

Watershed Observer

NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN CHESTNUT LAND TRUST - VOLUME 21 NO. 2, SPRING



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SEE [HTTP://ACLTWEB.ORG](http://acltweb.org) OR PAGE 3
FOR FULL CALENDAR AND ADDI-
TIONAL INFORMATION.

JOIN THE ACLT ELECTRONIC COMMUNITY

The Internet has become an indispensable tool for daily communication and commerce. The nonprofit world is no exception and ACLT needs to expand its use of all of the available and essential tools for communicating with its members and with the public. We want to be able to communicate with you in a timely manner and we want you to be able to communicate with us in a manner that is most convenient for you. For a growing number of you, that means via email and our website.

The notion of building an ACLT “electronic community” was one of the first areas in need of attention that was identified when I became Executive Director last year. Chuck Rodgers, our technology guru, tactfully explained the “limitations of current processes” to me. It was noted that our custom-designed member database, although ably designed by ACLT member and volunteer John Turner, was unduly reliant on a single individual for support and that staff had been reluctant to rely too heavily on John’s volunteer time to make full use of its capabilities. Likewise, our custom-designed website, ably designed by ACLT members and volunteers Ellen and Dave Farr, could not accept online donations or allow members to renew online. Finally, our printed newsletter was expensive to print and mail and could not provide urgent updates or announcements.

In researching online donation, event registration, and membership database technology, the list of current problems grew: we frequently have to enter the same data into multiple databases (one for membership, one for volunteers, and one for our annual auction); we struggle to keep staff and volunteers adequately trained on the software; our database does not integrate with our website; and we need a better tool for emailing our members and volunteers.

Much of the research has now begun to bear fruit. ACLT has purchased the eTapestry internet-based donor database. I was introduced to this company at the Land Trust Rally last fall. The ACLT database will be accessed via the Internet rather than installed on ACLT computers. This will allow our part-time volunteer coordinator Seaona deGennaro and our volunteer membership coordinator Ginny Murphy to perform many of their tasks from home. The data is encrypted for security, access is restricted by logins and passwords, and the data are backed up daily. The data continue to be owned by ACLT at all times and can be readily downloaded and stored on site if we so choose. What appealed to me about eTapestry is that they have put together an integrated system that will give ACLT the capability to send e-mails alerting you to important news, events, and volunteer opportunities, and to accept online donations, membership renewals and event registration with

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From the President's Desk ...

Advocacy Part 2: Creating an Advocacy Program for ACLT

In the last edition of the *The Watershed Observer*, I contended that it is ACLT's responsibility to its members and to the land trust movement in general to be a strong and active advocate on behalf of land conservation. Properly focused, ACLT and its members can be quite effective in helping to shape legislation, policies and budgets that affect land conservation locally, statewide and nationally. This column explores some of the steps that ACLT is planning on taking to have an effective advocacy system in place. This is not an exhaustive list, but reflects some critical, priority actions. We'd be delighted to hear from our readers with other suggestions and recommendations as well as a commitment to get actively involved.

Developing and Maintaining Relationships with Legislators - Overall ACLT has kept in touch with state and local legislators and staff and let them know of our mission, values and concerns. These are connections that have served us well, but have not been a part of a formal, ongoing advocacy program. Whether the focus is on changes to the tax code, budgets for land preservation or decisions on land use, legislative bodies at all levels are critical to land conservation. To be effective, land trusts must develop and maintain relationships with legislators and their staff, be they County Commissioners, State Delegates or Senators or Members of Congress. We anticipate strengthening those relationships we already have and establishing connections that are weak or nonexistent. These connections are particularly important for ACLT's participation in the annual Environmental Lobby Day that takes place in Annapolis in February, fairly early in the legislative session.

Tracking Legislation and Budgets - It has been widely reported that Maryland is anticipating a significant budget deficit next year. Program Open Space (POS) funds have often been viewed as a convenient way to close any budget gap. It's only by the collective action of grass roots organizations stressing the importance of land preservation that POS funding remains at high levels. There will no doubt be other environmental legislation and regulations that ACLT members will want to consider. For example, the "Green Fund" to provide state funds for urban stormwater and other restoration projects passed the Maryland House but not the Senate in 2007; it is expected to be back for consideration in 2008. ACLT members may also be interested in weighing in on other topics, such as the guidelines for the Water Resources Element that each locality must now include in its Comprehensive Plan and other regulatory actions that affect water quality.

