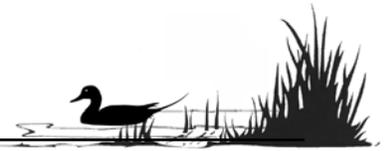


Watershed Observer



Newsletter of the American Chestnut Land Trust
Volume 17 No. 2, Spring 2003

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- May 18 — Canoe Trip
 - May 31 — Cemetery Workday
 - September 13 — Chili Cookoff and Auction (tentative date)
- See page 10 for full calendar.

From the President's Desk ...

In my President's message, I frequently write about the importance of ACLT imbuing in people a feeling of their connection to their environment. I feel truly blessed when I step out my back door and am greeted by the beauty of my natural surroundings. I find it inconceivable that anyone standing with me enjoying the fresh spring air, the wind rippling the water, the dogwoods bursting into bloom, and the forest birds flitting about in the understory would not feel the same overwhelming sense of appreciation for our natural environment.

Unfortunately, inconceivable as it may be to me, there are apparently a lot of people who do not share my view! There are people, such as the developer of Prince Frederick Woods, who tell me that they didn't know the difference between an oak tree and a bald cypress, until now. There are people, like the employee of Morgan Russell, who maneuvered heavy equipment in a wetland without the least hesitation, apparently. There are people like the logger who saw, not living remnants of a distant past connection between Parkers Creek and Battle Creek in the bald cypress trees that once stood there, but only valuable lumber to be carted off.

I do not mean to imply that this gap in our understanding creates an "us" versus "them" situation. Mr. Anthony Williams, the developer, assures me that he regrets what happened, that he is willing to do whatever it takes to restore the damage, and that he wants ACLT to be involved in the fashioning of a remedy. Until proven otherwise, I take him at his word. However, I also believe that the egregious nature of the violations that occurred at the Prince Frederick Woods development necessitate the assessment of substantial economic penalties. Anything less will send the message that destruction of wetlands and blatant disregard of Planning Commission requirements can simply be factored into the cost of doing business in Calvert County.

In late March, ACLT learned that illegal grading for a 107-acre subdivision ironically named "Prince Frederick Woods" had seriously damaged the headwaters of Parkers Creek. The damage occurred to Sullivan Branch, a spring-fed stream that, until recently, meandered through a wetland grove of bald cypress trees ...

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Published quarterly by the American Chestnut Land Trust. The ACLT is dedicated to the preservation of Calvert County, Maryland's Natural and Historical Resources. To date ACLT, which was founded in 1986, has preserved 812 acres and has accepted management of an additional 1700 acres owned by the State of Maryland and The Nature Conservancy.

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But the really important lesson that I hope Mr. Williams learns is that he lost an opportunity to provide a place for people to live in harmony with their environment. He lost an opportunity to leave a place where people could walk out their back door and enjoy the fresh spring air, the wind rippling the water, the dogwoods bursting into bloom, and the forest birds flitting about in the understory. If only he had realized that leaving that remnant of bald cypress swamp was important to the overall health of Parkers Creek and to future generations of Calvert County residents.

I share with you this thought by Peter Forbes, from a book entitled *The Great Remembering*, published by the Trust for Public Land, p. 65 (2001):

It's hypocritical for conservationists to oppose all forms of development when our own lives depend on changing the land somewhere. And since conservation can't keep pace with development, what counts is how and where we protect the land and how we raise the awareness of those who seek to change it. The quality of how we use the land will improve significantly when all developers become as aware and responsive to as many relationships with the land as they can. Conservationists, therefore, have the same obligations as developers: to respect and improve the quality of *all* relationships with the land.... It is impossible to have a shared ethic without engaging in the debate.

So, ACLT will engage in the debate with Mr. Williams, with others in the development community, and with the environmental enforcement agencies that are responsible for enforcing the grading and wetlands laws in the hopes that a shared ethic will emerge. ACLT will also engage in the debate with the Planning Commission, the County Commissioners, and all other interested members of the Calvert County community as we begin the process of revising the Calvert County Comprehensive Plan. We will be asking whether Calvert County has accomplished the "action highlights" contained in the 1997 Comprehensive Plan, including "improve[d] enforcement of sediment control," to accomplish the existing shared vision that "Our wetlands, streams and forests support thriving plant and animal communities."

