

# Watershed Observer



NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN CHESTNUT LAND TRUST - VOLUME 32 No. 3 SUMMER 2018

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## COMING UP ON THE CALENDAR

JULY

8 SUN – 2ND SUNDAYS AT ACLT: WELL-  
NESS DAY (1:00PM–4:00PM)

AUGUST

12 SUN – 2ND SUNDAYS AT ACLT: THE  
DOG DAYS OF SUMMER (1:00PM–  
4:00PM)

SEE MORE OF THE 2018 CALENDAR ON  
PAGE 4 OR ONLINE AT  
[HTTP://ACLTHOOK.ORG.](http://acltweb.org)

## The Push to Protect Watersheds

It has been so heartening to hear the great news about improving water quality in the Chesapeake Bay. Last year, there were over 100,000 acres of submerged aquatic vegetation (SAVs) or bay grasses for the first time in decades. Water clarity improved and fisheries rebounded. As a result of the federal mandate to clean up the Bay, nutrient loads from sewer treatment plants and farms have declined significantly, and other sources declined somewhat, resulting in the improvements we have seen to water quality.

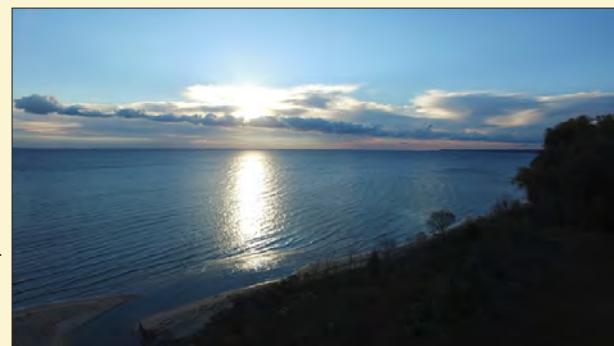
However, scientists are warning that the improvements could disappear if there are not proactive, stewardship efforts in all watersheds to maintain or improve water quality. "What better groups could oversee such efforts than community based land trusts or watershed organizations whose missions are aligned with stewardship?"

That's why the Land Trust Alliance and the Chesapeake Bay Funders Network (CBFN) launched the Chesapeake Bay Land and Water Initiative to engage land trusts and others for both permanent land preservation and stewardship and community engagement across the 64,000-square-mile Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

Likewise the Maryland Environmental Trust is encouraging larger land trusts in Maryland to partner with smaller land trusts to increase advocacy and effectiveness.

Thus far, ACLT has reached out beyond its borders in two ways to promote protection of rural lands. First the Board helped to establish the Sustainable Calvert Network. Second it approved the initiation of a Watershed Awareness program, which was described in the Spring newsletter. Staff's first effort will be to engage property owners in the Hunting Creek and St. Leonard's Creek watersheds with the help of graduates from the Maryland Master Naturalists Program. As noted by the Land Trust Alliance, "Land trusts are in a powerful position to improve the health of our waters." Together, we can get this done.

Greg Bowen  
Executive Director, ACLT



Saving the Bay, one watershed at a time.

**Do you know how to find your watershed?** The Calvert County Department of Technology Services designed the new Geographic Information System (GIS) watershed map at the request of the Calvert County Environmental Commission and at the direction of the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC). When citizens view the map, they can search watersheds by premise address and review a fact sheet that highlights each of the 22 watersheds' size, associated streams and nearby water quality monitoring stations. View the new GIS map online at [www.co.cal.md.us/watershedmap](http://www.co.cal.md.us/watershedmap).



## AMERICAN CHESTNUT LAND TRUST, INC.

P. O. Box 2363  
Prince Frederick, MD 20678  
Phone: 410-414-3400  
Fax: 410-414-3402  
[info@acltweb.org](mailto:info@acltweb.org)  
<http://acltweb.org>

Published quarterly by the American Chestnut Land Trust. The ACLT is dedicated to the preservation of Calvert County, Maryland's Natural and Historical Resources. Since it was established in 1986, ACLT has preserved over 3,200 acres. We own 1390 acres, manage 1,819 acres owned by the State of Maryland, and hold conservation easements on 374 privately-owned acres.