Partnerships with Other NGOs - There are online resources at the state and federal levels that ACLT intends to track on a regular basis to ensure that we have the latest legislative and regulatory information to pass on to our members. The

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Land Trust Alliance, based in Washington, DC, is an excellent resource for federal-level information; the 1000 Friends of Maryland and the Partners for Open Space are effective at providing Maryland information.

Participation by ACLT Members - There is strength in numbers. As described in Karen Edgcombe's article on the "electronic community," ACLT is in the midst of installing a new database that will make it much easier to send out email legislative alerts and other information to ACLT members who elect to "opt in" to the "advocacy alert system" that we envision. This will facilitate sending out notices of public meetings, hearings, legislative actions and the like. It can also include sample letters and addresses for sending correspondence. This capability is particularly important when time is tight and a full hearing room or a large volume of mail can make a real difference.

Goals for 2007-2008 - It is important that the ACLT advocacy program be well developed by the time the Maryland legislature convenes in January 2008. Our new database will be fully operational by then and it is hoped that we will have a sizable list of "opt in" members and the capability to report on legislative initiatives, budgets and critical regulatory actions. The alert system will have summaries of important legislation and regulations, budgetary information, calendars of events, sample letters, contact information and links to appropriate websites.

We hope that many of you will elect to opt in to the ACLT advocacy program. We are very much open to suggestions you might have to maximize its effectiveness. Please send us any comments you might have to info@acltweb.org and let us know if you'd like to be an active participant.

Ted Graham
President, ACLT

ACLT Calendar of Events 2007

Saturday, June 16, 8 a.m. - *Paddle from Parkers Creek to Flag Ponds*
- Start early to get in shape for this seven-mile paddle in celebration of the Captain John Smith 400 Year Anniversary.

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- Start early to get in shape for this seven-mile paddle in celebration of the Captain John Smith 400 Year Anniversary.

Saturday, July 28, 8 a.m. - 12 noon - *Percy Howard Barn Work Day*
- Join other ACLT volunteers as we complete the structural stabilization of this historic barn.

Tuesday, September 11, 7 p.m. - *John Smith 400 Speaker Series* -
"What's Happening to our Beloved Chesapeake?" Hear Professor McDermott speak at this ACLT-sponsored event at the Calvert County Library, Prince Frederick, MD. This presentation is part of a year-long series made possible by a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network.

Saturday, September 29 - *Annual Dinner & Silent Auction* - Enjoy locally grown foods freshly prepared, bid at the auction, catch up with other ACLT members and enjoy the evening!

Saturday, October 13, 9 a.m. - 12 noon - *Fall Colors Hike at Double Oak* - You can't beat the fall colors at Double Oak Farm! Don't miss the last guided hike of the year.

Saturday, October 20, 9 a.m. - 12 noon - *Barn Work Day* -
Interested in historic tobacco barns? Join us as we repair one of ACLT's old tobacco barns. Volunteers with carpentry skills needed.

Friday, November 9, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. - *Volunteer Appreciation Dinner* - The ACLT staff hosts this incredible evening with delicious food and handmade items to honor and thank our dedicated and faithful volunteers.

Saturday, December 1, 9 a.m. - 12 noon - *Holly Arboretum Work Day* - Volunteer to help us get the Warrior's Rest Arboretum shaped up for the greens sale.

Saturday, December 8, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. - *Greens Sale and Beach Hayride* - Purchase fresh cut evergreens for holiday decorations, drink hot cider and take a hayride to the beach.

In addition, ACLT offers guided canoe trips from April through October. Reservations are required for these popular trips. Please see page 10 for the 2007 schedule of ACLT canoe trips.

Around ACLT

Earth Day 2007

I cannot recall more perfect weather for an ACLT Earth Day in years. Sunshine abounded on Saturday, April 21. We had a record number of families attend with children ranging in age from infants to high school. More than 70 volunteers were dispersed to eight project sites on the south side of Parkers Creek from Warrior's Rest barrier beach, to removing debris from two old house dump sites, planting and mulching at the Hance-Chesley Cemetery, roadside litter pick-up, cutting downed trees, and trail maintenance. All told, volunteers removed 4.3 tons of debris and over 1,000 pounds of tires! A tribute to the collective work of so many hands!

The projects required a range of skills from chainsaw wielding to gardening, to invasive plant removal and, of course, cooperation, strength and energy. Thank you to the project leaders at each designated site: Bill Wright, Liz Stoffel, Sue Curley, Ginger and Mike Walls, and Ken Romney. Thank you to Patricia Tantum and Patrick Simpson, Stanley and Barbara Benning, and Klaus and Roberta Safer-Zwilsky for orchestrating the picnic and to all of the community associations who contributed food for the best Earth Day feast to date! Thank you to ALL of the volunteers who turned out for the day! It was a wonderful celebration of hard work and a beautiful day of cleaning up our corner of Calvert County!