—Karen H. Edgecombe, President



See photos and text of news release on ACLT's
Web site: <http://acltweb.org>.

Our Worst Fears for Parkers Creek Headwaters Come True:

Illegal Grading Destroys Bald Cypress Swamp at Headwaters of Parkers Creek

What happened?

In late March, ACLT learned that illegal grading for a 107-acre subdivision ironically named “Prince Frederick Woods” had seriously damaged the headwaters of Parkers Creek. The damage occurred to Sullivan Branch, a spring-fed stream that, until recently, meandered through a wetland grove of bald cypress trees located on the west side of Route 4 within the Prince Frederick Town Center before joining another tributary to form the main stem of Parkers Creek. Now only scattered “knees” of bald cypress, the Calvert County tree, remain at the springhead. The trees’ stumps have been pulled up making natural regeneration impossible, and the trees themselves have disappeared.

When this subdivision was proposed in 2000, ACLT expressed its members’ concerns about the importance of handling this sensitive site in an environmentally responsible manner. The Planning Commission imposed a series of specific conditions intended to protect Sullivan Branch, including a requirement that the grading be done in phases to ensure that each phase would be stabilized before the next phase was started.

In addition to the destruction of the wetlands, it now appears that the Planning Commission’s phased grading conditions were violated, resulting in excessive sediment entering Parkers Creek.

How did the violations go unnoticed?

The sediment and erosion control inspection process clearly failed. When nearby residents of the Westlake

community called local authorities, they were referred to the Maryland Department of Environment (MDE) who conducts grading inspections for Calvert County subdivisions. They were told by the MDE inspector that the project was being graded according to the approved plan. Obviously, someone made an error.

What actions have been taken?

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, issued a stop work order addressed to Anthony Williams, Built-Rite, Capitol Heights, Maryland, for the “placement of fill material in waters of the United States or in adjacent wetlands” without a permit. The Maryland Department of Environment issued a “Site Complaint and Order” for sediment control and sediment pollution violations. The Calvert County Planning & Zoning Department has also issued a stop work order.

ACLT has been advised by the Calvert County Planning & Zoning Department that required sediment and erosion control measures have now been taken, but certain of these measures such as the spreading of grass seed will obviously not have an immediate effect.

The Board of Calvert County Commissioners have directed the Calvert County Planning Commission to review the issue and the information supplied to them by the developer at the time of their original approval. On Wednesday, April 16, the Planning Commission issued the following resolution:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Calvert County Planning Commission gave Preliminary Subdivision Approval on May 16, 2001 (SD004), Revised Preliminary Subdivision Approval on September 19, 2001 (SD004R), Final Subdivision Approval on October 17, 2001 (SD004R), and Site Plan Approval on September 19, 2001 (SPR 01-48), to a certain project to be located in Prince Frederick and known as Prince Frederick Woods; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission has received information which establishes good cause to believe that the aforesaid approvals were obtained and granted upon the basis of applications, drawings and/or representations amounting to fraud, mistake, inadvertence or other irregularity within the meaning of Section 4, paragraph 3 of the Rules of Procedure for Contested Cases before the Calvert County Planning Commission and the applicable law of the State of Maryland; and

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

WHEREAS, it is specifically, though not by way of limitation, alleged:

that the applicants submitted plans and drawings which understated and misrepresented the extent of wetlands on the site, as well as the location and number of trees, in particular, bald cypress trees within those wetlands; and that said applicants, knowing that the land was unsuitable for development under the applicable regulations, proposed a phased and tightly controlled grading plan, consistent with the recommendations of the County Environmental Planner, to solve the “unsuitability” problems, for the sole purpose of obtaining Planning Commission approval of the project, which representations concerning phased grading were false and either intentionally made or made negligently and/or with reckless indifference as to whether they were true or not; and

WHEREAS, each of the aforesaid misrepresentations was material, in that had each not been made, the project would not have received Planning Commission approval; NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Calvert County Planning Commission that:

The Planning Commission hereby fixes the date of May 6, 2003, at 7:00 p.m., at The Lusby Office Suites, 162 Main St., Prince Frederick, Maryland, at which time it will conduct a hearing to determine whether or not the approvals issued as recited above should be revoked or rescinded; and

In the event that any interested party disputes the allegations set forth herein, said party may request a contested hearing, to be held in accordance with the Rules of Procedure for Contested Cases and other applicable law, said request to be made in writing at least 10 days prior to the date fixed for hearing; and

The Secretary of the Planning Commission is directed to serve a copy of this Resolution and the attached Notice by Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested, on the landowner of the affected parcels, the developers, and any other interested parties, and shall cause proper posting and publication of the meeting according to law.

