

Watershed Observer



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SEE [HTTP://ACLTWEB.ORG](http://acltweb.org) OR PAGE 14
FOR FULL CALENDAR AND
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

Bird and Birders Appreciate ACLT

People driving by the ACLT Port Republic trailhead in late spring may have noticed an unusual amount of cars in the parking lot, especially on the weekend of May 20–22. The occasion was the coincidence of the presence of a rare Swainson's Warbler in the ACLT woods and the Maryland Ornithological Society's annual conference, held this year at Solomon's Island.

The initial sighting took place on the second of three walks scheduled for conference participants, for whom local field trips are a main attraction. I led a group of about twenty people on a walk that started at 7:30 on Saturday morning, May 21. People were already impressed with the trails and the abundance of bird species, when toward the end of the walk we heard a bird whose song we couldn't identify. (My husband and I had heard this bird five days earlier and tried to convince ourselves that it was a Louisiana Waterthrush.) Someone suggested that the mystery bird sounded like a Swainson's Warbler, rare even in its normal habitat of the southeastern United States. While I herded the rest of the group back to the parking lot, being under strict orders to get them back to Solomon's in time for lunch, a group of five stayed to look for the bird. I was still in the parking lot for their triumphant return, when they confirmed that they had seen it and it was indeed a Swainson's Warbler.

The nearest known nesting place of the Swainson's Warbler is the Great Dismal Swamp in southernmost Virginia. A few bird sightings have been reported on Maryland's lower Eastern Shore, but nesting has not been confirmed, and such observations are not publicized for fear of attracting attention that might jeopardize the bird's welfare. It is described as secretive and a skulker; not an "easy" bird.



©George Jett
Swainson Warbler

Courtesy of George Jett

This was a great opportunity for birders to see and hear an unusual species, for many of us a "life bird". The normally shy warbler was singing loudly and scuffling around in leaves quite visibly. Those who got a good

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 14)



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From the President's Desk ...

Delegate Praises American Chestnut Land Trust For Environmental Preservation Success

The support of local legislators is indispensable to ACLT's efforts in land conservation. We were pleased to receive the following from Delegate Sue Kullen, reporting on the latest local land preservation successes. On behalf of the ACLT, I express our deep appreciation to her for her continuing commitment to land conservation. [Ted Graham, President, ACLT]

300 Acres of Calvert Land Recently Named Part of Maryland Rural Legacy Program

Recently I had the honor of writing a press release announcing the preservation of three properties totaling almost 300 acres through their inclusion in Maryland's Rural Legacy Program. Now I share that news with fellow ACLT members: The Maryland Board of Public Works voted in June to approve more than \$1.5 million in funds for forest and farmland preservation in Calvert County.

The addition of these properties to Maryland's Rural Legacy Program will preserve approximately 300 acres of land along the Chesapeake Bay and Patuxent River. One privately owned farm of 116 acres, protected by a Rural Legacy conservation easement, is on St. Leonard Creek, a tributary of the Patuxent and owned by the Campbell family. The other two properties, 185 forested acres, are in the Parkers Creek watershed. The 153-acre Goldstein property located south of Dares Beach Road and adjoining ACLT managed land, will now be owned by Calvert County. The other parcel, ACLT's Trikas property, will have another layer of protection through a conservation easement. With more than 60% of its watershed permanently protected, Parkers Creek is one of the most pristine watersheds on the west side of the Chesapeake Bay.

These properties will protect the wilderness character of the Parkers Creek Nature Preserve, a Chesapeake Gateways site, and become a part of the 15-mile trail system within 3,000 continuous acres of land managed by the American Chestnut Land Trust.

Improving the health of the Chesapeake Bay by protecting Calvert's key forest and farmland habitats are important priorities for me. I am proud to work with the American Chestnut Land Trust to protect our environment for future generations. It was a privilege for me to write a letter to the Governor supporting these projects in response to Peg Niland's request for assistance.

As Peg told me, "The inclusion of these properties in the Rural Legacy Program is significant because it will add to the growing greenbelt across the County and protect the waters of the Parkers Creek watershed, and the treasured Chesapeake Bay."

With the assistance of the American Chestnut Land Trust, Calvert County was the first county in Maryland to reach its original Rural Legacy goal, and has been successfully building on that accomplishment ever since.

My husband, Steve, and I joined the ACLT in August, 1987 and have watched the trust grow from the original 433-acre Gravatt tracts to owning and/or managing almost 3,000 acres in the Parkers Creek and Governor's Run watersheds. It has been a privilege and an honor to be a member and I look forward to ACLT's 20th anniversary next year and being available to assist you with your future endeavors as your Delegate.

Sue Kullen, House of Delegates

AROUND ACLT ...

Calvert County Chamber of Commerce visits Parkers Creek

Early spring is a beautiful time of the year on ACLT properties. The trees and flowers are budding and pesky insects are still at bay. Favorable weather was the perfect backdrop for the ACLT's eco-tourism partnership with the Calvert County Chamber of Commerce. The May 21, 2005 eco-tourism event was a relaxing "biathlon" of sorts, incorporating both hiking and canoeing. As Calvert County becomes more and more of a tourist destination, a place to commune with the outdoors, whether by canoe or by foot, ensures that the ACLT will be a desirable stop. To show the local community who we are and what we do, we wanted them to experience the land first hand and what better way to do so than an eco-tour?

Double Oak Farm served as the meeting place in the morning for local business owners, ACLT staff, and volunteers. Once there, attendees were split into two groups. The first group went on a guided hike paralleling Parkers Creek, lead by board member Dave Farr and executive director Peg Niland. Dave Farr's naturalist capabilities ensured that each hiker learned something about the local flora and fauna, while Peg Niland offered insight into the more than 101 local businesses that the ACLT supports on an annual basis. Simultaneously the second group was taken to Warrior's Rest by our local transportation service, Smart Ride, for a guided canoe trip up Parkers Creek. Canoeists were lead by board member Denise Breitburg, staff Liz Stoffel and Seona DeGennaro. On the water, red-winged blackbirds balanced on top of native *Spartina* marsh grass while a breeze kept everyone a comfortable temperature. At the top of the creek, where remnants of the old bridge re-

main, the groups switched places whereby the hikers canoed down the creek and the canoeists hiked back to Double Oak. At the end of the afternoon, everyone convened at Double Oak Farm for lunch at the picnic pavilion, the perfect end to a lovely event.