Seona deGennaro
Community Relations Coordinator

Earth Day Photos

ACLT members of all ages pitch in on Earth Day. From left to right: Christina Basile (on left) and Helena Hudson (on right); Ginny Murphy and Roberta Safer-Zwilsky take a moment to catch up after unloading a truck full of debris; Pat Griffin, Paul Dennett, Patrick Murphy, Bill Wright, Ginny Murphy, Paul Dennett, Joe Wilkenson, and Pat Murphy empty debris collected at Warrior's Rest barrier beach.



Following in the Wake of Captain John Smith

When Captain John Smith explored the Chesapeake Bay in his voyage of 1608, he passed the unique cliff formations that are part of Calvert County and the Parkers Creek and Governors Run watershed. In celebrating his historical voyages, the American Chestnut Land Trust and our local government partners will be following in the wake of Captain John Smith with an inaugural event scheduled on Saturday, June 16, 2007 - paddling from Parkers Creek to Flag Ponds. During this 7-mile paddle, naturalist guides will point out environmental and historical changes to the area and to the Bay's shoreline since Captain John Smith's exploration 400 years ago.

ACLT is partnering with Calvert County Natural Resources Division, Battle Creek Nature Education Society, and Patuxent Adventure Center in coordinating this special event.

If you are interested in joining us for this wonderful opportunity to view the watershed from a unique and historical perspective, please reserve your seat now. The paddle will be limited to 50 participants. There is a non-member charge of \$15 per person. ACLT and BCNES member's price is \$10 per person. Canoe/kayak rental is additional. Each participant will receive an event tee shirt, specially designed for this celebration. For more information, please contact Pat Tantum or call Battle Creek Nature Education Society 410-535-5327.

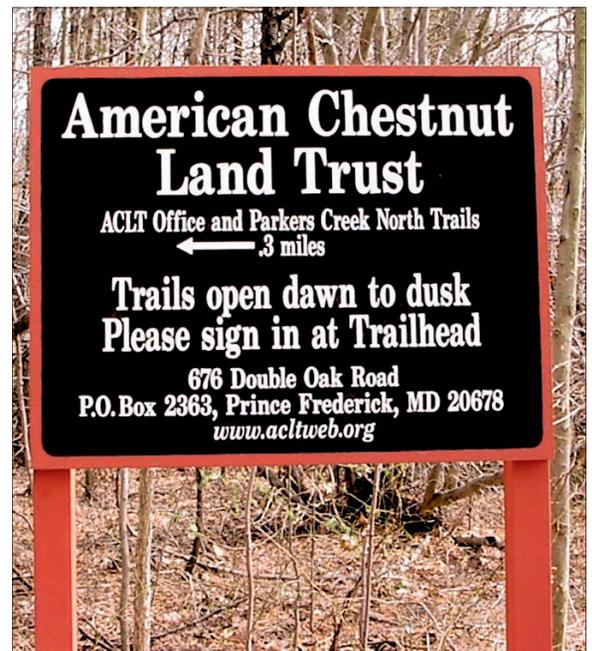
Patricia Tantum
Outreach and Media Coordinator



New Sign for ACLT

ACLT's trails on the north side of Parkers Creek were established shortly after the purchase of Double Oak Farm in 1994 with the 3.0-mile Parkers Creek Loop Trail. The trails were substantially enhanced in 2003 when ACLT extended the Horse Swamp Trail to Goldstein Bay Farm (3.0 miles, round trip) for the occasion of the Parkers Creek Celebration. In 2006, ACLT moved our offices to the North Side Trailhead location. In an attempt to encourage greater public awareness of the North Side trails, we have now replaced the sign at the entrance to Double Oak Farm with a new sign that makes clear to visitors that they are entering the property of the American Chestnut Land Trust and welcomes them with the message that the trails are open from "dawn to dusk."

This handsome new sandblasted redwood sign was partially funded by a grant from the Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium and the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority. The grant also funded the purchase of stone to expand the parking area at the ACLT office. Future enhancements are in the planning stages including installation of the recognizable brown signs produced by the State Highway Administration along major roadways, an expanded parking area for hikers, and a new visitor kiosk. These new enhancements to our North Side Trailhead will increase tourism to our site and public support for the American Chestnut Land Trust. We greatly appreciate the support of the Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium and its funding partner the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority for their assistance in encouraging the public to visit our site.

