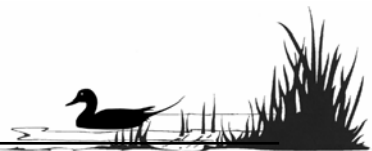


# Watershed Observer



NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN CHESTNUT LAND TRUST - VOLUME 21 NO. 3, SUMMER 2007

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## CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

- SEPTEMBER 8 – HARVEST TIME CANOE TRIP, 12:30 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.
  - SEPTEMBER 11, 7 P.M. – JOHN SMITH 400 SPEAKER SERIES
  - SEPTEMBER 22, 9:00 A.M. – VINE VINDICATOR VICTORIES
- SEE [HTTP://ACLTWEB.ORG](http://acltweb.org) OR PAGE 7 FOR FULL CALENDAR AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

## FOLLOWING IN THE WAKE OF JOHN SMITH....

Four hundred years ago, John Smith documented his voyage in an open boat on the Chesapeake Bay from the Jamestown Settlement. He was looking for the Northwest Passage, gold, and a fur trade. On June 16, 2007, fourteen people paddled 7.5 miles of the voyage in open kayaks and canoes from Parkers Creek to Flag Ponds.

Getting up early on Saturday morning we met at Warriors Rest. Dwight Williams of the Calvert County Department of Natural Resources gave everyone a short lesson in paddling, ACLT handed out safety whistles, and we were off.

After a few problems managing the rudders in the rental kayaks were worked out, the trip went smoothly. It was one of those perfect summer days: light breezes, glassy water, no jellyfish, and blue skies with wispy clouds. People who had never met each other before were chatting happily. At the halfway point, we stopped at Western Shores where we were warmly greeted by Homeowners Association President, Kim Scharmen, who had been expecting us. We stretched our legs while we learned about the geology of the Chesapeake Bay and the formation of Flag Ponds from expert, Ralph Eshelman.



It was a glorious day to be out on the Bay celebrating a historical landmark. (Photo courtesy of Ed Haack.)



Paddlers take in the beauty and unique features of the cliffs. (Photo courtesy of Ed Haack.)

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)



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Editors: Ellen and David Farr

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## From the President's Desk ...

### Preparing for the Next Five-Year Plan Retreat

ACLT's last five-year plan was prepared at a board retreat in the summer of 2003 and adopted at the subsequent annual meeting. Four years later, it's time to reflect on the progress made and to address what still needs work as we prepare for the next planning session. I'll share with you some of my thoughts on where we are and, more importantly, what we need to focus on in the next planning cycle. In brief, ACLT has never been healthier organizationally and fiscally and there have been a lot formidable accomplishments since the 2003 retreat. However, there are some important things left undone and new issues that can and should be addressed.

Looking back over the *Watershed Observer* since 2003, it is clear that a lot has changed and a lot has been accomplished. All ACLT members can take satisfaction in the following:

- Land Preservation: Purchase of the Trikas property and the donation of parcels by the Showalters and by the Dwans;
- Members' Financial Support: Completion of the \$1 million Silent Phase of the Land Management Endowment Capital Campaign, continued successful spring and fall appeals, extraordinary donations exemplified by the Feagan and Carper donations;
- Continuation of our traditional activities: including the Auction, Earth Day, the canoe trips, the hunting program plus extraordinary accomplishments from the many volunteers who are really the lifeblood of the organization;
- Initiation of new activities: Family Day, Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, involvement in the Chesapeake Gateways and co-sponsoring of the showing of "An Inconvenient Truth";
- Advocacy: aggressive pursuit of poor development practices that led to harmful tree loss, erosion and sedimentation and participation in Lobby Day in Annapolis;
- Celebration of ACLT's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary;
- Fiscal soundness including solid auditor's reports;
- Frequent favorable publicity of ACLT activities in local periodicals, including a feature article in *Calvert Life*;
- Administrative improvements: relocation of the office from the cramped space that had served us well to Double Oak with countless advantages and installation of a new database; and, most of all
- A dynamite staff that any organization would be fortunate and proud to have.