Editors: Ellen and David Farr

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# From the President's Desk

## Building Watershed Awareness Makes Sense in Uncertain Times:

The ACLT staff and Board are launching a new initiative that helps folks throughout Calvert County better understand and appreciate the watershed in which they live. It is viewed as important outreach for a couple of reasons. First and foremost, it is a worthy activity because it promotes the fundamental understandings and values about the environment that we all hold dear. In so doing it is clearly consistent with the Mission and Vision of this organization. The first sentence of our Mission Statement states: "We promote conservation throughout Calvert County Maryland". This assumed responsibility is further amplified by the following phrase in our Vision statement which states, "...serving as a catalyst for effective land preservation throughout Calvert County by means of partnerships with other nonprofit organizations, governmental entities, businesses, and a broad segment of the Calvert County community."

However, a significant secondary benefit is that every contact we make as result of our efforts is a potential supporter of what ACLT does and stands for. Opportunities to build new individual and family relationships are a likely result of the educational efforts we are offering. These relationships could also be expected to be broadened when participants become aware of all ACLT has to offer. Over time, they may also take comfort in the voice we provide for sensible land preservation throughout the county that could benefit them no matter where they live.

In times when the government's commitment to land preservation is not clear, building friends and educating constituents is a wise investment. There needs to be demonstrated support of land preservation policies and programs throughout the county to withstand threats. We simply cannot afford to rely only on the residents of the Parkers' Creek and Governor's Run Watersheds to make the case.

Notwithstanding the potential value of such an effort, it needs to be conducted in ways that are mindful of other competing organizational priorities and resources. Currently the staffing will be subsidized by external grants and volunteers from the Master Naturalist program. The hope is the resources needed for this effort will not come at the expense of established programs. Since this is a new effort, the Executive Director will be monitoring its activities closely so as not to allow that to occur and will be providing the Board with an ongoing cost benefit analysis. We will be keeping you all posted of our progress as well.

Patric Griffin, President

# Around ACLT

## Details Begin to Emerge About the Holly Hill Log Barn

The spring 2018 issue of the *Watershed Observer* featured a photograph of the log barn at Holly Hill. This article provides more information about the barn, as ACLT volunteers assess the structure and plan its future.



*The ACLT assessment crew at the barn, 30 March 2018: Ken Romney, John O'Rourke (from George Washington's Mount Vernon), Autumn Phillips-Lewis, Kirsti Uunila (Calvert County's Historic Preservation Specialist), Jeff Klapper, Greg Bowen, and Carl Fleischhauer. The gable end above the team features hand-riven oak clapboarding.*

The barn has received attention from historic preservation specialists. In 2002, Marcia Miller and Tom Reinhart documented the barn for the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT), supported by Calvert County's historic preservation specialist, Kirsti Uunila. Their work was enhanced in 2009-2010 by a group from the University of Delaware, on behalf of the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), a project of the National Park Service.

At that time, there were two barns: the log barn and a larger frame barn, blown down in the derecho storm of 2012. The frame barn helped protect the east end of the log barn, and its significant section of hand-riven oak clapboarding, produced by splitting a log and shaping the planks shaped on a shaving horse using a draw knife. Although no longer common in the nineteenth century, this method continued where the money to buy milled lumber was scarce.

In 2009, the MHT designated the barn as historic site CT-1346 (<https://mht.maryland.gov/secure/medusa/PDF/Calvert/CT-1346.pdf>). In 2010, the HABS measured drawings were transferred to the Library of Congress.

The MHT report states that "the log barn is divided into two pens, measuring twenty-three-and-a-half by forty-seven feet." It also states that "the log portion likely dates from the late-eighteenth or early-nineteenth century." However, all of the nails discovered thus far have been of the cut or wire type, dating construction to after 1800. (Forged hand-wrought nails would put construction in the 1700s.) The presence of "dimension" sawmill lumber in the building also suggests the 1800s.

The MHT findings call attention to the lack of human-sized doors: "There are several small openings on the north and south side of each pen." With a feed trough in the west portion--indicating use with livestock--the small openings are puzzling, although their original size may have been reduced by partial collapse of the log walls.