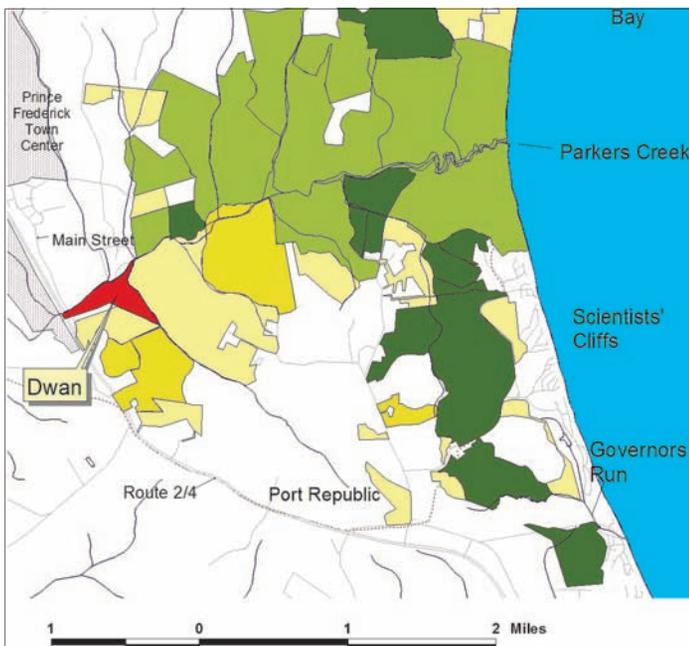


Land Preservation News

It is an honor to know Ralph and Mary Dwan. These two quiet, unassuming founding members of the American Chestnut Land Trust have provided leadership to the land trust throughout its history. From 1986-1998, Ralph Dwan served as both a member of the Board of Directors and an officer of the ACLT. His wife, Mary, has been at his side at every ACLT event.

Ralph served as the first President of the Board of Directors of the ACLT in 1987-1988, then took a stint as Secretary from 1989-1991, Treasurer from 1992-1993, and resumed the Presidency from 1994-1998, following the death of Aileen Hughes. In 1999, upon his retirement from the board the ACLT newsletter noted that, "his wise counsel and leadership did much to chart the direction and provide leadership to the organization."

In ACLT's files, I found an interesting memorandum from Ralph to the board dated February 14, 1994. In it Ralph announces the establishment of the Administration and Fundraising Committee.



-  Town Center
-  Dwan Property
-  Other Preserved Properties
-  ACLT Held Rural Legacy Easements
-  DNR Owned Properties
-  ACLT Owned Properties

He states that Paul Berry has agreed to serve as co-chair for administration and "I will act as interim co-chair for fundraising." Ralph has continued in this "interim" (now going on 13 years) position to the present day!



Ralph and Mary Dwan were honored at the 1998 annual meeting.

In 1999, at a time when ACLT had just completed paying down the five-year debt on Double Oak Farm, an opportunity arose to buy a property directly on Parkers Creek. The seller needed to go to settlement quickly and I am sure that my predecessor, Peg Niland, breathed a sigh of relief when Ralph and Mary Dwan purchased the property to ensure its preservation. When Ted Graham and I attended the settlement on the gift of the Dwan property to ACLT this month, Mary Dwan said "it was always our intent that ACLT should have this property." And now their generous gift has made that possible.

Throughout the years that Ralph and Mary Dwan owned the property, they have had a forest management plan in place which states that the "landowner objectives include hiking in the woods and observing the native wildlife." ACLT board member Paul Blayney has hunted there. He described it recently to the board as a spectacular piece of property. The property, 36 acres in size more or less, contains a significant wetland area located on the south side of the main stem of Parkers Creek just after it crosses Route 765. It also contains beautiful upland woods and changes in terrain. Its preservation helps to maintain the rural views along Route 765 before entering Prince Frederick from the south.

It is with gratitude that ACLT accepts the generous donation of the Dwan property from Ralph and Mary Dwan and expresses our sincere appreciation for their many years of dedicated service to and leadership of the organization.

Karen H. Edgecombe
Executive Director

Volunteer Spotlight – Skip & Flo Ford

It was one of those gorgeous spring evenings that make you fall in love with Maryland and never dream of leaving. There was the slightest hint of summer in the air, a touch of humidity, but just enough to make everything look romantically dewy. As I drove into Gate A of Scientists Cliffs, a wave of nostalgia swept over me as I remembered driving to the old Gate A cabin that served as the ACLT office for so many years.