However, our eponymous chestnut tree finally succumbed to the blight in our 20<sup>th</sup> year and a review of the 2004-2008 Five-Year Plan shows that we did not accomplish all that we set out to and that much remains to be done. Here is a sampling that will provide much food for thought as we look ahead to the next five years:

- Increase the diversity of the Board of Directors;
- Establish a Business Advisory Group to expand community support and develop corporate members/sponsors;
- Develop Strategic Partnerships ... “with other local nonprofit organizations” and “with local businesses”;
- Increase active individual members by 10% annually;
- Add at least three new business members annually;
- Give one presentation to the County Commissioners annually on a land use or conservation issue; and
- Publish an op-ed piece semiannually.

From time to time I get advice and recommendations on activities that ACLT should be doing or doing more thoroughly. A sampling of these includes: regular email notices to members; construction of a permanent office/education building; more advocacy; greater environmental education; better signage; and help bring back the American Chestnut tree.

I have compiled all this as a means of stimulating each of you to take a few minutes and reflect on what you feel your land trust should be doing, should be doing better or perhaps de-emphasizing. Then share your views with me, another Board member or the staff to assist in getting ready for next year’s planning retreat.

I thank each of ACLT’s members for all that they have contributed and look forward to hearing your thoughts about how to further strengthen the land trust.

Ted Graham  
President, ACLT

*(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)*

Off again, we paddled past Long Beach and Flag Harbor to our final destination of Flag Ponds Nature Park. Everyone landed safely and hungry. Lunch was provided by the Park, and catered by Mom’s in the Kitchen. Dwight Williams gave each participant a “Following in the Wake...” T-shirt designed by ACLT’s Pat Tantum. We had so much fun; we all want to do it again next year!



We made it! Paddlers reach their final destination - Flag Ponds. (Photo courtesy of Ed Haack.)

## 2007 Canoe Trip Schedule

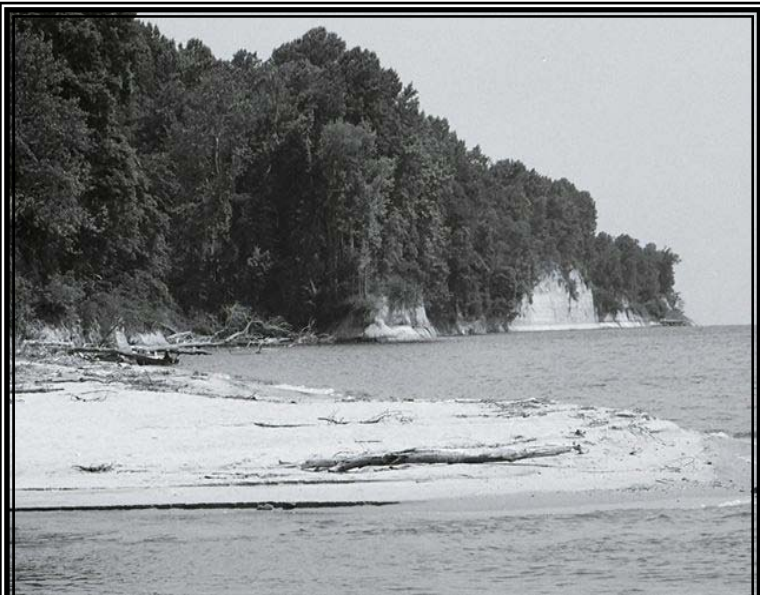
September 8 - Harvest Time Canoe Trip  
12:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

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

# Around ACLT



## American Chestnut Land Trust Annual Silent Auction & Dinner Dance



**Saturday, September 29, 2007**

**6:30 pm - 10:30 pm**

**Scientists' Cliffs Community House**

**Gate A, Acacia Road, Port Republic, Maryland**

*Catering by Blue Wind Gourmet*

*Wine by Basignani Vineyards*

*Music by The Calvert Dance Band*

***ACLT Members & Guests Only ~ Limited Seating***

***Bid on these great items—***

*Sailboat Cruises*

*Original Artwork*

*Spa Packages*

*Fabulous Dinners*

*Sporting Event Tickets*

*Exotic Vacation Destinations*

*Sparkling Jewelry and More!*

## Family Day at Double Oak Farm ... Smiles All Around

The very hot weather on Family Day—June 2, 2007—did not diminish the smiles on the children's faces during this festive celebration of the birds, trees, bees, and beetles of Calvert County. This free outreach event encouraged children (and their parents) to learn about our local natural resources while having fun. Thanks to our exceptionally resourceful volunteers, the children had access to outstanding educational displays that enhanced their learning experience.