Thank you to all those who participated in our first eco-tourism event, Kathy Daniels and son Andrew, Tommy Godbold of The Accessory Zone, Lloyd Harrison of Mercantile Southern Maryland Bank, Jen Seidel of Design Mason Graphics, Joseph Seidel, James Shepherd of Calvert County Department of Economic Development, Dave Shepherd of Choice Home Center and his sons Jackson and Arley, Augie Selckmann of the Calvert Independent, Robyn Truslow of Calvert County Prince Frederick Branch Library, Eric Truslow and to ACLT board members Denise Breitburg, Andrea Clarke, Dave Farr, Ted Graham and Harriet Yaffe for your attendance and support.

Seona DeGennaro
Community Relations Coordinator

Mind, Body, Spirit Day at Annmarie Garden

On a beautiful day in May, the ACLT set up a booth at Annmarie Garden's *Mind, Body, Spirit Day* to spread the word of majestic guided canoe trips on Parkers Creek and winding trails open to the public. Visitors to this 3rd annual event were able to nourish and restore their mind, body and spirit with free massage, reflexology, art activities, and lavender lemonade all the while learning about local artisans, businesses and non-profits offering holistic and eco-friendly tips and products.

The ACLT offered the promise of spring gardening with native plants by providing examples and information on non-native invasive species in our area and appropriate native alternatives. Visitors were amazed to learn that the seemingly helpful butterfly bush, which so many of us have in our yard, is not only a non-native invasive species but detrimental to butterflies. While the list of non-native invasive species is long, the good news is the list of native alternatives is longer. For more infor-



Courtesy of the Calvert Independent, photograph by Augie Selckmann.
From left to right: Robyn & Eric Truslow, Tommy Godbold & Lloyd Harrison, Denise Breitburg & Liz Stoffel, Jen & Joseph Seidel paddle up Parkers Creek.

mation on non-native invasive plants and the native counterparts, visit the Maryland Department of Natural Resources at: <http://www.dnr.state.md.us>.

For those of you unfamiliar with Annmarie Garden located just 15 miles south of the ACLT, it is a thirty-acre sculpture park, which provides a place for the public to commune with both nature and art. It not only boasts a beautiful location, sitting on the peaceful St. John's Creek, but is intellectually inspiring as one admires creative and unique sculptures. I feel quite at home there, as it seems the perfect backdrop for the ACLT to beckon visitors to our trails and onto Parkers Creek. For more information and directions to the garden, open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, go to www.annmariegarden.org. Do tell them the ACLT sent you.

Seaona DeGennaro
Community Relations Coordinator



Community Relations Coordinator, Seaona DeGennaro spreads the word of planting native species whenever possible at *Mind, Body, Spirit Day*.



A Youth Garden for the Butterflies

There are few things we love seeing more than children enjoying and interacting with the outdoors. So when Julie Trollinger, Girl Scout Troop No. 5145 leader contacted us and asked if we'd like to work with her Lusby troop on their service project, our smiles widened in the office. "My girls are working on their Bronze award, the highest award that can be earned as a junior scout. They've decided they want to do something that benefits the ecosystem in our community and have worked through various badges through the year towards this goal," Julie said. How could we resist that?

Thanks to the research of this troop of girls and land manager Liz Stoffel's expertise, a youth butterfly garden was created at the Port Republic trailhead. The girls first assessed what kinds of plants were already growing in the area of the proposed butterfly garden. They identified clover, grasses, plantain, vetch, grapes, raspberries, wild rose, tulip poplar and cherry trees. They then found that the preexisting plants and trees were able to support various caterpillar species such as, Clouded Sulphur, Common Buckeye,



Hairstreaks, Mourning Cloak, Orange Sulphur, Red Spotted Purple, Tiger Swallowtail, and Viceroy. Based upon the caterpillar host plants already present, the girls planted native flowers including blackeyed Susan (*Rudbeckia*), orange butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), purple coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*), and blazing star (*Liatris spicata*).

Every weekday I watch as girl scouts come in the afternoon to follow up with their little plot of land, to water the plants that they've put in the ground, add mulch to the garden and plant more flowers. Taking a moment to watch them provides a glimpse of their interaction with nature, the soil, the sun, the birds, and the butterflies and you hope it will be a lasting fond memory for them. You hope that somehow they will remember the ACLT when they are grown and that they will have a greater appreciation for the natural world for having been a girl scout, in troop No. 5145, in Calvert County, in the spring of 2005.

Seaona DeGennaro
Community Relations Coordinator

Volunteer Spotlight – Ed Haack

I remember Earth Day 2004 as if it were yesterday. It was my first Earth Day with the ACLT as the new volunteer coordinator and I was ready to rally the troops, direct volunteers to project sites, and fill up dumpsters! I also remember the arrival of a brand new volunteer, Mr. Ed Haack. He had called the office a few days before the event to find out who The American Chestnut Land Trust was after reading a recent op-ed article in the local paper about our annual Earth Day. He was inspired by the article and wanted to get involved. He certainly had called the right place to “get involved” and was talking to the right person.

On that sunny April morning Ed arrived with a big smile, a brand new Toyota 4-runner that he offered for us to use (it still had the new car smell and I couldn't bring myself to throw garbage in it), and gloves on. It still amazes me that he had no prior knowledge of the ACLT, yet he showed up on a Saturday, sleeves rolled, ready to pick trash up with us. I now know it's because Ed has something special; he's got gusto, pure gusto. You know, the stuff that motivates people to do spectacular things, even if they aren't familiar with the area, the group or the people involved.