But alas this was another time, and I was grateful for it, as I peered in my rear view mirror and saw my baby looking out the window. I was headed to see Skip and Flo Ford, for a long overdue visit. Flo greeted me in her welcoming way, making you feel as though you were one of her own, sweeping the baby into her arms. She's remarkably beautiful and gracious. She's the kind of person who can serve on the ACLT board, but also rolls up her sleeves and helps prepare and dish out lunches at an ACLT Annual Meeting.

I plopped down in a chair in their living room, with a majestic view of the bay behind me. Skip trotted in, looking not at all like Skip. He looked shy, not quite sure about being interviewed. You see Skip and Flo are a rare breed. They really believe in working hard. They believe in civic and community involvement. They believe in providing your skill set and time to make the community that you live in better. But they don't want any fuss made over it. I know this because it took me a long time to get them to agree to this interview. As Skip would say, "I'd rather spend my time working, not talking about working." That in a sentence is "Skip philosophy".

Edwin and Florence Ford, better known as Skip and Flo, made their way to Calvert County 20 years ago, shortly after the ACLT was formed, "from Joysey" as Skip says. Skip was working at PAX for ITT. "What was ITT?" I asked.

"International Telephone and Telegraph" Skip replied.

I laughed, "I just dated you Skip, I haven't heard 'telegraph' in the name of a working company in my lifetime...ever!"

I wish I could really give you a sense of Skip's laugh in words. It's rich, genuine, with a side of pipe tobacco to it. If you are lucky enough to know Skip, you know what I mean.

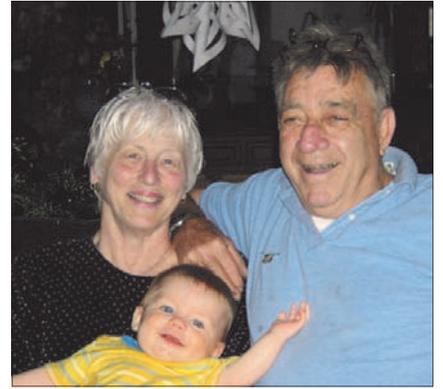
As I was asking how they came to first find out about the ACLT, Flo bouncing my baby on her knee, I knew

what the answer would be. "It was a given to join the ACLT when you moved to the Cliffs back then. Everyone was involved," Flo said.

"And Julie Nisonger threatened us and told us we had to join!" said Skip. I laughed out loud, because I know Julie and that sounds about right.

After 20 good, solid years working as a volunteer for the ACLT, I knew Skip's work history was impressive. Building bridges, cutting the original trails, taking down and salvaging barn wood from nearby farms sold into development, refurbishing and rebuilding barns, rebuilding a corn crib, fixing the plumbing, roof and basement at Double Oak, fixing plumbing at Warrior's Rest, and rebuilding the Gate A cabin to be the ACLT office are just a sampling of his ACLT resume. Skip shared that there were a few people who wanted to tear down the Gate A cabin at the time, but he and Sam Hughes were resolved to save it. "Sam and I rebuilt the Gate A house together. Sam couldn't walk. He was 75-years-old or so and hammered, nailed, sawed all sitting down. He was one of the hardest working people I've ever known." Thank goodness they did, as the charming little cabin served well as the ACLT office for more than 14 years and now serves as a residence. I could see how much respect Skip had for Sam and his work by the expression on his face, his words, and his tone. I also could hear his reverence for good, hard-working people. Skip respects hard work. He embraces it. And he considers the reward of volunteerism to be working alongside others who know what hard work is all about.

Don't think for a minute that Skip's volunteerism stops there. He honors his wife with incredible volunteer hours at her church, St. John Vianney in Prince Frederick. "We just finished off the basement of the church. I know a lot about residential construction, but didn't know much about commercial [construction]. I learned a lot on this project. Logged 250 hours they tell me. I worked alongside great people. Great, hardworking people. I'm not Catholic, but



after this I'm half Catholic!" laughs Skip. His involvement with the Scientists Cliffs community is just as impressive. The Monday following this interview he was planning to build two decks on the Community House. On Wednesday he is headed to New York where he and Flo spend a good portion of the year volunteering at a 150-acre camp established in 1919 with the help of their grandparents. Skip takes care of maintenance around the nearly 100-year-old campgrounds and has been doing so for years because of the special connection he and Flo have with the camp. "Our parents had cabins there when we were kids. We spent summers there when we were raising our kids, and now our kids bring our grandkids. It is tradition," adds Flo.