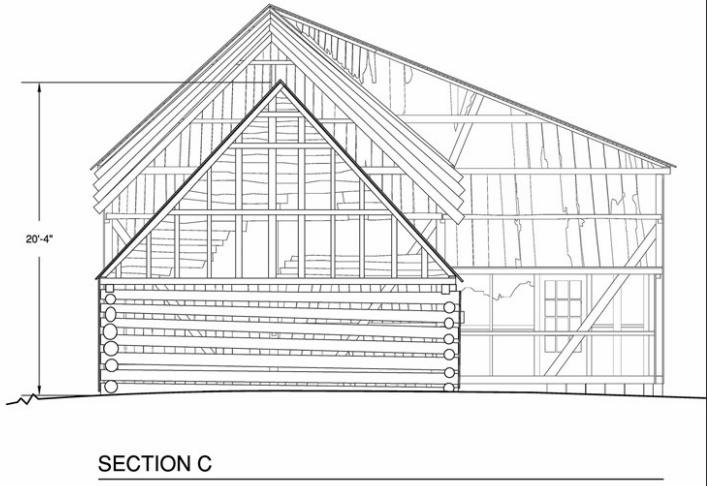
Staff and volunteers are in the process of stabilizing the barn and providing wood treatment to reduce the effects of rot and termites. In addition, they are investigating measures to stabilize and provide long-term protection of the barn, such as the erection of a protective "over shed," to present to the Land Management Committee and Board of Directors. Funding options are being investigated

Carl Fleischhauer



*One of the small openings that provide access to the interior of the log barn.*

Continued on the following page.



*Detail of a HABS measured drawing by Melissa Archer and Anna Blinn Cole of the University of Delaware, 2009. The log barn is in front of the now-destroyed frame barn. The full set of HABS drawings can be accessed at the Library of Congress: <https://www.loc.gov/item/mdi869/>.*

## American Chestnut Land Trust Calendar of Events

### July

8 Sun – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays at ACLT: Wellness Day (1:oopm –4:oopm)

### August

12 Sun – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays at ACLT: The Dog Days of Summer (1:oopm–4:oopm)

### September

29 Sat – Parkers Creek Challenge (tentatively 7am)

### October

6–7 Sat & Sun – Patuxent River Appreciation Days (10:00am–5:oopm)

20 Sat – ACLT Sip & Save (Regional Beer Tasting Fundraiser)

28 Sun – Fall Colors Guided Hike (1:00–3:oopm)

### November

3 Sat – 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Auction & Dinner

10 Sat – Fall Hiking Trail Maintenance Day (9:00am–12:oopm, picnic lunch)

29 Thu – Wreath-Making Workshop (6pm–9pm)

30 Fri – Wreath-Making Workshops (10am–2pm)

### December

1 Sat – Holiday Wreath & Greens Sale at ACLT South Side Barn (11:00am–2:oopm)

## Wood Duck Mapping and Monitoring Program

**More on Watershed Observer Vol. 2016 Winter “If You Build It, They Will Come”**

[Note: The Winter 2016 Newsletter can be found at <http://acltweb.org> in the “Reports and Publications” section.]

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources’ Maryland Wood Duck Initiative (MWDI) is a volunteer-based conservation effort focused on increasing viable nesting cavities for wood ducks. Volunteers are provided constructed boxes to be erected on state property across Maryland. Although beginning in 2004, this initiative found its way to ACLT in 2016 when volunteers installed 7 wood duck boxes on DNR owned/ACLT managed property. Since then the number of boxes has expanded beyond the 7 on state property and steadily increased to 10 in 2017 and now 15 in 2018 on account of our incredible wood duck volunteers Bob Field, Penny Moran, Jeanette Kauffman, Sandy Foley, and Alan Christian.