John R. Ward, Chairman

[Editor’s Note: ACLT encourages its members to attend the Planning Commission’s contested hearing. We have been advised that the date and location might change. Please check our website or call the ACLT office or the Office of Planning and Zoning to confirm the date and location of the Prince Frederick Woods contested hearing.]

What Happens Now?

ACLT is calling for swift enforcement action, including remediation of the damages caused, and stiff penalties, by county, state, and federal environmental officials. A message needs to be sent that such reckless disregard for Calvert County’s natural resources is not acceptable.

ACLT has many questions like:

- What caused the failure to inspect and enforce the phased grading plan and other Planning Commission conditions?
- Why did citizens’ telephone calls warning of a problem go unheeded?
- What is the extent of ecological damage to Parkers Creek and how will remediation take place?
- Why were the wetlands not properly delineated and shown on the subdivision and grading plans?
- Why were other, inconsistent wetlands delineations, done in connection with the loop road project, not discovered until after destruction of the wetlands?

- Why did the county’s largest excavation contractor, Morgan Russell, Inc., fail to comply with the phased grading requirement of the Planning Commission?
- Why did the onsite workers not recognize that they were entering a wetland even if it was not properly delineated on the plans?
- Why didn’t the logging company recognize the bald cypress trees as a wetland species and cease work?
- Why doesn’t Calvert County have its own grading inspector for subdivisions and roads?

Of course, nothing will restore the bald cypress trees that were destroyed or provide the degree of water quality protection to Parkers Creek that the forested hillsides and wetlands previously provided at this site. That is lost forever.

We hope, however, that the process of examining how this could have occurred at a site that had been so carefully reviewed by the Planning Commission can be avoided in the future.

Around ACLT

ACLT Opens First Picnic Pavilion

Looking for a quiet place to have a picnic? Bring along a picnic basket and enjoy a quiet lunch after hiking the trails at Double Oak Farm. Thanks to an Eagle Scout project and the Calvert business community, ACLT is opening a picnic pavilion for public use.

Nestled at woods' edge, is a rustic covered pavilion supported by locust logs with one side enclosed using recycled barn siding. Two picnic tables built by Jeremy Benjaminson earning his Eagle Scout Award in 2000 and a serving table donated by a builder compliment the setting.

Shane Kenny, of Troop 643, completed this huge endeavor as his Eagle Scout project. Chesapeake Chimney Sweep sponsors Troop 643 and its owner, Mark Dent, is the troop leader. Shane submitted a project proposal and construction plan to our land man-

ager and architect, Dan Sampson, who suggested several construction changes. Calvert County's unusually cold winter and never-ending snows also caused unanticipated delays and a bit of concern as Shane's 18th birthday in April quickly approached. Eagle Scouts must complete this highest award before they turn 18.

Many, many hours on the part of the troop, its leaders, and Shane's friends went into demolition of the old dog pen, digging the old frame out of concrete, hauling the locust trees out of the woods, carting ladders and tools to the site, carrying water to mix concrete, and erecting the posts, framing and roof. Shane, as well as ACLT, was very fortunate to secure donated materials from local businesses. We express our gratitude to Snead's Lumber for the hardware, Dunkirk Supply for the lum-



Shane Kenny works on his Eagle Scout project which transformed the old dog pen at Double Oak Farm into a new picnic pavilion.

ber, Banner Roofing in Dunkirk for the tin roofing, and Chesapeake Chimney Sweep for the use of tools and equipment.

The pavilion will be open year-round on a first-come basis. Groups, however, can reserve the area by calling the ACLT office. Currently, we only have a donated hibachi, but hope to be able to provide a charcoal grill in the future. A portable restroom is nearby, but users must remove all trash.

The first group has already reserved the area for a very special event – Shane Kenny's Court of Honor ceremony as he receives the Boy Scout of America's highest honor—that of an Eagle Scout.

Peg Niland,
Executive Director



Volunteers Have Their Day!