The morning activities started off with Leslie Starr leading a guided hike which included identification of some local birds and calls. Dr. Michael Gates (U.S. Dept. of Agriculture researcher) had a very extensive and interesting insect collection. Sandy Roberts and Pam Platt managed the fossil display and a hands-on sand box fossil dig. The Maryland Geocaching Society provided instruction on how to use global positioning devices and then helped children find hidden geocaches. Elgin Perry sang songs and played banjo, guitar and fiddle music. The tractor-pulled hayride was conducted by Ken Romney. The wagon was full of happy children (big and small) after they had traveled around the field at Double Oak Farm. Ken had many repeat customers! Calvert County Department of Natural Resources Naturalist, Tania Gale, brought her friends—a corn snake and a terrapin. Admittedly, there were a few hesitant touches and wide-eyed stares when the corn snake was introduced to the children, but uncertainty was soon overcome with curiosity and fascination. As you can imagine, this exhibit was extremely popular. Another popular exhibit was Anne Brown and her little brown bees. Anne fielded many questions about bee colony collapse syndrome and the noticeable decrease in the numbers of important pollinators, especially bees. Everyone that visited the little brown bee exhibit got a sweet treat—a taste of honey from Anne's hard working bees. Delicious!

Nature-inspired craft activities, face painting, and games came under the fun department. Mark Smith and Liz Stoffel conducted “GSI - Game Scene Investigation”. Children were encouraged to weave interpretive stories based on the clues provided. Animal tracks, human foot prints, shotgun shells, feathers, animal shells. Hummm... What happened here? An accident? Or a natural occurrence? There were some very interesting stories. Mimi Little was our face painting artist—flowers, sharks, seahorses, shark teeth, and baseballs were some of the favorite designs. Ken Romney got into the spirit of things sporting a parrot and a flower. Children learned about area trees through a leaf rubbing craft that Sandy Burton devised. Liz Stoffel conducted several well-attended scavenger hunts throughout the day. Bruce Hudson, Double Oak Hunt Club President, and his wife Barbie volunteered to help out at the craft table. Bruce helped children plant watermelon seed in prepared cups. Barbie assisted youngsters at the special Annmarie Gardens sponsored image transfer craft.

Barbara and Stan Benning provided essential backup assistance at the planting and craft activities.

Special thanks goes out to our setup and cleanup crews - Ed Haack, Kevin McConnell, Ginny Murphy, Bob Poling, Stan and Barbara Benning, members of the Maryland Geocaching Society, and Scoutmaster Ron Carvalho and Troop 347 Scouts (assisted with setup and directed parking during the event).

Family Day at Double Oak Farm drew families new to ACLT as well as several families that are new to Calvert County. Families from last year’s event also attended. As we look forward to Family Day 2008, we hope to expand the natural resource exhibits by including more local area organizations such as the Artist Guild, Master Gardeners, and the Native Plant Society. We also hope to include a Search and Rescue Dog demonstration.

Family Day at Double Oak Farm 2008—look forward to seeing you there.




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## ACLT Wouldn't be Nearly as Much Fun without YOU!

As the articles started to pile into the newsletter “folder” on my computer (and I still didn’t have a *clue* what I was going to write about for the Summer 2007 issue), it suddenly dawned on me that almost all of the articles for this issue were in some way related to Membership and Outreach. And, it occurred to me, that this is the year that we are laying the foundations for a growth spurt in ACLT’s Membership and Outreach programs—a trend that should be noted in our newsletter.

Certainly I, and probably most of you, think of land preservation first when we think of the American Chestnut Land Trust and, of course, the land was the impetus for the founding of ACLT. Thanks to our farsighted founders, however, our next thought was to build an organization that had staying power and, thus, a legal entity was created that had a system of governance (a Board of Directors) and a mechanism for raising money to sustain it (our 501(c)(3)

nonprofit status). About ten years ago, it became clear that we had become so successful at preserving land and paying for it, that we needed to turn our focus to caring for the land once we had acquired it. At that point, a full-time land manager was hired and the concept of a Land Management Endowment got off the ground. The fourth pillar of ACLT’s strength has always been our solid core of members and volunteers who—like a family—are much appreciated and celebrated.