To this day I have a group of volunteers, including Skip, Arnie [Petty], Ken [Romney], and others who I call when we really need an expert on site. "The heavy lifting needs to be left to the young now," adds Skip. It's hard for some of us to accept, but he's right. He has an amazing retirement career record, his knowledge is irreplaceable, but the time has come for him to volunteer as a mentor, a teacher, an advisor and leave the physically demanding tasks to others.

Skip and Flo have been a part of the ACLT nearly since its inception. Between the two of them their volunteerism reaches out to all corners of the ACLT. Flo has been a faithful volunteer serving on the ACLT Board of Directors from 1993-1998, "once again credit that to Julie [Nisonger] and Alan [Wilson], the best arm twisters I know!" she remarks. You can also find her preparing lunches for ACLT Annual Meetings, and routinely preparing newsletters and invitations for bulk mailings out of her home, an enormous help to the ACLT office staff. The ACLT is grateful to them for all of their years of service. I'm grateful for their overall philosophy of civic involvement. If it wasn't for them and people like them, our world would suffer with more gaps in desperately needed community services. "Get involved and you'll be better for it. You'll have better health and a longer, happier life. You'll meet and work alongside great people too. People like Arnie [Petty], Paul [Blayney] and Ken [Romney]. Together we're the four musketeers."

Skip Ford. Good, hardworking, caring guy with a strong work ethic, an enormous sense of community, a generous Flo by his side, and an endless array of one-liners. If you put all of his one-liners together you have yourself a comedic, inspiring, genuine life philosophy, such as "I'd rather spend my time working, not talking about working."

Seaona deGennaro
Community Relations Coordinator

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

real time integration to the database. If you prefer, you will be able to receive our quarterly newsletter, *The Watershed Observer*, electronically thereby saving costs of printing, labels, folding, tabs, and postage (not to mention saving trees).

As soon as our existing member data has been converted to the new eTapestry database and tested, we will post a form on our website that will enable you to "opt in" to the new ACLT electronic community. You will have the opportunity to elect what types of communications you wish to receive including membership renewal notices, volunteer opportunities, event notifications, notices from the ACLT advocacy alert system discussed in Ted Graham's column, and electronic copies of *The Watershed Observer*. You will be able to renew your membership or make other contributions online, register your volunteer interests and report your volunteer hours online, and eventually register for ACLT events online.

The Network for Good, the internet's largest nonprofit giving portal, has processed \$100 million in online donations to more than 23,000 charities since its inception in 2001. While online donations still represents only 2-3% of all individual charitable giving in the United States, the Network for Good predicts that online charitable giving is expected to follow on the heels of trends for online shopping and online banking—that is, to grow exponentially. The number one reason donors say they give online is convenience: it is easier than writing a check.

We promise, as always, to treat your member information confidentially, including your email address, and to be judicious about the number of email communications you receive from us. We also promise to continue to send communications to you by mail if that is your preference. Look for an upcoming announcement when you can opt into the ACLT electronic community!

Karen Edgecombe
Executive Director

Land Manager's Corner

Focusing on Non-Native Invasive Plants

Over the last year, ACLT's land management program has increased its focus on non-native invasive plant control. ACLT worked with Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to design a program on the watershed scale that includes stewardship, community involvement and public education. As part of this program ACLT has instituted regular volunteer workdays, invasive control training, public outreach events, brochures and PowerPoint presentations all in the hope of reducing the number of invasive plants in the Parkers Creek and Governor Run watersheds. The main purpose of the plan is to maintain and increase habitat for some of the rare and endangered species of plants and animals, which are uniquely here. This increased focus on invasives has occurred for several reasons.

One reason is that although many of the non-native invasive species have been here for a long time, they are gaining a greater foothold due to their ability to utilize the higher levels of carbon in the atmosphere. American colonists (who traditionally used it as roof thatching) probably brought European Phragmites to the area. Many other non-native plants were brought in as ornamental plants such as English Ivy or as culinary plants such as Garlic Mustard. Some invasive plants were even brought into the country to solve problems like soil erosion; lespedeza and kudzu were highly promoted by USDA. Back in the 1940s and 1950s plant pathologists, Flippo and Annie Gravatt, introduced many ornamental plants to the properties on the south side of Parkers Creek including a very hardy variety of Oriental bittersweet and several varieties of bamboo, as well as others. Other invasive plants have been brought to the U.S. by accident, hitchhiking in boat ballast or as packing material (such as Asian Stilt Grass or Paulownia tree seedpods).

