle – this goes for programming, too. **Reduce** your waste stream at

your site; **Reuse** by finding multiple uses for materials, and **Recycle**. Be an example to the children who come to visit, they learn by seeing and doing.

- **Know your Audience.** What age group are you working with? Are they kids from an urban or a rural setting?
- Children are naturally curious explorers, but they often have prejudices about the natural world that are passed down from their parents. Try to get kids to use as many senses as they can to experience nature. They are learning the language so don't be afraid to use scientific vocabulary. Also, remember they can be smaller than you, and might not have your eye for the details, or your coordination – take this into account in your planning.
- **Teach children that everything in nature is connected.**
- The water, the soils, the topography, the weather, the plants, the animals are all connected. This is what an ecosystem is, this is the habitat that supports the life in this place.
- **Build in Service Learning and stewardship projects.**
- Teach students things they can do to help and ways to make changes to improve the environment. Make project outcomes that are discrete and visible to them, so they can see the progress for themselves. It empowers them and gives them hope!

Play and stewardship reinforce science learning. Think of all the reasons you care about the Parkers Creek watershed. Is it the beautiful, lush forests for hiking? Is it one of the best places on the Western Shore to paddle? Is it the great bird watching? Is it the camaraderie from volunteering or events? Is it the knowledge that you have committed your membership to preserving thousands of acres that will never be developed? Is it where you and your parents enjoyed the woods and creek? Or is it where you, your children, and their children will always be able to enjoy the land and its resources?

Liz Stoffel  
ACLT Land Manager

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

containing one substation and two AC to DC converter stations.

After the 2008 meeting with the ACLT Board, PHI decided not to pursue ACLT's Kenwood property further. The site that PHI has selected is (per a recent communication from the PHI Project manager to the ACLT Executive Director) "roughly bounded by Route 2 to the west, Route 765 (St. Leonard Road) to the south and the existing BGE power line ROW to the north, and an agricultural field (that has an agricultural easement) to the east." [This describes an area across Route 765 from Weems Liquor Store and behind the power lines as you come out of Scientists Cliffs Road on to Parkers Creek Road.]

The three buildings will require about 15, 10 and 10 (contiguous) acres all together. Parts of the buildings may be as high as 60'-65'.

From the Port Republic site, the transmission lines (carrying DC current) are to continue underground along the existing BG&E power line right-of-way to Western Shores Blvd. and then to a take-off point adjacent to the Bay at Western Shores Estates. From there the cable is to continue under the Bay to and, for some distance, up the Choptank River on the Eastern Shore and on into Delaware. The Eastern Shore elements of MAPP will require new power line rights-of-way.

The projected in service date for the project is 2015. The Project Manager indicates that construction in the vicinity of Port Republic would most likely occur in 2013.

We were told that PHI investigated the CCNPP site but could not reach agreement with Constellation Energy. I still believe that a CCNPP site can both meet their needs and is preferable to the Port Republic site in terms of both environmental and community impact. The CCNPP area is large, already industrially zoned, generally out of public view and already has tight security. By contrast, the Port Republic site would have greater community impact and, as noted above, is in the Parkers Creek watershed. At this time, ACLT's options appear to be limited to requesting reconsideration of the decision regarding co-location at the CCNPP to requesting thorough mitigation of the impacts (including stormwater runoff, groundwater protection, habitat protection, visibility and noise) at the Port Republic site. We will keep the membership informed as new information becomes available.

Ted Graham  
President

## ACLT Calendar

December–March 2011

### December

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

### January

- 29 - Vine Vindicator Work Day (9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)

### February

- 5 - Annual Membership Meeting (9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)
- 19 - Winter Hike at Double Oak Farm (1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.)
- 26 - Vine Vindicator Work Day (9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)

### March

- 26 - Hiking Trail Maintenance Day (9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)
- 27 - Barn Work Day (8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)

facebook

Check us out on Facebook. Become a fan of the American Chestnut Land Trust today!  
(<http://www.facebook.com/pages/American-Chestnut-Land-Trust/250928382473?ref=ts>)

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

## Thank you for your support ...

### New Members

ACLT would like to welcome the following new members since the Summer 2010 newsletter:

Messrs. Joseph Abresch & Joseph Abresch, Jr.  
Mr. Nick Bohaska  
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Briggs  
Mr. & Mrs. Skip Calvert  
Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Chapman  
Ms. Courtlyn Carr  
Mr. Michael Davie  
Mr. Edward Engel  
Mr. & Mrs. Dave Fondelier  
Mr. Eric P. Gronbeck  
Ms. Barby Harms  
Ms. Catherine Hanna  
Mr. Mighel Jackson  
Mr. & Mrs. Ed. Kobrinski  
Mr. William Large  
Mr. James McWhorter & Ms. Yasmin Abadian  
Ms. Connie Mehring  
Ms. Candace A. Morrell  
One Source Imaging Solutions, Inc. – Mr. James Ruley & Mr. Chris Hudler  
Ms. Shannon Lyn Pasch  
Mr. John Pietropaoli  
Mr. & Mrs. John Potts  
Ms. Jessica Ramella-Roman  
Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd Randolph  
Ms. Elambert Richardson  
Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Prince & Family  
Mr. David Schrock  
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Slaybaugh & Family  
Mr. Stephen Francis Smith  
Dr. Georgia Sorenson  
Ms. Dana Thibodeau  
Messrs. Tom, Jeff & David Ward  
Mr. & Mrs. Graham Waters  
Mr. Andy Young

### Sustaining Membership

Congratulations to the following member who has reached the level of Sustaining (Lifetime) Membership:  
Mr. & Mrs. Eugene McHugh

### Spring Appeal

The Staff and Board of Directors wish to thank the following for their contributions to the 2010 Spring Appeal:  
Mr. & Mrs. John Bailey  
Mrs. Magda Freeman  
Ms. Jody Longhill and Mr. James Borell, Jr.

### Memorial Contributions

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

In memory of Ella Lee Manning who was a Charter Member and longtime supporter of the ACLT:  
Dr. Christine & Col. Daniel Boesz  
Mr. James Borell & Ms. Jodi Longhill  
Ambassador Patricia Lynch Ewell  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Douglas  
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Dwan  
Mrs. Magda Freeman  
Ms. Sarah Guerry  
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Head  
Del. Sue & Mr. Steven Kullen  
Mrs. Annie Moore  
Capt. & Mrs. Patrick Murphy, USN (Ret.)  
Mr. & Mrs. George Naleppa  
Mrs. Virginia O'Neill  
Mr. & Mrs. Warren Sengstack  
Col. Caroline VanMason, USA (Ret.)

Donation of auction items from the household belongings of Mr. Robert W. Wilden have been donated by Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Griffin in Mr. Wilden's memory

### General Contributions and Designated Gifts

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

Mr. & Mrs. George Helz

Through America's Charities:  
Mrs. Dorothy Howe

### Gift Memberships:

Thank you to the following members who donated gift memberships since our last newsletter:  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Blayney  
Ms. Joy Woppert

If you participate in the Combined Federal Campaign, you can designate ACLT by using code #53731. In the Maryland Charity Campaign, designate ACLT by code #1549.

Thank you for your support!



# 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**

**NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
PERMIT NO.  
548  
PRINCE FREDERICK  
MD**