Since then Ed has returned to volunteer his services at Earth Day 2005, has joined

the ACLT cemetery crew working to restore the historic Hance-Chesley cemetery, and is a volunteer canoe guide on Parkers Creek for the ACLT. He also periodically calls or stops by the office to find out if there are any volunteer projects on the horizon. Furthermore he lends his time and energy as a faithful volunteer to the Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum.

When asked how he came to call Calvert County his home, he explains that as a child he vacationed at his parent's summer house in Deale, which they built in the 1930's. He also spent time in Chesapeake Beach as a child, back when there was a working wooden roller coaster. He recalls that there was nothing but rolling farmland when he first moved to Owings in 1975, but just five years later things started to drastically change.



On May 24th, 2005, the project to restore the Hance-Chesley Cemetery was presented an award for outstanding contribution to the preservation of Calvert County's heritage from the Board of County Commissioners.

The volunteer Hance-Chesley Cemetery Crew. Front row (from left to right): “Space” the dog, Janice Rodgers, Sue Curley. Back row (from left to right): Carl Fleischhauer, Ed Haack.

Everyone knows at least one person (hopefully more) who is eternally positive, outstandingly upbeat and knows how to get things done. That is Ed Haack. When asked what the rewards are of being a volunteer for the ACLT he responds that “the people at ACLT make me feel welcome and needed. The entire atmosphere is positive. You're able to get things accomplished with great people around you.” He loves his work on the cemetery restoration crew, adding that they are a wonderful group to work with. He feels a great sense of reward being a participant of Earth Day noting that you are not only able to pitch in to pick up your community, but you're able to socialize and meet other people who live in the same county and enjoy the same sense of duty to the outdoors.

At the end of Ed's interview he reminded me of an old wine bottle he found down in a ravine on his

first ACLT Earth Day.

When he uncovered it from the soil and leaf debris, he found a natural terrarium existing inside, complete with soil and ferns. I actually did recall the terrarium as it was a phenomenal example of nature's adaptation to human impact. I remember that he was so excited to find it remarking, “You never know what treasure you'll find at the ACLT.” What a fitting statement from a volunteer who is truly a treasure to us.

Seaona DeGennaro
Community Relations

Volunteering Opportunities

Volunteers are so important to the ACLT. From invasive species removal to newsletter folding and stamping, we need lots of volunteers with an array of talents, specialties and interests. Here are just a few on the immediate horizon.

Barn Maintenance

With 11 barns on ACLT properties and many more farm outbuildings, it is imperative that the ACLT have a crew of volunteers trained and passionate about barn restoration and maintenance. Volunteers needed with light and heavy construction experience.

Canoe Guides

Every year from spring until fall the ACLT hosts guided canoe trips on Parkers Creek. Trips are scheduled at different times of the day on a Saturday (depending on the tide) and take about three hours. Canoe guides are responsible for not only “guiding” canoes, but also pointing out some of the natural wonders of the area. Look for canoe guide training sessions in upcoming ACLT newsletters.

Hance-Chesley Cemetery Crew

Join the crew that works to restore and maintain this historic cemetery located on ACLT property. Learn about the history of the cemetery, gravestone repair and cemetery gardening.

Holly Arboretum

The Holly Arboretum at Warrior’s Rest boasts more than 150 varieties of holly, not to mention unusual tree varieties such as Sequoia, Styrax obassia, Chinese fir and many deciduous and evergreen magnolias. Trees in the arboretum not only need pruning during the dormant season, but also require ongoing vine and weed removal at their bases.

Naturalists

Volunteer naturalists are needed to lead guided hikes at different times of the year. We will provide training and ask that volunteers are available to lead one or two hikes per year.

Outreach Events

The ACLT hosts a variety of events each year and also participates in other local organizations events by hosting a booth. We need people who enjoy setting up and decorating a booth, interacting with many different people, handing out ACLT information and smiling!

Trail Mowers

From spring until fall the ACLT needs people to mow grass on trails and surrounding areas. The ACLT supplies all of the necessary equipment and gas, a defined area, and the frequency in which the area needs to be cut.

Vine Vindicators

Non-native invasive species are a nuisance and detrimental to the health of native species on ACLT properties. The ACLT will provide instruction on where invasive plants and vines are of the greatest threat, how and when to remove them, and how and why they are here. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn about native species in the mid-Atlantic area and what you can do to help create healthy landscapes.

Water Quality Monitors

Become a volunteer water quality monitor and collect water samples at various sites on Parkers Creek for the purpose of water quality monitoring. Training provided

For more information, contact Seaona DeGennaro, Community Relations Coordinator at 410-586-1570 or info@acltweb.org.

LAND MANAGER'S CORNER



The mouth of Parkers Creek and beaches of Warrior Rest and Goldstein Bay Farm serve as outdoor classrooms and laboratories for the ACLT's staff, volunteers and visitors.

The Beaches and Preserved Areas of Warrior's Rest and Goldstein Property

One of my goals as the ACLT's Land Manager is to find ways to best balance public desire to access certain properties bought with public money, with the purposes of why those properties were purchased by the state of Maryland. The state owned properties were purchased as a nature preserve and as one of the last remaining habitats for endangered species (such as the Northeastern and Puritan tiger beetles). These properties include Warriors Rest, its beaches, the beaches of the Goldstein Bay property, Parkers Creek marsh, and the critical habitat area (1000-foot buffer off the creek and bay) along Parkers Creek. ACLT does not own these properties, but manages them as directed by written agreement with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

After reading files from previous years, it appears that other ACLT Land Managers and Warriors Rest tenants have worked to balance human access and ecological needs as well within the confines of our management agreement. I thought that writing a **clear message** about what is acceptable for each of us to do when on the beach and the preserved areas might help achieve this "balancing act".