With each passing year, however, we realize—sadly—that our original core membership, those who founded and sustained us as we grew, will not be here forever. We are losing them one by one and each loss is painful. As the ACLT turns 21 this year, it becomes incumbent upon us to turn our attention to attracting new core members and volunteers to the ACLT. This is a challenging proposition—I sympathize with public television and

National Public Radio every time they hold a membership drive. The ACLT is much like these organizations in that we provide free access to our land to anyone who cares to come and enjoy it. We are dependent upon that small percentage of the public who realize that the ACLT cannot provide this public benefit without people who care enough to support us either by giving their volunteer time or becoming a member.

Progress has been slow, but we are moving those foundation blocks into place. The goal is to expand the individual and corporate membership of the ACLT to include a broader sector of the community without losing the sense of family that has made the ACLT such a fun place to belong. The Board has been examining the ACLT “brand”—what message, what image, what identity do we want to project to the community? What segments of the community are most likely to support the mission of the ACLT? What methods of communication are most effective to reach those people? What community need do we fulfill? What events can we offer to attract new members? We have some ideas, but we welcome yours! I encourage you to pick up the phone, sit down and send me an e-mail (kedgcombe@actweb.org), or drop me a line to tell me what ideas you have about how ACLT can recruit new volunteers and members.

The 2007 ACLT Calendar of Events included several new events and outreach activities including an opportunity to partner with the Calvert Marine Museum for a showing of *An Inconvenient Truth: A Global Warning* followed by a lively community discussion led by former ACLT Board member Marie Bundy. Family Day, reinstated last year to celebrate ACLT’s twentieth anniversary, became an annual event and brought in many first-time visitors to the ACLT’s north side trailhead at Double Oak Farm this year. Another new and exciting event that we hope will become an annual event—and judging by the pictures in this issue of the *Watershed Observer*, it should be—was our partnership with the Calvert County Department of Natural Resources to sponsor the Paddle from Parkers Creek to Flag Ponds.

Yet to come this year, nine Chesapeake Bay Gateways sites, including ACLT, partnered to bring the John Smith 400 Speaker Series to fruition. ACLT’s speaker, Professor McDermott, a photographer and cartographer, will present “What’s Happening to Our Beloved Chesapeake: A Geographer’s Perspective” at the Calvert Library, Prince Frederick on Tuesday, September 11, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. Finally, we moved up the date of the Annual ACLT Silent Auction and Dinner Dance so that ACLT can participate in the an-

nual Patuxent River Appreciation Day (PRAD) event in early October. We are grateful that this event has regained its original focus on man’s impact on the environment.

Our guided canoe trips and guided hikes are a staple of our Outreach program. They introduce the ACLT to the public by *showing* them why our mission is so important. Our trail maintenance days, barn work days, vine vindicator and weed whacking Wednesdays, and Earth Day events are attracting new volunteers who enjoy the reward of contributing their own time to support a worthy cause in collaboration with other like-minded people. There’s nothing like breaking a sweat and then enjoying a hearty lunch outdoors while making new friends at ACLT!

Publicity for ACLT’s events this year has been fabulous. Pat Tantum, ACLT’s Outreach and Communications Coordinator, has been taking every available opportunity to engage our local media outlets. The *Calvert Independent* ran a full-color feature article about ACLT entitled “Preserving the Land” in April. The *Calvert Recorder* covers many of our events, including a recent front-page article featuring Land Manager Liz Stoffel and our LIP Grant Intern Donna Guy battling invasive plants. *Calvert Life*, *The Washington Post*, and *Bay Weekly* have all done their part to publicize ACLT events. The effort is paying off—new volunteers are joining each of our work days, thanks to the efforts of our Community Relations Coordinator Seona deGennaro, and each guided canoe trip has been filled.

Fundraising takes time. Bonds are forming now that will eventually translate into a strong, new core of members needed to continue to sustain the ACLT’s mission. Word of mouth of existing members is a very potent tool. Who do you know that *should* be a member of the ACLT? Who can you invite to be your guests at the ACLT Silent Auction and Dinner Dance on September 29, 2007? Who might like to read the *Watershed Observer* when you are done? If there is someone that you think should be an ACLT member, just give us a call at the office and we will send them a package of information. Or, consider giving someone a gift membership in the hopes that next year they will decide to renew on their own.