These non-native plants are thriving better and out-competing our native plants. By utiliz-

ing higher levels of atmospheric carbon they grow stronger, faster, and some can even change soil chemistry so that native plants cannot grow. Without intervention now, we will lose many species of beautiful and useful native plants. Native plants provide food sources and habitats for animal species such as native butterflies, birds, and amphibians.

An example is the story of Garlic Mustard.

These biannual plants are a culinary plant, which was brought from Europe. The shade tolerant plant escapes kitchen gardens easily and spreads quickly across the forest floor. They have white flowers to which West Virginia White Butterflies are attracted and then lay their eggs on the leaves. The normal host plant for this native butterfly is the native white turtlehead. When the eggs hatch and the larvae (caterpillars) try to eat the leaves of the Garlic Mustard they die. Garlic Mustard also changes soil chemistry affecting other native wildflowers (including spring beauties, bloodroot, toothworts, trilliums, etc.). It makes the soil toxic to salamanders and a variety of insects that inhabit soil. Butterfly Bush is another flowering garden plant that is a "dead-end" for native butterfly species whose larvae cannot eat the leaves, although the adults are highly attracted to the nectar and color of the flowers.

A second reason for the focus on non-native species is that funding has been available to help us launch an aggressive program to both remove invasives and to protect rare and endangered species



Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*). Photos by David Farr.

in our watersheds. The funding has come through the DNR Landowner Incentive Program (LIP). The grant was designed to build capacity in our invasive control program. The funding also helped us to purchase necessary equipment, establish Vine Vindicator training programs, to initiate regular workdays and to develop the Vine Vindicators volunteer team. It is also helping us to offer a paid summer internship. It allowed us to hold public outreach and education events. Last year, the Master Gardeners and DNR experts spoke at the Calvert Library, Prince Frederick on “The Bitterness of Bittersweet and Bamboozled by Bamboo: Creating a healthy landscape in your own backyard” so that homeowners could be empowered to rid their yards of invasives and plant natives.

ACLT’s land management program has been dealing with the problem of non-native invasive plants for a long time. Dan Sampson did a lot of work on invasive plants during his time as Land Manager. Even before ACLT had a paid Land Manager, volunteers spent countless hours freeing trees from vines and cutting bamboo to keep trails clear. Our program now is really nothing new for ACLT; it is, however, enhanced by both funding and by a renewed volunteer enthusiasm.

There are several ways you can help this effort:

1. Join us for workdays:
Weed Whacking Wednesdays – just 2 hours (10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon), working together on Wednesday mornings can transform a small area and over a few weeks change a landscape.
Vine Vindicator Workdays – a larger workday removing invasive plants from ACLT properties (4th Saturday of each month (9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon) – meet like-minded people.
Arboretum Workdays (TBA) – so many interesting (non-invasive) trees and shrubs have been freed of vines – discover a gem in hiding.
2. Plant native plants or be sure that the non-natives you plant are not considered invasive. When in doubt do not plant it.
3. Teach about native plants – there are lots of ways to help! Tell your garden club, talk to your

friends, talk about it to your children, become a speaker.

4. Stay on trails; keep pets on leashes – we see a correlation between hiking corridors and invasive areas. Hiking boots and pet fur carry a lot of seeds and spread them. We cannot do very much about the birds and other animals, but we can control our own actions.
5. Donate equipment. We go through a lot of loppers, enough said.

To learn more: Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas (National Park Service, US Fish & Wildlife Service); Non-native Invasive Plants of Southern Forests (USDA Forest Service); <http://www.invasive.org>; <http://www.ma-eppc.org>; <http://www.mdflora.org>.

Liz Stoffel
Land Manager

2007 Canoe Trip Schedule

June 23 – Canoe Trip 9 a.m. – noon

July 21 – Canoe Trip 8 a.m. – 11 a.m.

August 18 – Sunset Canoe Trip 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.

September 8 – Harvest Time Canoe Trip
12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

September 22 – Canoe Trip
10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

October 13 – Fall Colors Canoe Trip
3:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Depart from Warrior's Rest and enjoy a scenic, volunteer guided tour of Parkers Creek. **Reservations are required.** Please call us at 410-414-3400 or e-mail us at info@actweb.org for more information or to make your reservation.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT ...