First, and foremost, I will define the parameters of these properties. **The beach and cliffs** are part of the nature preserve. It begins shortly after Scientists Cliffs

Gate E and continues north on the other side of Parkers Creek over to White Cliff Farm (private property). **Goldstein Bay Farm** is accessible only by hiking trails, which begin at Double Oak Farm. One must hike from Double Oak Farm and return back to Double Oak Farm. **The Parkers Creek** marsh and critical habitat area incorporate the creek itself and the surrounding properties. **Warriors Rest** is 230 protected acres from the end of Scientists Cliffs Road to Parkers Creek and the beach. As a nature preserve, **Warriors Rest** has **limited public access**. It is accessible by **PERMIT ONLY** for **educational and research purposes**. Essentially, Warriors Rest is an outdoor laboratory and classroom. Warriors Rest is also open for a limited number of public events such as ACLT Canoe Trips and the ACLT Greens Sale.

Appropriate Activities

The Beach and Cliffs	Goldstein Bay Farm	Parkers Creek	Warriors Rest
Passive recreation*	Passive recreation*	Passive recreation*	Research
			Education
			Canoe Trips
			ACLT Greens Sale

*Passive recreation (low impact activities): birding, photography, hiking, canoeing, kayaking, picnicking. Please use "Leave No Trace" principles when in these areas.

Inappropriate Activities

The Beach and Cliffs	Goldstein Bay Farm	Parkers Creek	Warriors Rest
Camping	Camping	Camping	Unauthorized access
Fires	Fires	Fires	N/A
Digging	Digging	Digging	N/A
Climbing			N/A
ATVs or Bicycles	ATVs or Bicycles	ATVs or Bicycles	N/A

Drugs and public nudity are against the law and violators will be prosecuted. We should not have to mention this, but several recent abuses of both necessitate this warning.

The **Goldstein Bay Farm** hiking trails are for passive recreation and are not to be used for ATVs or bicycles. Going off-trail or using unauthorized vehicles not only causes erosion but also helps introduce non-native invasive plant seeds into some areas that are otherwise untouched. These seeds can bring ecological havoc into some of the last remaining habitat areas for unique Maryland species.

The ACLT prohibits camping, fires and digging in both **the beach and the cliffs**, as they need to be **left in their natural state**. Aggressive activities disturb the plants, nesting birds, turtles, beetles and other wildlife. Climbing the cliffs or the ravines to access Warrior's Rest or Goldstein Bay Farm is prohibited. Nor should hikers go off trail to access the beach, cliffs, and ravines when hiking the trails from Double Oak Farm to Goldstein Bay Farm. This is exceedingly dangerous. The cliffs

are composed of an unstable clay, sand and shell composition which poses a liability. Fossil extraction from the cliffs is granted, **only with special permission, to the Calvert Marine Museum** (permission is reviewed and approved by both the ACLT and Maryland DNR). DNR and the ACLT do not consider fossil collecting passive recreation. As an outdoor classroom, alcohol or drugs are inappropriate. The beach, although it sometimes looks deserted, **is not clothing optional** – again, these properties are used as outdoor classrooms and research areas.

I am hoping that all ACLT members will share in the stewardship of Warriors Rest, its beaches, the beaches of the Goldstein Bay property, Parkers Creek marsh, and the critical habitat area along Parkers Creek. I hope you will remember this information when you come to visit these areas and share this information with your guests. We can all enjoy these natural resources while still balancing ecological needs of the protected properties.

Elizabeth Stoffel
Land Manager

Managing Wildlife: An Update on ACLT's Beaver Pond

Managing beavers? Is it, perhaps, like herding cats?

I think that thought goes through the minds of wildlife biologists and natural resource managers alike, when dealing with beavers.

Logically, beavers are a truly remarkable species, a **keystone** species. **Keystone** refers to species that change habitat in a given area, such as elephants that can turn jungle into grass-filled plains. Likewise, beavers building dams can turn upland forests into wetlands. Eventually, their ponds silt-in and lush meadows are born inside a forest. At one time when North America was mostly deciduous forest, there must have been a large number of wetlands and lush meadows because the beaver population was estimated at about 400 million!

To those of you who have hiked the Swamp Trail on the south side trails, you are aware of ACLT's current association with beavers. Short of trapping and relocating the beaver, we have attempted on numerous occasions to discourage them from building their dams, but in the end... they prevailed. The beaver have built *incredible* dams and have created an *incredible* pond. They have been busy girdling and cutting down trees which has opened the forest canopy and flooded trails

and boardwalks. In response, we have had to close part of the trail.

From a management standpoint, we are aware of the chance of increased mosquito populations, the possibility of beaver carrying Giardiasis ("beaver fever"), and we wonder what to do with an inaccessible bridge inside a



Hardworking beavers girdle trees to create a pond, stranding the boardwalk bridge in the middle.

lake of water. We have fielded complaints from unhappy hikers and put up signage warning that the trail is no longer a loop. It has impacted us in other ways, too. We are in the process of designing trailhead signage with maps. Do we change our maps? What about those millions of south side trail brochures that are already printed?

The beaver pond is not all negatives though. It has brought diversification to the forest and there are now a number of species there that weren't seen in this area before such as the wetland plant *Arrow arum*, and Great Blue Herons. Furthermore, there are so many frogs in the pond that their evening songs are almost deafening which is why the mosquitoes are not as bad as we had imagined.

The beaver activity is challenging and needs to be addressed. The Land Management Committee has talked about all the possibilities. Do we remove the beaver and reclaim our trail? Do we relocate them to another ACLT property? Do we leave them and reroute the trail? Do we raise the old trail? Do we build observation areas? The committee decided that beaver are appropriate for this area and we will leave them alone and use their activity as an educational teaching tool on natural ecological change. The Swamp Trail ends are currently "destination only trails," meaning you have to go out and back the way you came. Over the next several months, we will be looking at different ways of utilizing the area better. One suggestion has been a low impact bridging system of logs or wire suspension. Another solution might be a floating boardwalk. Your ideas and your help are always welcome.

We encourage you to hike the Swamp Trail! It is truly amazing to see the beaver's architecture and to watch the birds and dragonflies that visit the pond. It is ecology in transition.