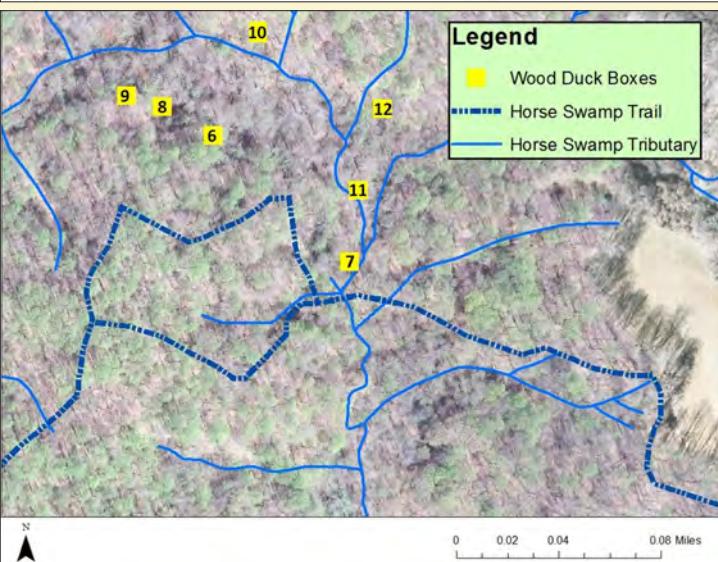
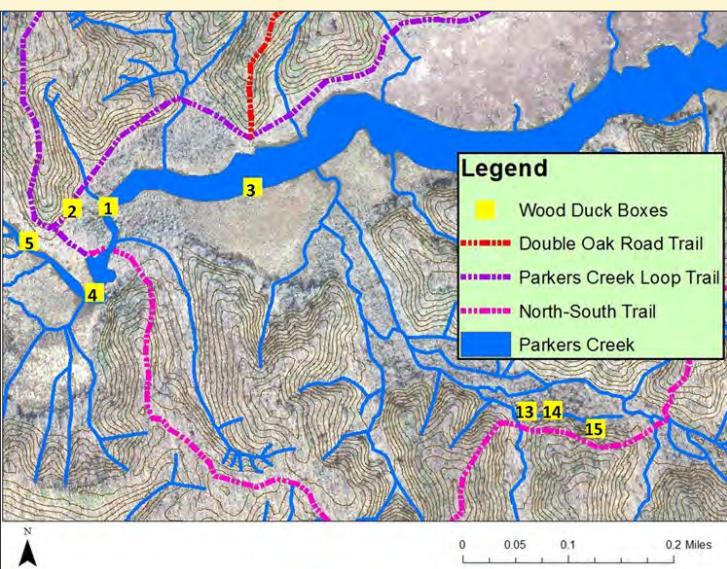


Mike Molina and volunteer Bob Field installing the newest Box #2 in Parkers Creek. Photo by Taylor Roswall

*Aix sponsa*, common name ‘wood duck’, comes from Aristotle’s Ancient Greek meaning “unknown diving bird” (Cornell). Of course this stems from the wood duck’s foraging habits of “dabbling” and diving under water to escape prey and obtain its omnivorous dietary preference of aquatic foods: fruits, seeds, arthropods and plants (Carnesius Ambassadors for Conservation). However, when most people hear “wood duck”, it’s the piercing red eye sur-

rounded by an iridescent color palette of greens and purples they envision. Surprisingly, this description only accounts for half of all wood ducks, the males, and for only a certain percentage of the year, the breeding season. Wood ducks exploit a form of sexual dimorphism called dynamic dichromatism (Carnesius Ambassadors for Conservation). This means that males and females of the same species not only differ in their size and appearance, but mainly in their coloration. Driven by sexual selection, males' molt twice a year; once in the fall resulting in vibrant plumage indicating the start of the breeding season, and once in early summer resulting in plumage that resembles the females' greyish-brown coloration (National Wildlife Federation). This type of phenotypical behavior is found throughout the animal kingdom and is theorized to increase the fecundity of males by alluding to higher fitness. This entices the females into a monogamous relationship with that male through an unspoken promise of successful offspring.

Now in its 3<sup>rd</sup> year of participation in the MWDI, ACLT wants to ensure its pristine ecosystem can support



as many love birds as possible. Research is still on going and debated as to which factors result in the highest nesting success for wood ducks. This year, ACLT plans to contribute to this research by performing its analysis of the Parkers Creek's wood duck boxes. With ACLT's Wood Duck Monitoring and Mapping Program, volunteers will monitor the boxes periodically throughout the breeding season and account for specific variables such as number of broods, box height, box direction facing, surrounding vegetation, etc. Each year, staff will analyze the variables and make necessary changes to boxes with low nesting success.

Wood ducks fare best in open water wetlands where vegetation coverage is around 50-75% providing adequate grounds for foraging and hiding (Cornell). It has also been documented that wood ducks prefer cattails and trees for vegetation which furthers the pertinence of ACLT's efforts to eradicate *Phragmites australis* which is unfortunately outcompeting native cattail throughout the winding passes of Parkers Creek. In addition to the boxes' blue print (see 2016 winter article), other recommendations include installing the man-made nest cavities 6-30 feet high, facing the water source, and 600 feet apart. Female wood ducks have been known to display intraspecific brood parasitism when boxes are too close together (Cornell). This type of parasitism means that females from the same species will "egg dump" their own brood into other nesting females' cavities if cavities are placed too close together. This is why some broods are found with egg counts topping the usual maximum of 14 eggs. Other factors leading to success: box guards, south or west facing boxes, and boxes at least 3 feet above high tide water level.