ACLT wouldn’t be nearly as much fun without you. Thank you for being a member!

Karen H. Edgecombe,  
Executive Director

## LIP Grant Provides Funds for a Summer Intern

Donna Guy applied for our summer internship position by stating, "I first became aware of the ACLT about eight years ago when I worked for Ewing Miller in Scientists' Cliffs; his enthusiasm for the ACLT was contagious. Every Friday after work I walked the trails in Port Republic, and I have been cheering each addition of land (3,000 acres now!) over the years." Donna began work in early June and her enthusiasm and hard work has made her a great addition to ACLT.

Every Wednesday through September you will find Donna out at the south side trailhead with Liz Stoffel and their regular crew of "weed whackers." The fourth Saturday of every month, they are at it again with the weekend crew known as the "vine vindicators." In between, Donna has been working in the office updating various websites that solicit volunteers for ACLT's invasive plant control program and preparing for our upcoming public outreach event at the Calvert Library, Prince Frederick. The Removing Invasive Plants ("RIP") announcement that is displayed on page 8 in this issue of the *Watershed Observer* is her handiwork.

Donna is an environmental science major at the College of Southern Maryland and resides with her family in Prince Frederick. I hope you will take the opportunity to come out



ACLT summer intern Donna Guy hard at work battling the invasives

to the ACLT Barn on Saturday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00 a.m. as Donna and Liz show off their "Vine Vindicator Victories."



Donna's daughter Renee examining a box turtle at ACLT's Vine Vindicator work day on July 28, 2007 .

## ACLT Calendar of Events 2007

**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 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 22, 9 a.m. - *Vine Vindicator Victories*** - Join us at the ACLT Barn, Port Republic, MD, to celebrate the accomplishments of ACLT's hardworking vine vindicators. A short presentation will be given before the scheduled start of the Vine Vindicator Work Day.

**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! [ACLT Members and their Guests Only.]

**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.

**Tuesday, October 16, 6:30 p.m. - *R.I.P. Removing Invasive Plants*** - Calvert Library, Prince Frederick, MD. Come meet with experts on native and non-native plants in Maryland and find out what you can do to help.

**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, October 26, 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.

# Community Outreach

## Lecture Series

American Chestnut Land Trust (ACLT) is pleased to present Professor Daniel McDermott, Tuesday, September 11, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at the Calvert Library in Prince Frederick as part of the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Lecture Series *John Smith's Chesapeake: Exploring Nine Perspectives*.

Using satellite and fine-art imagery, Professor McDermott will present "What's Happening to Our Beloved Chesapeake: A Geographer's Perspective." Starting with historical and geographic facts showing how the bay was formed, he will illustrate how the early colonial settlers impacted the environment. When they came, they brought not only different land use practices, but non-native plants and animals that changed the environment forever. And the changes go on today, as the impacts of global warming and rising water levels are beginning to be felt. ACLT is pleased to present Professor McDermott, a cartographer and photographer, and his unique perspective on the ever-changing landscape of the Chesapeake Bay region.

Previous presentations of this lecture series have been well attended and seating is limited at the Library so arrive early! Call the ACLT office, M-F, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at 410-414-3400 or email [info@actweb.org](mailto:info@actweb.org) for more information.

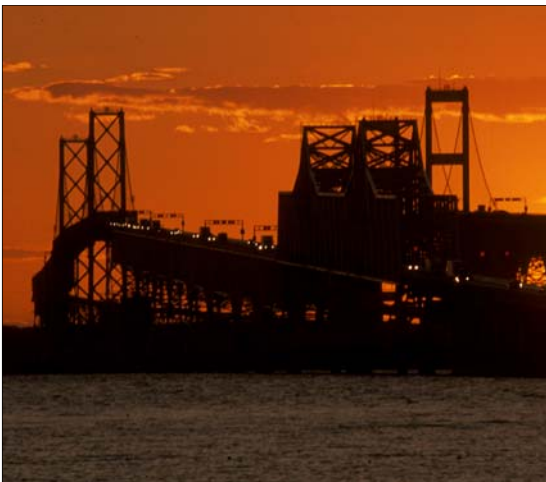



Photo courtesy of Professor Daniel McDermott



R . I . P .