Elizabeth Stoffel
Land Manager

Equipment Needed

As your new Land Manager, I have discovered a need for re-instituting:

The Land Managers Wish List!

Are you cleaning your shed, garage, or workbench? Do you have well working tools that you don't need? Are you tired of them cluttering up your space? Would you like them to continue a useful life? Would you like a tax deduction? Call us!

We can use **all sorts of gardening tools:**

- Loppers
- Clippers
- Trenching shovels
- Rakes
- Pruning saws
- Chainsaws

We can also use **carpentry tools:**

- Screwdrivers
- Hammers
- Saws
- Drills
- Pliers

And **power tools:**

- Band, Jig, Radial Arm, and Circular Saws
- Planers
- Sanders
- Extension Cords

Are you wondering what we will do with your donation? We have miles of trails to tend, and acres of non-native invasive plants to attack. We have old barns, houses and outbuildings to repair and maintain. Help us by donating the tools ACLT volunteers need to get things done!

Please confirm our need for your donation by first contacting me by phone at 410-586-1570 or by email at land@acltweb.org



LAND PRESERVATION

Partners for Open Space

2005 Maryland General Assembly Session Results

Partners for Open Space is a statewide coalition of groups seeking to secure, save, and protect Maryland's land conservation programs. The 120+ member coalition includes a wide range of groups and is led by The Nature Conservancy, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Maryland Parks and Recreation Association, Maryland League of Conservation Voters Education Fund, 1000 Friends of Maryland, Trust for Public Land, and American Farmland Trust. The American Chestnut Land Trust is also a member.

The almost total diversion of dedicated land conservation funding for the last few years has sent a wake up call to the conservation, parks and recreation, agricultural preservation, and land trust communities. Partners for Open Space worked hard during the past legislative session to ensure that Maryland's nationally acclaimed land conservation programs— Program Open Space (POS), the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation, and Rural Legacy Program—were protected. Perhaps this quote from Del. Maggie McIntosh, Chair of Environmental Matters is best proof of our work:

The push to include the bills in the late flurry of legislation is backed by an "outcry" from Marylanders who want to safeguard conserved land, McIntosh said. Several lawmakers told her they received more calls and e-mails on this issue than on any other during the 90-day session, she said.

"The outcry that everyone heard and felt from their constituents was a resounding message to us here in the legislature – that these issues are important to our constituents," McIntosh said. Baltimore Sun, 4.08.05

The coalition had three goals this session:

1. To set up a better process for sale of conserved lands, and to include this concept in the state constitution to prevent easy change of this law,

2. Fight to restore funds to POS that were cut by the administration's budget and strike language stating that they would do this until 2009.
3. To set up a "firewall" to keep Program Open Space funds from being raided whenever the administration or legislature wants.

Results:

- Legislation was passed to set up a more transparent process for the sale of conserved lands.
- The "fire wall" concept was largely lost except for two provisions that were included in this bill: 1. Money taken from POS has to be repaid (but not until 2012). This means that now POS is not a "slush fund" but a "loan program", a small but important step. 2. All POS funds that are "over attainment", that is money that comes into the POS fund that is in excess of budget predications, will not be flipped into the General Fund but stay in POS. It is hard to believe we had to do that but we did. So we have a lot more work to do on the fire wall concept over the interim and very likely another fight to protect the POS budget next year.
- The Constitutional Amendment that gives legislative oversight on the sale of conserved lands passed. That action puts this issue on Maryland's ballot in 2006 for voter approval (SB 102).
- Finally, the legislature **restored over \$75 million of POS funds** that had been diverted by the administration to unrelated purposes. This means POS will have about \$120 million this year—still a cut of about \$90 million from this program but better news than POS has had in awhile.

These tremendous results show the hard work, determination, and skill of the members of Partners for Open Space. Our message was heard loud and clear. Yes, there is still plenty of work to do but the state elected officials are learning that the supporters behind Program Open Space and our conserved lands are many and strong.