Volunteer Day held March 29 was a huge success! Nearly 40 folks turned out despite the predictions of rain. Work parties did some major trail work on the Laurel Loop on the south side; and two work parties cleared trees along part of the Goldstein Trail and spruced up the Turkey Trail on the north. Meanwhile, back at Double Oak, another trio hammered at the lumber from the dog pen that is being transformed into a picnic pavilion, the project courtesy of an Eagle Scout.

We were pleased to welcome several new families as well as a few ACLT members who hadn't attended events before. It was an eclectic group, which included hunters, scientists, housewives, a radio DJ, and hikers who ranged in age from 5 years old to 72 years young.

April showers came early and the group moved indoors to share lunch and talk about volunteer opportunities at ACLT. Special thanks to Board Member Terry Farman who helped welcome visitors in the morning; Ken Romney, ACLT's Land Management Committee Co-Chair, who talked about Land Management opportunities; and Sue Curley who had information to share about the upcoming restoration work at the Hance-Chesley cemetery. A word of thanks also goes to staff members Peg, Adele, and Dan for organizing the work details, getting out the volunteers, and providing a great indoor "picnic."

Adele Connelly,
Volunteer Coordinator



Steve Howerton and Ray Saah fill potholes in the Double Oak Farm drive. In rear, Mike Howerton loads another shovel with



Emily Hoffman, her mother Amy Plummer, and friend Nancy Hoffer (left to right) trim vines from Parkers Creek Loop.



Leon Myers and Jim White work together to clear a downed tree from the Turkey Trail.



Dan Sampson gives instructions to a group of volunteers before heading out to the trails.

Record Your Volunteer Hours

Volunteers are the heart of the American Chestnut Land Trust and, without you, we could never hope to accomplish all that we do. It is important to us to know how many hours you spend on ACLT projects and we really need to hear from you on a regular basis.

Total volunteer hours are used when applying for grants and reporting on special projects. Those volunteer hours include your travel time as well as the time you actually spend working at an event or attending a committee meeting.

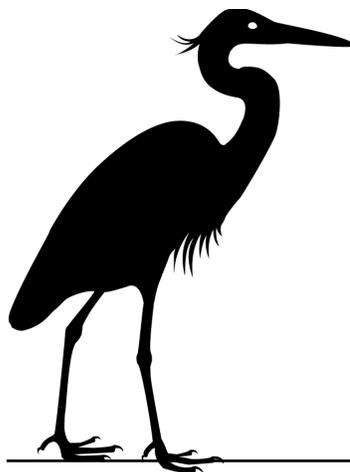
To make sure that we keep accurate records, the best way is by email to adminaclt@chesapeake.net, but you can always drop a note with name, date of the activity and hours worked to ACLT at Post Office Box 204, Port Republic, MD 20676.

Another way is to log into the ACLT website at www.acltweb.org and follow the bold link on the left labeled "Participation." Whatever

method you choose, we would encourage you to keep track of those hours and send them in to us!

ACLT is grateful for the continuing support of all our volunteers. Your time and dedication are truly appreciated.

Adele Connelly,
Volunteer Coordinator



Moving On

With much regret, I must announce that Dan Sampson, our Land Manager for the past 3 1/2 years is moving on to a new position. Dan leaves us mid-May to join the Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management Office performing hazard mapping on a FEMA grant. In his letter telling me of his decision he wrote, "My work with ACLT has been enjoyable, in fact so much so that my decision was made not without considerable anguish. Ultimately, a return to New England and the ability to work more closely in my chosen field—coastal environmental science—led me to my decision."

Dan has made tremendous contributions to the trust as its first Land Manager and he will be greatly missed. As ACLT Vice President Ted Graham wrote to Dan, "Speaking for all of us, I am greatly appreciative of the commitment you have made to the ACLT and the important mark you have left on ACLT land management. As they say on Broadway, you created the role and have set a standard for others to follow."

Dan is a great team player who leaves behind a sorrowful staff that will miss terribly his dry wit, quick smile, cat pictures, Dylan tunes

Our best wishes to you, Dan!