ACLT encourages you to get involved with the MWDI in any way that you can, and more importantly to head out on our trails and visit our 15 wood duck boxes the next chance you get. You might just be lucky enough to watch some bright plumage and juvenile ducklings take a dive head first into the waterways of Parkers Creek.

#### Resources:

Cornell Lab of Ornithology All About Birds. [https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Wood\\_Duck/lifehistory](https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Wood_Duck/lifehistory).

Maryland Wood Duck Initiative. <http://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/MWDI/index.aspx>

National Wildlife Federation. <https://www.nwf.org/Wildlife/Wildlife-Library/Birds/Wood-Duck.aspx>

Canisius Ambassadors for Conservation.

[http://www.conservenature.org/learn\\_about\\_wildlife/birds\\_of\\_wny/wood\\_duck.htm](http://www.conservenature.org/learn_about_wildlife/birds_of_wny/wood_duck.htm)

Taylor Roswall

# Land Manager's Corner

## Take Action to Fight Plastic Pollution

Plastic pollution has been a hot topic in the environmental world for the last few years. Since it began to be mass produced in the 1950's, plastic has been regarded as the ultimate material of convenience. And it's true, plastic has played an important role in the modern medical field, food safety, and, because it is lightweight, has reduced the carbon emissions that result from the mass transportation of products around the globe ([www.fauna-flora.org](http://www.fauna-flora.org)). However, humans have now come to rely too heavily on this material and it is having a very negative impact on our environment and our health.



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Currently, one of the worst culprits is single-use plastic. These are items such as plastic cups, silverware, plates, food and drink containers, straws, and bags. These items are specifically designed to be used once and then discarded. Sometimes these items are recycled, but more often they end up in a landfill or as litter that eventually ends up in our waterways. Many of us feel like it is ok to use plastic as long as we recycle it but according to 5 Gyres, a non-profit organization dedicated to using science to find solutions to reduce the large quantities of plastic that are accumulating in the ocean gyres, up to 22% of the plastic intended for recycling ends up being exported to other countries. There, waste pickers sort through it to pick out metals and thicker plastics which are more valuable and the remainder is deposited in landfills or incinerated, which has negative health impacts on those communities. According to 5 Gyres, plastic waste was America's number one export to China in 2011 ([www.5gyres.org](http://www.5gyres.org)).

A more recent discovery is the impact of microplastics in our aquatic ecosystems. Plastics are most commonly made out of petroleum and they don't ever truly decompose but rather break down into smaller and smaller pieces of plastic until they are eventually considered microplastic. Other sources of microplastic are

the small beads that are common in facial scrubs and fibers that are released from washing clothes made from synthetic materials ([www.fauna-flora.org](http://www.fauna-flora.org)). Plastic in the ocean is known to absorb toxic chemicals such as PCBs and DDTs which have been linked to endocrine disruption and cancer. These tiny plastic pieces are consumed by marine animals and work their way up the food chain, meaning they have a negative impact on both marine animal and human health ([www.5gyres.org](http://www.5gyres.org)).

While we may just be understanding the impacts of microplastics, we've long known about the negative impacts slightly larger pieces of plastic have on wildlife. Plastic bags, which are extremely light-weight and often transported by the wind, can end up in the water and be mistaken for jellyfish by sea turtles. Seabirds and other animals mistake bottle caps, cigarette butts, and other trash for food and die from starvation when their bodies cannot digest it. Fish and aquatic birds and mammals can become trapped in plastic fishing line or other debris which can cause injuries or death. The effects of our plastic pollution problem are felt by all aquatic organisms.



Stomach contents of a dead albatross chick. Photo from <http://www.australiageographic.com.au/topics/science-environment/2016/04/pulling-the-plug-on-plastic>, taken by Chris Jordan/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Headquarters/Flickr.

So now that we've covered the problem, let's cover some actions that could help set us in a better direction. The plastic pollution problem is starting to be highlighted and addressed by many businesses, organizations, and media outlets. Thanks to awareness campaigns and viral videos on social media outlets such as Facebook and Twitter, more people are being informed of

the problems that plastics are causing and some ways to reduce the amount of plastic we are consuming. If enough people can implement changes to their own lifestyles and advocate for systemic change, then we could really begin to address the plastic pollution problem.