Peg Niland, Executive Director

The “Partners for Open Space” Coalition

1000 Friends of Maryland
 American Chestnut Land Trust
 American Farmland Trust
 Anacostia Watershed Society
 Annapolis Conservancy Board
 Appalachian Mountain Club, DC Chapter
 Assateague Coastal Trust
 Audubon Maryland - DC
 Audubon Naturalist Society
 Baltimore Alliance for Great Urban Parks -
 BAGUP
 Baltimore City Heritage Area
 Baltimore City League of Environmental
 Voters
 Baltimore Regional Partnership
 Bay Ridge Trust
 Bowleys Quarters Improvement Association,
 Inc.
 Cecil Land Trust
 Chapman Forest Foundation
 Chesapeake Bay Foundation
 Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage
 Citizens Against the Racecourse - Allegheny
 County
 Citizens Planning and Housing Associa-
 tion - CPHA
 Clean Energy Communications
 Clean Water Action
 Cleanup Coalition
 Coalition for Smarter Growth
 Coalition of Anne Arundel Land Trusts
 (CAALT)
 Delmar Recreation Council
 Dorchester County Department of Tourism
 Eastern Shore Land Conservancy
 Eastside Youth Sports Committee
 Edible Chesapeake
 Environmental Defense
 Essex Sky Park Association
 F.A.R.M. - For a Rural Montgomery
 Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland
 Frederick Regional Action Network
 Friends of Frederick County
 Friends of Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park
 Friends of Harford, Inc.
 Friends of Recreation and Parks, Wicomico
 County
 Friends of the Earth
 Friends of the Patapsco Valley & Heritage
 Greenway
 Fruitland Recreation Commission
 Greater Sandy Spring Green Space, Inc.
 Gunpowder Valley Conservancy
 Harford Bird Club
 Herring Run Watershed Association
 Howard County Bird Club
 Jones Falls Watershed Association
 Joppa/Joppatowne Community Council
 Land Preservation Trust
 Magothy River Land Trust
 Mardela Recreation Council
 MD Alliance for Greenway Improvement &
 Conservation
 Maryland Coalition of Heritage Areas
 Maryland Conservation Council
 Maryland Land Trust Alliance
 Maryland League of Conservation Voters
 Education Fund
 Maryland Ornithological Society
 Maryland Recreation and Parks Association
 Maryland Saltwater Sport Fisherman’s
 Assn.- Perry Hall Chapter
 MaryPIRG
 Mid-Maryland Land Trust Association
 Montgomery County Countywide Recrea-
 tion Advisory Board
 Mt. Washington Preservation Trust
 National Parks Conservation Association
 National Recreation and Park Association
 Neighborhood Design Center
 North County Land Trust
 North County Preservation, Inc.
 Oliver Beach Improvement Association, Inc.
 Park and Resources Conservation Founda-
 tion
 Parks and People Foundation
 Patapsco Riverkeeper
 Patuxent Conservation Corps
 Patuxent Riverkeeper
 Port Tobacco River Conservancy, Inc.
 Potomac Conservancy
 Preservation Maryland
 Queen Anne’s Conservation Association
 Rockburn Land Trust
 Salisbury Advisory Council on Youth Activi-
 ties
 Salisbury Lacrosse Club
 Save Our County, CA
 Scenic Maryland, Inc.
 Scenic River Land Trust
 Severn Riverkeeper
 Sharptown Recreation Council
 Sierra Club - Maryland Chapter
 Solutions Not Sprawl
 Southern Calvert Land Trust
 Talbot County Department of Parks and
 Recreation
 Talbot Lacrosse Association, Inc.
 The Conservation Fund
 The Friends of Patterson Park
 The Harford Land Trust
 The Nature Conservancy
 The New Harford Democratic Club
 The Valleys Planning Council, Inc.
 The Wilderness Society
 Towsontowne Recreation Council
 Trust for Public Land
 Waterkeeper Alliance - Chesapeake Program
 Western Shore Conservancy for the Protec-
 tion of Natural Areas
 Westside Community Center Advisory
 Council
 Wicomico Co. Slow Pitch Women’s Slow
 Pitch Softball
 Wicomico Co. Department of Parks, Recrea-
 tion & Tourism
 Wicomico Co. Junior Girls Softball Federa-
 tion
 Wicomico Co. Soccer Federation
 Wicomico Equestrian Board
 Wicomico Men’s Slow pitch League

The following, from our 1990 Vol. 4 Issue 3 ACLT Newsletter, is reprinted here in honor of the 40th anniversary of the gift of the "Jewell Glass Laurel Grove" to The Nature Conservancy.

Jewell Glass—First Land Conservator in the ACLT Area

Speeding down Scientists Cliffs Road towards the ACLT main entrance, a visitor is likely to overlook an old, cracked sign on the left side.

JEWELL GLASS LAUREL GROVE
Preserved with the Assistance of
The Nature Conservancy

As we congratulate ourselves on ACLT successes, let's pause to thank a fine lady, the late Dr. Jewell Glass, for saving a little slice of wild America. Some twenty years before anyone dreamed of a land trust hereabouts, the seven acre Glass property became the Laurel Grove, the first piece of land preserved forever in its wild state in the Governors Run-ACLT-Parkers Creek area. In a codicil Miss Glass added to her will in May 1965, shortly before her death, the property was bequeathed to The Nature Conservancy with the provision that it be managed by the Scientists Cliffs Garden Club. Later TNC deeded it to the Scientists Cliffs Association subject to the covenant that the land be maintained in a wild state. About once a year a volunteer from The Nature Conservancy comes to inspect the property to make sure no one has cut trees, dumped trash, or otherwise abused this narrow, steeply sloping slice of land dominated by laurel thickets, chestnut oak, and pine. Now that the ACLT has become the local champion of wild and agricultural lands, it would make sense to transfer the Jewell Glass Laurel Grove at no cost from the Scientists Cliffs Association to the Land Trust. Of course the ACLT would be bound by the covenant never to cut any timber. Since the Glass tract abuts the ACLT at one point, the Land Trust should someday redirect the end of the "Laurel Trail" to intersect Scientists Cliffs Road via the Jewell Glass Laurel Grove. At present the Laurel Trail ends up in the back yard of the Robert Pfeiffer residence—originally the house of Jewell Glass after she moved out of Scientists Cliffs.

Only a few area residents remember Jewell Glass. ACLT member George Switzer described her to me as a kind, sweet sort of person who loved gardening and nature. A professional colleague of Dr. Switzer's, Miss Glass was a mineralogist who worked on strategic minerals such as antimony and tin at the US Geological Survey. Moving to Scientists Cliffs in 1940, Dr. Glass filled her cabin with collections of Maryland's rocks and minerals and her yard with flowers. According to the second issue of "Scientists Cliffs News" (1943), "Miss Jewell Glass, from all accounts, will have a great display of flowers around her cabin next year. Wonder how much prettier she is going to make her place." In 1945 she purchased some acreage along Scientists Cliffs Road from Remer G. Sapp and built a new cabin, where she would live out the last two decades of her life.

One of her friends during those later years was Dr. Glenn O. Blough who, among his other accomplishments, wrote natural history and other science books for children. *Soon after September* (1959; McGraw Hill) was partly inspired by his ramblings through the present Laurel Grove and ACLT woodlands. A sign he discovered on the Glass property, "The Road of the Seasons—mostly for walking along," survives in his book. Should we transplant it back into the woods?

This past spring marked the 25th anniversary of Jewell's gift of land. Were she alive today, Jewell Glass would be without doubt an enthusiastic Land Trust supporter, and perhaps we, the ACLT, should award her an honorary membership post mortem. The "display of flowers" around her Scientists Cliffs cabin is long forgotten, but the very same laurels that inspired her bequest to The Nature Conservancy still bloom there on every anniversary of her gift.

It's hard to imagine a finer way to be remembered.