Peg Niland,
Executive Director

Terrapins and Parkers Creek

On a blustery day in late March, I set off in search of terrapins (*Malaclemys terrapin*) in Parkers Creek. With me was longtime friend, Kristen Hart, a Ph.D. student at Duke who is studying the Maryland icon for her dissertation. With any luck, we'd encounter some of the groggy and hungry turtles just emerged from brumation, the reptilian equivalent of hibernation. We had hoped to paddle the Creek at night armed with a spotlight (the turtles are attracted to the light), but bad weather kept us in, so we set out the next day in a quest for the unassuming and secretive terrapin.

Terrapins have attained a Loch Ness Monster status in my mind fueled by tantalizing rumors of the reptiles on the Creek, but never any direct proof. If anyone would be able to find the critters, Kristen would--after years of fieldwork she has developed an uncanny ability to discern a tiny bobbing head in the water. Parkers Creek is surrounded by terrapins: Kristen is studying populations in Herring Bay (Deale, MD) and Kent Island, and another researcher has been working with a population in the Patuxent River. Further south, terrapins take residence in the extensive salt marshes of the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge.

Once upon a time, terrapins were ubiquitous in the Chesapeake--so common in fact that they served as a major, and readily available, source of protein for both the tidewater Native Americans and Colonials. By the 1800s, the terrapin had achieved delicacy status

(usually a bad sign for any species); to meet the demand, a commercial fishery developed, and as in so many other cases, overexploitation eventually caused the population to collapse. By the turn of the 20th century, the terrapin had become nearly a stranger to the Bay. Unlike fin- or shellfish with high reproductive potential, the terrapin is a slow growing animal with delayed sexual maturity that cannot quickly rebound from a population crash.

Today, you'll be hard pressed to find terrapin in any local market or restaurant (New York City's Fulton Fish Market is a notable exception), but a small commercial harvest remains now mostly serving a growing Asian market. A more immediate threat to terrapins, however, is Maryland's renowned blue crab fishery. Crab pots are attractive to turtles as well as crabs, but unlike crabs, turtles do not have gills; trapped without being able to surface for air, the reptile depletes its oxygen stores and drowns. In 1999, the State mandated that bycatch excluder devices (BRDs) be built into all non-commercial crab pots. BRDs are fitted to each funnel on the pot to create a bottleneck that excludes the larger, non-target species (also including diving birds, otter, and muskrat), while allowing continued catch of the blue crab. Coupled with fouled waters, loss of critical nesting habitat from Bay and riverfront bulkheads and revetments, and vehicle and boat strikes, the aggregate terrapin population in Maryland continues to decline.

Kristen is using the diamond-

back terrapin as a model species for her dissertation research in population biology at the Duke University Marine Lab in Beaufort, NC. She has worked with animals from Massachusetts (the northernmost extent of their range) to the mangrove forests of Florida, capturing and marking turtles in order to help determine population size and individual survival rates. She also takes a small blood sample from each animal to create a unique genetic profile for each individual. Armed with this genetic data, Kristen will be able to determine whether terrapins living in Maryland, North Carolina, Florida, and elsewhere are unique populations or instead part of a single, large population. These results along with her other findings on terrapin population dynamics, home range, habitat use, and seasonal movements will be used to make recommendations to wildlife managers about how better to conserve these turtles and protect their populations. With any luck, research like Kristen's will help to ensure that terrapins will inhabit our marshes for years to come.

Back on Parkers Creek, we saw a great assortment of wildlife: Kingfishers chiding us for paddling through their territory, a lazy mallard, schools of minnows darting about the warm shallows, some early season red-winged blackbirds staking out their territory, Canadian geese, red belly slider turtles floating in the sun, and even a surprised beaver that flopped into the water and swam directly underneath the canoe, but no terrapins.

On our way downstream, we continued to look for turtles, but also periodically nosed the canoe against the bank to look for the terrapin's food of choice- mussels and clams. We didn't find any, and found only a few oysters near the mouth of the Creek. Kristen surmises that, although the undisturbed salt marsh of Parkers Creek looked

like it would support a population, the water in Parkers Creek may be too fresh for the type of marsh habitat and associated food web favored by terrapins. But then again, not seeing any doesn't mean they're not there. Given more time, we could have done a more thorough census, setting crab pots to be

checked at regular intervals and walking the surrounding high beach come June when the females come ashore to lay their eggs. Whether or not Parkers Creek is, or was, home to terrapins remains a mystery to me. Nessie lives.