So, if you are looking to eliminate some of the single-use plastics in your life, there are some easy habits you can incorporate into your daily routine. Two that everyone is probably already aware of are utilizing reusable shopping bags and reusable water bottles. Plastic shopping bags are personally one of my biggest pet peeves and it is honestly painful for me to go grocery shopping and see the number of plastic bags that are handed out to be used for a few minutes and then tossed away. They also cannot be recycled with other plastic containers because they gum up the machines so they need to be separated and processed separately. By using a reusable water bottle (or to-go coffee mug on that morning Starbucks or Dunkin' Donuts run) you are eliminating plastic bottles, plastic tops, and plastic lined paper cups. Similarly, if you use a Keurig machine to make your morning coffee or tea, buy the reusable filter rather than the packages of single-use plastic pods. The reusable bottles and single-serving coffee filters will reduce your plastic contribution and help your wallet.

Another plastic-reducing action that has more recently been getting attention is eliminating the use of plastic straws. Americans alone use approximately 500 million straws each day ([www.5gyres.org](http://www.5gyres.org)) and many of these small lightweight plastic straws end up in our waterways. If you need to be convinced of the damage they can do to wildlife, search the internet for the video of boaters pulling a straw out of an unfortunate turtle's nose; I'll warn you it isn't pleasant. When you go out to eat, tell your server that you do not want a straw when you order your drink- often if you wait until they come back they've already got the straw in the drink and the point is moot. If you really like your drinks to have a straw, you can buy reusable stainless-steel straws or ask for a paper straw. Most restaurants might not have paper straws yet, but if enough costumers start asking for them they will begin to provide that option. Additionally, if enough people ask for no straw in their drink, restaurants will change from automatically supplying them to only providing them when they are requested. Lastly, if you are in a restaurant that does not use plastic straws (there are a few on Solomons Island and I'm sure there are others), be sure to let the staff know that you appreciate and support the effort.

Lastly, perhaps two lesser-known ways to reduce your plastic consumption are to buy in bulk and wear natural fabrics. According to 5 Gyres, 25% of all plastic manufacturing is now for packaging. By buying in bulk, you reduce the amount of packaging per the amount of product. As for the natural fabrics, I mentioned above that that synthetic fabrics such as nylon and polyester shed tiny fibers (microplastics) that are not caught in wastewater filters and ultimately end up in the ocean. By purchasing clothes made from natural materials and handwashing clothes made of synthetic materials so that it is gentler and minimizes the amount of fibers that are lost.



Swimmers collect straws found in the ocean. Photo from <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-04-12/manly-plastic-straws-swimmers/9642766>, supplied by Harriet Spark.

Many of you conservation-minded ACLT members were likely already somewhat aware of the plastic pollution problem and some of the actions you could do to minimize your plastic consumption. What really needs to be considered is this: what actions are you actually implementing in your daily life to help be part of the solution? You've probably heard about reusable bags and bottles but do you actually remember to take them with you? You might've heard about asking for no straws at restaurants but do you actually take the time to do it? Do you try to explain why you do it to your friends and family who are with you and try to convince them to make the change as well? With over 700 families as active members, the ACLT membership can make a real impact on plastic consumption and policies in Calvert county if we each get out, implement changes in our own daily actions, educate and ask others to do the same, and advocate for the changes we'd like to see.

Autumn Phillips-Lewis  
Land Manager

# Sustainable Calvert Network Holds its First Rural Lands Forum

It was a rainy and chilly on the evening of March 28th, but residents filled the seats of Calvert High School Cafeteria to learn about the importance of Calvert's rural landscapes, the status of land preservation, and to discuss next steps. At the forum were speakers from the Sustainable Calvert Network who spoke about various economic, social, and environmental benefits of rural lands and why they should be preserved.

Jason Leavitt, President of the Calvert County Farm Bureau spoke of "the Return, Re-Focus and Revitalization of Calvert County Agriculture" and the growth of operations of the next generation of farmers. He noted that there is an interesting thread that ties this list together. Most, if not all of these farms are preserved in either the County Agricultural Preservation Program, or one of the State Preservation Programs, or a combination of the two. It begs the question as to whether the opportunity for the next generation to return to the farm would even exist if the properties were not preserved.