Removing Invasive Plants  
October 16th, 2007  
6:30 PM  
Calvert Library  
Prince Frederick

Non-native invasive plants are competing with native plants and animals for food, water and other resources. In many areas the invasives are winning. Come meet with experts on native and non-native plants in Maryland and find out what you can do to help. Learn to tell the difference between "look-a-like" native and non-native plants and discover which plants will enhance your backyard habitat by providing food and shelter for wildlife. Scheduled speakers include:

Kerrie Kyde, Invasive Plant Specialist,  
Maryland Department of Natural  
Resources

Judy Kay, Master Gardener

Liz Stoffel, Land Manager, American  
Chestnut Land Trust



For more information, call 410-414-3400  
or visit <http://actweb.org>



## Volunteer Spotlight – Mark Smith

As the ACLT gears up for its 12th Annual Silent Auction and Dinner Dance scheduled on September 29th this year, what better time to feature one of our volunteers who is crucial to the auction operation? Coincidentally both he and his wife are now dedicated volunteers and supporters of the ACLT after being introduced to the ACLT by friends who invited them to a Chili Cook-off, Silent Auction, and Dance years ago. “It was a great evening, and a chance to meet people who had similar values to ours,” comments our featured volunteer, Mark Smith. His day job is as admirable as his volunteer roles. Mark is a coordinator of special programs for St. Mary’s County Public Schools, where he works to develop, locate funding, and run intervention programs for at-risk students. His wife, Denise Breitburg, is a marine ecologist working for the Smithsonian Research Lab in Edgewater, which falls into line nicely with her being one of the ACLT’s current board members.

The Breitburg-Smith’s moved to Calvert County from Santa Barbara in 1984. They noticed a huge difference between California and Maryland in the lack of access to both the water and to open land in Maryland. It's not that there isn't plenty of both here; our waterways, rivers, creeks and tributaries feeding into the bay are extraordinary. But it's difficult to get access to most of this water, unless you live on the water. “One of our big disappointments when we moved to Calvert County was the lack of access to hiking and nature. In the Santa Barbara area, almost all of the beaches had public access and there were tens of thousands of acres of public land available for hiking.” Both Mark and Denise were thrilled when they discovered the ACLT’s hiking trails. They and their two children, Maya and Eli, used them for hiking and cross-country skiing. They credit the ACLT for helping them pass along a reverence for nature to their children, due in part to many hours spent together on ACLT properties.

Besides just enjoying the outdoors of ACLT, Mark spends a significant amount of time indoors for the ACLT. I enlisted Mark and Denise to assist us with putting together the auction brochure four years ago. A year later Mark volunteered to take on even more of the “behind the scenes” auction preparation work when he offered to develop an auction database to manage all of the information collected before and after the event, while Denise then took over the layout and design of the brochure. He sees developing a system like the database

as a “big puzzle that pushed me to learn new skills and think about how all of the parts would work together.” His hope for the project was to save the ACLT time and allow us to extract concise amounts of information needed for various purposes.

Indeed he has done both for us. He has simplified and streamlined many of the mundane data entry processes needed to store and track donors and donated items, and has allowed us to generate reports needed to improve the auction for future years. I recall our first ACLT auction together. It required long hours from all three of us, usually spent after work at Mark and Denise’s house. They would make dinner and then would stay up long into the night working, only to have to get up early for their real jobs the next morning. The next evening I would show up at their place, and was greeted with smiles and food once again. The weeks leading up to that particular auction were long and exhausting, but we created a formidable bond of friendship amidst working on the database.

Mark is firmly rooted in the philosophy that volunteering makes the world we live in a better place. If enjoying the ACLT property inspires one child to take action to protect the environment, it will be worth any efforts I’ve put into the organization,” says Mark. He inspired much more than one child, first hand, when he volunteered for Family Day at Double Oak Farm this past June leading “GSI (Game Scene Investigation).” He helped children to look at a set of clues including animal tracks, feathers, and fur and create a story about what happened at that site. Mark enjoyed the different imaginative stories that children came up with and found it interesting when “parents wanted to know the ‘right answer’ and had a hard time accepting that there wasn't just one right answer.”