Dan Sampson, Land Manager

Lyme Disease Precautions

In addition to beautiful wildflowers, tree leafout, and the return of migratory birds, Spring in Calvert County also marks the reappearance of ticks, chiggers, mosquitoes, copperheads, and poison ivy. While each can make your life unpleasant in a different way, deer ticks transcend nuisance status as carriers of Lyme Disease and other potentially debilitating tick-borne human illnesses including Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and ehrlichiosis.

With Lyme, complacency is not a good idea. According to the Centers For Disease Control, 'Varying degrees of permanent damage to joints or the nervous system can develop in patients with late chronic Lyme disease'. In its early stages, Lyme is treated effectively with antibiotics, but if left untreated, *Borrelia burgdorferi*, the bacterium that causes the disease moves from the bloodstream deep into tissue where it is not readily accessible to antibiotics. Additionally, the bacterium can also enter a dormant stage during which it is totally resistant to all antibiotics.

The common deer tick, *Ixodes scapularis*, which carries the disease in this part of the country, transmits Lyme Disease. The tick is

found in grassy areas (including lawns), and in brushy, shrubby and woodland sites where some moisture is present. All three life stages of the tick (larva, nymph, and adult) will feed on humans, although the nymph is the most responsible for transmission. To give you an idea of their size, the larva is about the size of a grain of sand, the nymph a poppy seed, and the adult a sesame seed. Their small size and painless bite make them very difficult to detect.

Minimize your chances of being bitten in the first place by tucking your pant legs into your socks (shorts and the woods are a bad mix) and shirt into pants, and spraying your clothes with a tick repellent (look for the active ingredient DEET) or insecticide (look for active ingredient Permethrin). Yes, insecticide. As odd as that sounds, Permethrin is very effective and safe when used as directed. As with all chemicals, read the label before use, not after.

Upon return from the outdoors, immediately inspect yourself for ticks. Look everywhere. The ticks do not share your sense of personal space and humility; look everywhere. If you find a tick, avoid

the urge to grab it with tweezers and rip it off with satisfying yank. Doing so will cause the mouthparts to separate from the body and remain lodged in you skin thereby increasing your chances of infection and causing a nasty itch. The tick's mouthparts are like crochet hooks that will retract fully under gentle pressure. Also, don't dab the tick with Vaseline, nail polish, nail polish remover, lighted cigarettes, etc.; doing so only causes the tick to frantically dig more deeply. Once removed, clean the site and wipe with alcohol. And finally, don't panic, it takes several hours for the bacterium to be transmitted.

Lyme Disease symptoms are diverse to say the least. Following a bite, suspect Lyme if you notice anything out of the ordinary with any part of your body, internal or external. Note that the classic bull's-eye rash associated with the disease is in actuality the body's response to the tick bite itself, not the disease. Find a doctor who is well versed in Lyme and seek aggressive treatment. With these simple precautions, you can enjoy the outdoors during the warmer months.

Dan Sampson, Land Manager

ACLT Calendar of Events

May 31 - Cemetery Workday -Meet at the cemetery with a local expert to begin the headstone repairs. A second date of June 7 is also in reserve for this worthwhile effort.

September 13 (tentative date!) Chili Cookoff and Auction. Enter your best recipe for the cookoff, bid at the auction, and come out and enjoy the day! We'll have more details but this promises to be a wonderful event!

October 25 - Annmarie Garden - Tales for a Haunted Trail - enjoy the spooky trails through the gardens for children of all ages. ACLT will once again be sponsoring a booth along the haunted hike. Dress up in your very best costume and come join the fun.

December 13 - Greens for decorating at the holidays, hot cider, and a hayride to the beach. ACLT goodies will be available for sale that day so don't forget to think of ACLT merchandise when you plan your holiday gift giving.

ACLT-sponsored Canoe Trips are scheduled for May 18, June 21, July 20, September 21 and October 25. Depart from Warrior's Rest and enjoy a scenic tour of Parkers Creek. **Reservations are required.** Suggested donation: \$10.00 per person.

Please call the ACLT office at 410-586-1570, e-mail Adele Connelly at adminaclt@chesapeake.net, or register online in the 'Participation' section at <http://acltweb.org>.

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.