This is an exciting time to be a part of our agricultural



Left: Jason Leavitt, President of the Calvert County Farm Bureau. Right: Middleham Chapel Lusby, MD. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

community. He added that "Our survival and successes are predicated on the fact that you as elected officials are cognizant of the viability of our local agricultural businesses in conjunction with the important role that preservation programs provide." Between 2007 and 2012, there was a 90% increase in direct sales of local food in Calvert County according to the US Census of Agriculture and a 6,000 acre increase in acreage over the same period. According to a report by BEACON, The Business Economic and Community Outreach Network, of the Franklin P. Perdue School of Business at Salisbury University, the Agriculture sector in Calvert County produced a total eco-

nomic impact of \$15.7 million dollars in 2015, nearly double that found in 2008.

Amber DeMarr, Aquaculture Manager for PEARL at Morgan State said that oysters harvested since 1950 had been on a long downward trend. However, oyster aquaculture is the fastest growing seafood industry, an overall 1,019% increase in production since 2012. She explained that year round oyster harvests are permitted when triploid oysters are planted, so there is no more "R" month rule! Finally, she observed that there is better control of the final product, it is more labor intensive, there is a higher dollar value for water column produced oysters, and an oyster in the water is an oyster filtering water! According to a BEACON report (University of Salisbury), the fishery sector in Calvert County produced a total economic impact of \$1.4 million dollars in 2015.

Joyce Baki, a Director of Calvert Nature Society, said that tourism is a vital part of a sustainable future for Calvert County, with all of its eco-tourism, agri-tourism, and heritage sites scattered throughout its rural lands. She stated that "Calvert County with its many open spaces and nature parks offers possibilities to visitors that would like to hike, canoe, kayak, and do nature walks" This type of tourism, known as "eco-tourism", unites conservation, communities and sustainable travel. In addition, Calvert County also offers boating, sailing, fishing and water sports. Calvert County has one of the largest charter fishing fleets in the state.

Next, agri-tourism has grown in popularity. Agri-tourism includes farm stands, U-pick opportunities, farm tours, festivals, pumpkin patches, corn mazes, barn weddings, wineries and breweries. She said "new buzz words in tourism include 'farm to table' and 'Bay to table' giving opportunities to farmers and watermen to work with local restaurants to bring fresh foods to the table.

Finally, she said that heritage tourism is "traveling to experience the places, artifacts and activities that authentically represent the stories and people of the past and present. It includes cultural, historic, and natural resources." Being one of the oldest counties in the country, Calvert has a plethora of historic buildings and rural landscapes that draw visitors. Altogether, tourism added \$151 million to Calvert's economy in 2017, according to the Calvert County Department of Economic Development.

Anne Sundermann, Executive Director of the Calvert Nature Society, pointed out that access to rural lands not only create jobs and income, they make us healthier. "At Calvert Nature Society, we represent families and individuals who are seeking to take advantage of all that nature has to offer, including a chance to re-charge, and in some cases, create a better "health" environment for their them-

selves and their families." And there is need for improvement. She noted that "obesity is a \$190 billion/year health epidemic that heightens the risk for heart disease, diabetes and various cancers." In Calvert County, more than 30 percent of adults and 20 percent of school aged children were found to be obese, according to a recent health survey. She said that "The closer we are to green space, the better the chance that we will take advantage and receive the benefits to our physical, mental and developmental health."

Chris Banks is the President of the Calvert County Historical Society. She began by reminiscing how as a child she came to learn about and care for history and cultural landscapes, even though she wouldn't have used those terms at the time. She said that "Calvert has a rich cultural heritage here amid the forests, fields, creeks, rivers and Bay. It is where Captain John Smith explored between 1607 and 1609, where Puritans arrived in 1652 and established communities. Where skirmishes during the War of 1812 happened in St. Leonard Creek. Where Military housing and training grounds were established in Solomons to prepare soldiers for the invasion of Normandy in WWII."

Calvert's rural lands have provided a cultural heritage today that includes beautiful historic houses, tobacco barns, cornfields, oystering industries, churches, lighthouses, one room school houses, vernacular architecture, to name a few places of interest. These matter for their tourism value and they also matter for us as residents of the county so that we can understand where we came from . . . how we got here.