New Members

The ACLT would like to welcome the following new members who have joined since the Winter 2007 Newsletter:

Mr. & Mrs. Frederick Bumgarner
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Lee
Ms. Elaine Strong

Spring Appeal

The Staff and the Board of Directors wishes to thank the following members who made a contribution to the 2007 Spring Appeal

Mr. & Mrs. Roger A. Anderson
Mr. & Mrs. John E. Bailey
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Bailey
Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Benning
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Berry
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Dennett
Cdr. & Mrs. Freeman Dodsworth
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis A. Drumm
Mrs. Elaine Cochran Dunkle
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Dwan
Dr. & Mrs. Glenn Edgcombe
Mr. Carl Fleischhauer &
Ms. Paula Johnson
Mrs. Magda Freeman
Mrs. Vera S. Graham
Dr. Edward U. Graham
Mr. & Mrs. Edward P. Greene
Mr. & Mrs. Carlton Greene
Mr. Jamie Greene
Ms. Joy Bartholomew &
Dr. William Haile, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Hildebrand
Mr. & Mrs. Conrad Hoska
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Howerton
Ms. Elizabeth L. Johnston
Mr. & Dr. William D. Johnston, III
Ms. Norma Allen Lesser
Mr. & Mrs. John H. Lewis
Mr. & Mrs. Walter Lippold
Mr. & Mrs. John Little/Flag Harbor
Marine Service
Mr. & Mrs. Gregory W. Locraft
Mr. & Mrs. Ron Magnussen
Mr. Michael A. Makuch &
Ms. Anne Warner
Rev. Jack McClendon
Mr. Frank Meador/Bayside
Chevrolet Buick, Inc.
Mr. Donald Mighell
Mr. & Mrs. Brian O'Neill
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Phillips

Dr. & Mrs. Austin P. Platt
Rev. William M. Plummer
Mr. Glen Pyles
Mrs. Ann K. Ross
Mr. John Spence
Mrs. Rosalind Springsteen
Mr. & Mrs. Steven Stadelman
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Stathis
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Steller, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Straka
Mr. Patrick Simpson &
Ms. Patricia Tantum
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Teich
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Turco
Ms. Martha Turner
Ms. Marcia Van Gemert
Mrs. Alene M. Warnock
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Webster
Mr. Robert W. Wilden
Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Wood
Ms. Jeanne C. Young
Ms. Roberta Safer & Mr. Klaus Zwilsky

General Contributions and Designated Gifts

Thank you to the following for your generous gifts:

Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Armstrong (two photographs of a beaver and pair of wood ducks on Gravatt West beaver pond)
Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Burke
Mrs. Elaine C. Dunkle - to honor Ralph Dwan recovering from heart surgery
Mr. & Mrs. Maurice Fried (Super Bowl)
Mr. Brian J. Griffin
Honeywell (matching gift from Mr. Brian J. Griffin)
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Howe
Drs. Nancy & Kent Mountford
Mr. Ian N. Ross & Ms. Jody Edwards Trust
Wood & Whitacre Contractors - roofing materials for the Percy Howard Barn

Gift Memberships

Thank you to the following members who donated a gift membership since our last newsletter:
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Berry

Memorial Contributions

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

Donations in memory of Joseph Nisonger who was a Charter Member and longtime volunteer

Dr. & Mrs. Ernest Ambler
Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Benning
Dr. Christine & Col. Daniel Boesz
Mr. & Mrs. David Bonior
Mr. & Mrs. Frank R. Caldwell
Mr. & Mrs. John C. Campbell
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Dennett
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Dodson
Ms. Ethel Dutky & Mr. Alvin Wilson
Dr. & Mrs. Glenn Edgcombe
Ms. Ellie Fields
Ms. Magda Freeman
Mrs. Lucille Fuson
Dr. Edward Graham
Ms. Lois M. Guda
Mr. & Mrs. James Hollowell
Ms. Anne Cole Johnston
Ms. Elizabeth L. Johnston
Mr. & Mrs. John Little, Flag Harbor Marine Service
Ms. Joanne Longhill & Mr. James Borell
Mr. & Mrs. John M. Lucas
Mrs. Ella Lee Manning
Mr. Mark Nisonger &
Ms. Elaine Remmers
Mrs. Betty Porter
Mr. & Mrs. Warren E. Prince
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Ruhling
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Stathis
Mr. Robert S. Trucksis
Col. Caroline E. Van Mason, USA (Ret.)
Ms. Louise Woerner &
Mr. Don Kollmorgen
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Yuill

In memory of Margaret Cameron:
The Double Oak Hunt Club

In memory of John Parker, Sr.:
Dr. Christine & Col. Daniel Boesz

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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

American Chestnut Land Trust, Inc.
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