Modern Charitable Giving: Donor-Advised Gift Funds

Donating stock can be a great way to make gifts to the American Chestnut Land Trust and other charities. You will get a tax deduction for the full market value of the stock, regardless of what it cost, and will pay no capital gains. Transferring stock to various charitable institutions, however, can involve a lot of work for you, your stockbroker, and the charity's stockbroker who must sell the stock and report its value on the day the stock is received.

One modern-day approach to make charitable gifts over a period of years is to establish a donor-advised gift fund. The key appeal to setting up a donor-advised fund is an immediate tax deduction for the full value of the charitable gift without the immediate need to determine where the gift should go. In the meantime, the irrevocable gift is invested and managed by a financial services company. Because tax rules require that only 5 percent be paid out each year, the rest can be left to grow while you decide what causes to support. Gift funds give donors the cachet of running their own private foundation without the legal and accounting costs of creating and maintaining one. They give you and your family a convenient way to establish a legacy of giving.

Donor-advised funds are booming. Fidelity Investments began its Charitable Gift Fund in 1992, and the Charles Schwab Fund for Charitable Giving was launched

in 1999. In addition, T. Rowe Price and The Vanguard Group have started similar programs. Although minimums vary, a donor generally has to set aside at least \$10,000 to establish a “giving” account. When you later decide to make a gift to ACLT or another charity, the fund’s administrator will send a check in the amount you specify, generally of \$250 or more, issued in your name. And you can make additional contributions to the fund at any time.

Is a donor-advised gift fund right for you? The immediate tax deduction for gifts that can be spread out for years is certainly a plus, as is the opportunity to create a family foundation in name without the overhead or headaches of an independent organization. If convenience and flexibility are important to you, then a donor-advised fund may work.

<http://acltweb.org>

New on the ACLT Web site:

- The “map and trail information” topic in the “Natural Resources” section also includes a printable map of the Gravatt tract trails and links to a Web mapping service that locates ACLT on larger scale maps.
- In the “Participation” section of the Web site you can register for the events listed on the ACLT Calendar, print a copy of the membership application form, and record your volunteer hours.
- A list of birds observed on ACLT land and nearby waters is available under natural resources.
- The “Cultural Resources” section features a photo gallery of the structures on ACLT owned and managed properties and an article on planting tobacco.

Thank you for your support ...

New Members

ACLT would like to welcome the following new members who have joined since the Winter 2003 Newsletter:

Ms. Marsha Berry
 Ms. Grace Mary Brady
 Mr. Brian Davis
 Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence H. Dryden
 Mr. and Mrs. Dale E. Graff
 Ms. Vivian M. Horner
 Mr. Thomas Jones
 Ms. Marina Lauziere
 Ms. Mary McGahey and
 Mr. Todd Sheldon
 Ms. Leslie B. Roche
 Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Smith
 Dr. Elizabeth Tuckermanty

Science Fair Winner

ACLT sponsored four prizes in the Calvert County Science Fair this year. Each prize included a \$50 award and a one-year membership in ACLT. As winners return the membership forms they will be added to the ACLT rolls as honorary youth members. A warm welcome goes to the first of this year’s winners to join ACLT:

Ms. Brittany Pierce

Memorials

The following organization and individuals have made contributions to ACLT in memory of Doris B. Howe Zitzewitz, who had been a charter member of ACLT.

Ms. Magda Freeman
 Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Hughes
 Ms. M. June Whitson

Contributions have also been made in memory of Margaret Peters, mother of ACLT member Dr. Stephen Peters, from:

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel L. Boesz
 Ms. Peg Niland

Contributions for Land Acquisition:

Ms. Elsie Carper

General Contributions and Designated Gifts

Contributions towards Cultural Restoration Projects:

Thank you to the following members who have made special contributions to this fund which supports restoration activities at some of our barns and at the Hance-Chesley Cemetery:

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Boesz
 Ms. Susan Curley
 Ms. Jane Klemer
 Flag Harbor Marine Service
 Ms. Peg Niland
 Mr. Wilmer (Buck) Waller

Gift Memberships:

Thank you to the following members who purchased gift memberships since the Winter 2003 newsletter:

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Berry
 Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Benning

General Contribution:

Mr. and Mrs. Paul McElligott
 Mr. and Mrs. Michael Rubino

Contribution for Aerial Photograph:

Dr. Peter Vogt



Come Join Us!

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

Name _____

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**