Peter Vogt, with help from Rhoda Switzer
and Anne Hanke

Preserving Lots of Lots: SCLT

The Southern Calvert Land Trust (SCLT) is a membership-based charitable organization- 501(c) (3)- founded in 2001 by local residents to preserve open space, primarily in Southern Calvert County. SCLT differs from—but complements the efforts of the ACLT by accepting donations of land or conservation easements on small parcels, including and (especially) unbuildable lots inside subdivisions and communities. Other land trusts working in our county, including the ACLT, do not accept or attempt to acquire small parcels except in rare circumstances where such parcels are adjacent to large preserved tracts.

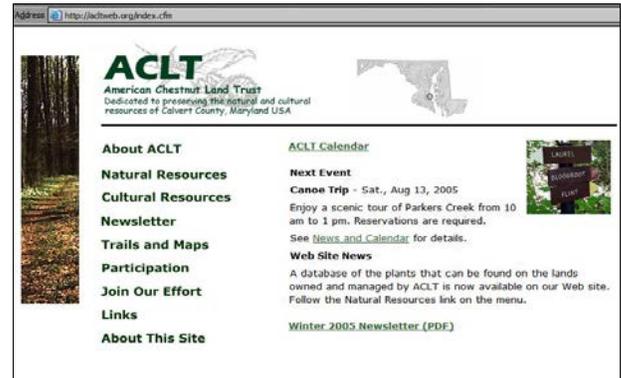
If you or someone you know owns—but wants to preserve in perpetuity- an undeveloped parcel in a community in Calvert County, consider donating the property or an easement to the SCLT in return for a tax deduction based on the appraised value of the lot or easement. This is especially attractive (financially, that is) for lots that are unbuildable (due e.g. to failure to perk, small size, steep slopes, etc). Donors then no longer have to pay fees and taxes, and are rewarded with a tax deduction. In just the few years since its inception, the SCLT has preserved nearly four dozen lots, mostly in southern Calvert County.

In case of a buildable lot, the SCLT prefers to hold a conservation easement, which allows the donor to retain lot ownership, but forever prevents any unauthorized development or clearing. In those cases the SCLT becomes a partner with the property owner. In the case of donation of an unbuildable lot, the SCLT acquires title to the lot and ensures its maintenance as open space forever.

Anyone interested should contact the SCLT (SCLT@Direcway.com, or call 410-326-2198). See also their web site: <http://www.sclt.us>. Address: Southern Calvert Land Trust, P.O. Box 1745, Lusby, MD 20657). Land that is offered to the SCLT for consideration is first inspected and evaluated for its eligibility. Donated land must be free of legal and financial encumbrances, such as unpaid taxes or fees. The SCLT will pay the costs of transferring ownership of the property and will assume all future responsibilities for the property, including regular inspection, payment of taxes and road use fees. Generally, the federal and state tax deduction is equal to the assessed or appraised value of the property at the time of donation.

Peter Vogt

<http://acltweb.org>



Visit the ACLT Web site. You will find:

- The ACLT Calendar of Events. A reminder about the next event will be featured on the home page.
- Information on the condition of the trails is updated frequently. Follow the link in the "Trails and Maps" section.
- Links on the right-hand side of the home page feature current news and events.
- 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 natural resources section also features a database of the plants that can be found on the lands owned and managed by ACLT. This checklist is based on a 1986 plant survey of the Scientists Cliffs community and environs conducted by Dr. Steven R. Hill. The database includes scientific and common names and Dr. Hill's information about flowering time, abundance, distribution, and his additional notes. Thanks to the cooperation of Web projects hosted by the Smithsonian Institution and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, images can be viewed for nearly all of the 472 plant species on the list. The list can be searched by scientific name or common name, or plants can be listed that flower during a certain month.
- The "Cultural Resources" section features a photo gallery of the structures on ACLT owned and managed properties and an article on planting tobacco.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

look were able to see that its tail quivered as it sang and that its whole body seemed to shake as it hopped, believed to help shake insects off of the leaves. Some excellent photographs and videos were taken, including George Jett's photo included with this article.

Not surprisingly, word of this sighting spread rapidly at the MOS conference, and I suspect that a large percentage of the 220 participants visited ACLT that afternoon or the next day. (I was surprised to find fourteen cars in the parking lot when I arrived for the Sunday morning walk, and those people weren't even there for the field trip.) Fortunately, MOS members are well-versed in birding etiquette, which holds birds' welfare as its priority, and people were very cautious about spreading the word about this observation. There have been tragic instances when a bird was either harmed or driven from its location by hordes of birders hoping for a sighting.

The ACLT made a good impression on visitors, not just because of the bonus bird, but also because of the trail system and the condition of the land. A woman on one of my walks said these were the most beautiful trails she had ever visited. Dr. David Curson, Director of Bird Conservation at Audubon MD - DC, said this was some of the healthiest forest he had seen in Maryland. "The undisturbed nature of the forest and the well developed shrub layer, particularly along the creeks, make it very valuable for forest interior dwelling birds, many of which are suffering long-term population declines across the eastern US." This is a testament to the ACLT's land management practices, which favor protection and enhancement of the natural areas, and particularly the deer management program, without which the understory might be damaged as it is in other areas.

Leslie Starr

ACLT Calendar of Events

Saturday, September 10 - Holly Arboretum Day - Join the Holly Arboretum Volunteer Crew at the bucolic Warrior's Rest as they prune and maintain these historic trees.

Saturday, October 8 - 10TH Annual Chili Cook-Off, Silent Auction & Dance - Enter your best chili recipe, bid at the auction, catch up with other ACLT members and enjoy the evening!

Saturday, October 22 - Ward Barn Day - Interested in historic tobacco barns? Join us as we repair the Ward Tobacco Barn. Volunteers with carpentry skills needed!

Saturday, October 29 - Tales for a Haunted Trail at Annmarie Garden - Put on your Halloween costumes and bring the whole family for a walk through the garden trail lined with fun booths and loads of free candy. If you are interested in manning our booth, handing out candy and catching the Halloween spirit, give Seona a call!