As we enter the intense few weeks before another ACLT auction, let me send out an enormous thank you to the Breitburg-Smith’s, not only for selflessly dedicating themselves to the cause another year running, but for doing so willingly and graciously.



Denise Breitburg, Mark Smith and Seaona deGennaro (left to right).

Seaona deGennaro  
Community Relations Coordinator

# Land Manager's Corner

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## A little something about locust trees ...



*Robinia pseudoacacia*. Photographer: W. S. Justice.  
(Photo Courtesy of the Smithsonian Botany Plant Image Collection.)

Black locust trees, *Robinia pseudoacacia*, are some of my favorite trees. I first became enamored with them when I got interested in edible plants. In spring, the trees have beautiful drupes of fragrant, edible blossoms that are eaten raw or can be dipped in a fritter batter and fried. [Caution should be used because many parts of this plant are poisonous]. As a former beekeeper, I found that the locust flowers had plenty of nectar and attracted my bees, which made a delicate, unique-tasting honey.

I liked black locusts even more when I was reforesting riparian buffers and discovered that they were fairly deer resistant because of their thorns. I found that black locusts are tenacious survivalists because, when you cut them down, hundreds of suckers come up along their roots. As a hardwood, they resist rot and are great for using in wetlands to provide the supports for a boardwalk. Locust fence posts have been known to last 70-100 years. Some authorities attribute medicinal properties to the trees while others state that the leaves can be used as a pesticide.

In July, if you look around the ACLT forests, the black locust trees look like it is late autumn. Their leaves are brown and ashen and the trees themselves look as if they are dying. The ACLT frequently receives calls in mid summer from members and hikers asking about the trees' appar-

ent diminishment. The answer is that the locust trees are infested by the Locust Leafminer, *Odonata dorsalis*. This ¼ inch beetle will cut holes in leaves and skeletonize them. Although it is aesthetically displeasing, the trees usually do not need to be treated with pesticides. Generally, the leafminers do not have long-term harmful effects on the trees. However, during stressful periods—such as drought or in combination with other diseases or pests—the leafminer infestation can deplete the tree's health to the point of being fatal.

Leafminers can also affect apple, beech, birch, cherry, elm, oak, and hawthorn trees, as well as soybeans. The black and orange adults over-winter in crevices in the bark of trees and emerge to lay eggs on the underside of leaves. After the eggs hatch the larvae will mine the leaf in a blistering fashion that kills and dries out the leaf cells. The adult-stage beetle also cuts the leaves and skeletonizes them. There are usually two generations a year.

Another insect that can negatively affect locust trees is the Locust Borer, *Cerambycidae*, *Megacyllene robiniae*. The larvae of this pest bore into the sapwood of young trees and can be harmful to trees under 6 inches in diameter. The adults, however, sustain themselves on goldenrod pollen.

Black locust trees are difficult to propagate by seed, but cuttings can be rooted easily and they spread by sprouts along the roots. In 1630, locust trees were sent to England and have since been transplanted around the world. Black locusts are native to this area, the Appalachians, and foothills of the southeastern United States. Sadly, I have discovered that in many areas where the trees are not native, they are considered invasive and noxious weeds. Out of their home habitat, they can create thickets, displace native plants, and destroy grassy savannas. As useful as they are in my life, they are not suitable for all areas.

Liz Stoffel  
Land Manager

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT ...

## New Members

ACLT would like to welcome the following new members who have joined since the Spring 2007 newsletter:

Ms. Lauren Baker  
Mr. Emmett Costich  
Mr. Jeffrey Feagin  
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Fendinger  
Ms. Mollie King  
Mr. Mark Luppino  
Mr. Robbie Miller  
Ms. Rebecca Morehouse  
Mr. John Sadler  
Mr. & Mrs. Guy Tomassoni  
Mr. Michael Viens  
Mr. Greg Wells  
Mr. & Mrs. James Woodmansee

## Spring Appeal

The Staff and the Board of Directors wishes to thank the following members who made a contribution to the 2007 Spring Appeal since our last newsletter:

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Aldrich  
Dr. & Mrs. Robert L. Bartlett  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas A. Carmany  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Davidson  
Mr. Julien & Ambassador Patricia Lynch Ewell  
Mrs. Marjean M. Farver  
Mr. & Mrs. Philip A. Fleming  
Mr. & Mrs. D. Duncan Frazer  
Mr. & Mrs. Patrick J. Griffin  
Mr. Peter A. Johnson  
Ms. Pamela Jeanne Moran & Mr. Philip Turner, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Leon W. Myers, Jr.  
Mrs. Betty Lynn Roberts  
Mr. Daniel Sampson  
Dr. & Mrs. John R. Saunders, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Jeremy J. Stone  
Mrs. Rhoda E. Switzer  
Mr. & Mrs. John P. Theriault  
Mr. Alan E. Wilson & Dr. Stephen Peters

## Gift Memberships

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

Dr. Andrea Clarke

## General Contributions and Designated Gifts

Thank you to the following for your generous gifts:

From her dear friends, Edward and Marellynn Zipser honoring Col. Caroline Van Mason, USA (Ret.)

Mr. Tom Carmany and Mr. Al Basile for designing, constructing, and installing office shelving at the Double Oak office

Mr. & Mrs. Dave Bohaska for donating craft items for Family Day 2007

Mrs. Sandy Burton for donating craft supplies for Family Day 2007

Annamarie Garden for sponsoring a Family Day craft

Carl Fleischhauer for barn restoration

Flag Harbor Marine Service c/o John Little for barn restoration

Calvert Garden Club

## Thank you to the following members who donated to the Combined Federal Campaigns

Through the Maryland Charity Campaign:

Mrs. Elaine Bailey  
Mr. Robert McGowan

Through the National Capital Area Campaign:

Dr. Christina & Col. Daniel Boesz  
Mr. Thomas Brown  
Mr. David Campbell  
Mr. Timothy Fewster  
Mr. Mark Gorsak  
Mr. Bruce Hudson  
Mr. John Kingscott  
Mr. Gary Loew  
Ms. Janette Petersen  
Ms. Carol Slatick  
Mr. Patrick Verdin

Through the St. Mary's County Campaign:

Ms. Jacqueline Bowles  
Ms. Sandra Draham  
Ms. Marjorie Hoffman  
Ms. Jessica Holmberg  
Mr. Michael Rudy  
Mr. Peter Woodside

## Memorial Contributions

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

In memory of John H. Harmon III who was a Sustaining Member and longtime supporter:  
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Dwan, Jr.

In memory of Ruth Arbuckle who was a Charter Member and longtime supporter:  
Mr. Peter Cochran & Mrs. Elaine Cochran Dunkle  
Ms. Linda Dinius  
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Dwan, Jr.  
Mrs. Lucille Fuson  
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Head Joseph, Martha, Chris & John Honan  
Mrs. Carole Neal

In memory of Joseph Nisonger who was a Charter Member and longtime supporter & volunteer:  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Cook  
Mr. Alan Wilson & Dr. Stephen Peters

## Congratulations

Patuxent Architects, c/o Mr. B. Hutchinson & Mr. P. Kosla, on becoming a sustaining member.

# Come Join Us!

Detach and Mail to: The American Chestnut Land Trust, Inc., P.O. Box 2363, Prince Frederick, MD 20678

Name \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ I (we) learned about ACLT from \_\_\_\_\_

## Regular Membership

## Corporate Membership

\_\_\_ Land Saver - \$35.00

\_\_\_ Habitat Protector - \$500.00

\_\_\_ Land Saver Corporate - \$150.00

\_\_\_ Land Protector - \$60.00

\_\_\_ Trustee of Land - \$1000.00

\_\_\_ Land Protector Corporate - \$250.00

\_\_\_ Land Conservator - \$150.00

\_\_\_ Sustaining - \$2500.00

\_\_\_ Land Conservator Corporate - \$500.00

The American Chestnut Land Trust is a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization. A copy of the current ACLT financial statement is available on request. Requests should be directed to the American Chestnut Land Trust, Inc, P.O. Box 2363, Prince Frederick, MD 20678 or call (410) 414-3400. For the cost of copies and postage, documents and information submitted under the Business Regulation Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland are available from the Secretary of State.

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

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548  
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