Saturday, November 11 - 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 10 - Greens Sale and Hayride - Fresh cut evergreens for holiday decorations, drink hot cider and take a hayride to the beach. A wonderful chance to meet and reconnect with people right before the holiday season

Canoe Trips*:

- Saturday, August 13 - Summer Canoe Trip (10 a.m. - 1 p.m.)
- Saturday, September 17 - Harvest Moon Canoe Trip (6 p.m. - 9 p.m.)
- Sunday, October 2 - Canoe Trip (10 a.m. - 1 p.m.)

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

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT ...

New Members

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

Mr. Jeff Campbell
Ms. Kathy Daniel
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Grimm
Mr. & Mrs. Tim Hackman
Mr. Bill Johnson
Mr. Ronald Klauda
Mr. & Mrs. John Malcolm
Mr. Robert McGowan
Mrs. Deb McClure
Mr. Doldon Moore, Jr.
Mr. Marc Pound
Ms. Sandra Selby
Mr. James Shepherd

Sustaining Members

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

Mr. Peter Dwan
Dr. & Mrs. Austin Platt

Spring Appeal

The ACLT wishes to thank the following members who made a contribution to the 2005 SPRING Appeal Campaign

Mr. & Mrs. Frank Altoz
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Bailey
Mr. & Mrs. David Beard
Ms. Nancy Bell
Dr. & Mrs. Charles Bennett
Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Benning
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Berry
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Caldwell
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Carmany
Dr. Andrea Clarke
Ms. Marty Davis-Daniels &
Mr. John Daniels III
Mr. & Mrs. David Didion
Ms. Ethel Dutky
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Dwan
Dr. & Mrs. Glenn Edgecombe
Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Ellsworth
Ms. Marjean Farver
Ms. Lynn Ferris
Mr. Lewis Firth
Ms. Paula Johnson & Mr. Carl Fleischhauer
Senator & Mrs. Bernie Fowler
Mr. & Mrs. Duncan Frazer
Mrs. Magda Freeman
Dr. Edward Graham
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Greene
Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Griffin
Mr. & Mrs. George Helz

Miss Emily Hoffman, Mr. Kenneth Hoffman & Ms. Amy Plummer
Mr. & Mrs. Conrad Hoska
Mr. & Dr. William Johnston
Ms. Elizabeth Johnston
Ms. Jane Klemer
Flag Harbor Marine Service
Ms. Anne Warner & Mr. Michael Makuch
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Matteson
Ms. Pamela-Jeanne Moran &
Mr. Philip Turner
Mr. & Mrs. Leon Myers
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Nicodemus
Ms. Margaret Niland
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Nisonger
Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Noell
Mr. & Mrs. Franklin Nutter
Mrs. Virginia O'Neill
Dr. & Mrs. Austin Platt
Ms. Dawn Pulliam
Mrs. Eleanor Rickel
Mrs. Sandy Roberts
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Rodgers
Ms. Roberta Safer & Dr. Klaus Zwilsky
Mr. Daniel Sampson
Dr. & Mrs. John Saunders
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Serpan
Dr. & Mrs. Michael Shisler
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Showalter
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Stathis
Mr. & Mrs. Jeremy Stone
Mr. & Mrs. John Switzer
Mr. & Mrs. John Theriault
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Trentman
Ms. June Whitson
Mr. & Mrs. James Williams
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Yuill
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Zahniser

General Contributions and Designated Gifts

Donations made to the Hance-Chesley Cemetery:

Ms. Susan Curley
Ms. Margaret Niland

Boat Donations:

Mr. & Mrs. Norman Prince, Jr.

Gift Memberships

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

RADM James Greene, Jr. USN (Ret)

Memorial Contributions

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

Donations made in honor of the marriage of Ms. Mary Atwood & Mr. Joseph Baldo:

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Blayney
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Head
Mr. & Mrs. David Didion
Mr. & Mrs. Edwin (Skip) Ford
Capt. & Mrs. Patrick Murphy USN (Ret)
Ms. Leslie Starr & Mr. Joseph Turner
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Yuill

Donations made in memory of Mr. Austin Canfield, ACLT Charter Member:

Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Dwan
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Head
Mr. & Hon. Anthony Morella
Mr. & Mrs. Warren Prince

Donation made in memory of Ms. Mary Beasley, ACLT supporter since 1987:

Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Head

Donations made in memory of "Taz", Double Oak Farm's unofficial greeter and retired trail guide:

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Rodgers
Mr. Steffen Farmer

Donation made in memory of Charter member and longtime ACLT supporter, Mr. Allan Loew:

Ms. Sandra Johnson-Selby &
the Johnson Family

Donations made in memory of Colonel Howard Wickert:

Mrs. Elaine Dunkle & Mr. Peter Cochran
Ms. Patricia Gates-Lynch

Donations made in memory of Mr. Robert Webster:

Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Ambler
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Blayney
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Head
Ms. Jane Klemer
Mr. & Hon. Anthony Morella

[Ed. Note: This contribution was inadvertently omitted from the Winter 2005 Newsletter.]

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

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Steller

Come Join Us!

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

Name _____ e-mail _____

Address _____

Phone _____ I (we) learned about ACLT from _____

Regular Membership

Corporate Membership

___ Land Saver - **\$35.00**

___ Habitat Protector - **\$500.00**

___ Land Saver Corporate - **\$150.00**

___ Land Protector - **\$60.00**

___ Trustee of Land - **\$1000.00**

___ Land Protector Corporate - **\$250.00**

___ Land Conservator - **\$150.00**

___ Sustaining - **\$2500.00**

___ Land Conservator Corporate - **\$500.00**

The American Chestnut Land Trust is a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization. A copy of the current ACLT financial statement is available on request. Requests should be directed to the American Chestnut Land Trust, Inc, P.O. Box 204, Port Republic, MD 20676 or call (410) 586-1570. For the cost of copies and postage, documents and information submitted under the Business Regulation Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland are available from the Secretary of State.

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

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