Altogether, Calvert's resourced based industries (e.g. farming, fisheries, and forestry) and supporting businesses generate over \$100 million, not counting the dollars generated from eco-tourism, agri-tourism, and heritage tourism. In addition, Calvert's farm fields, forests, meadows, and marshes provide \$228 million annually in ecosystem services, such as storm water management, nutrient management, air pollution attenuation, and wildlife habitat critical for hunters, animal watchers, and the wildlife itself. These ecosystem services are greatly diminished as properties are developed.

I wrapped up the meeting by pointing out that Calvert's highly touted land preservation program has not accepted applications for new Agricultural Preservation Districts since 2013. There is a moratorium. In addition, funding for the programs has been cut and there is no county application in 2018 for the state's Rural Legacy Program. On behalf of the Sustainable Calvert Network, I urged attendees to support the following recommendations:

- Create a strong implementation plan for the County Comprehensive Plan.
- Retain the goal of protecting 40,000 acres.
- Begin paying \$4,700 per acre county purchased development rights. Each year, add another 3% to the value of TDRs.
- Begin using \$1.5 million again from the recordation tax for land preservation.

- Add another \$1,000,000 per year from the general fund, as the county has done previously
- Add another \$1 million per year to make up for the \$9,000,000 that was diverted to the general fund and use that money to match the state land preservation programs. That will double the value of our money and protect new lands at a faster rate.

Greg Bowen  
Executive Director, ACLT



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Follow the American Chestnut Land Trust today!



# Support our Future Land and Wildlife Protectors

Donate to our Spring Appeal to help our programs for kids and young people.



For many years, it's been a hope of ACLT's founders, board of directors and you, our dedicated members, volunteers and friends, to find a way to involve more young people. You've asked us...

**"How do we inspire the next generation  
to love and care for the land like we do?"**

We believe we've found a plan that works, and ***we need your help.***

For the past several years, Greg, Pam and Autumn have worked to build and expand relationships with local grade schools, scout troops, high school environmental clubs and internship programs. We've built a presence on social media apps that younger generations use like Instagram and Snapchat. And we're seeing results. In only the first 5 months of 2018, we've had **10 events** that focused on or involved young people from age 5 all the way to the 20-something interns.

**Donating now will help us fund the activities  
that interest kids, teens and millennials.**

**For example:**

- Our Earth Day clean up included teens and kids who worked alongside long-time volunteers for hours discussing how their work will help our wildlife, land and waterways.
- One of our local scout troops brought a team of 25 to help clean up our life vests and raised funds to donate new ones to ACLT's Guided Canoe Program.
- Our Land Manager, Autumn Phillips-Lewis and her CCC intern, Taylor Roswall, worked with and quizzed local teens at the annual Calvert County Envirothon.

The future of our natural world is in the hands of the next generation. **Like you, ACLT is committed to engaging young people more and more each year.** But we need ***your help*** to continue this effort.

Making a donation now will allow us to focus on events and projects that connect nature lovers just like you with the naturalists of the future. Won't you consider helping ACLT provide these experiences? Donating to the 2018 spring appeal will support ACLT's general fund and will provide support for the wide variety of ways we are connecting with kids and young people.

**Every dollar counts! Your donation will allow us  
to continue and expand:**

- Educational visits from local public and private schools
- Kid friendly events like our "ACLT 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays" and Family Day
- Guided hikes and visits for scout groups which we currently offer for free

**Any donation will make a difference  
in our ability to continue to focus on this effort!**

Together, we can protect the future of this beautiful and ecologically important region while watching the next generation fall in love with it. Just like we did.

***Thank you!***



Donations can be made conveniently and safely online at [acltweb.org](http://acltweb.org) or by sending a check to  
ACLT, PO Box 2363,  
Prince Frederick, MD 20678

# Thank you for your support ...

## New Members

ACLT would like to welcome the following new members since the Spring 2018 Newsletter

Danna Blais & David Griffith  
Niurka Calcano  
Gary & Deborah Faller  
Kyle & Michelle Greene  
Earl Hance  
Katie Hayden  
Kevin & Donna Hook  
Deborah & James Hudson  
Dr. Janis Hurst  
Tracy Kelly  
Brian Linville  
Craig Turner  
Laura Umphries  
Susan Hance-Wells

## Memorial Contributions

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

In memory of **Mary Dwan** who was a Charter Member, one of the founders of the ACLT and a dedicated volunteer and supporter throughout the years:

Barbara & Stan Benning  
Tom Gannon  
John Hendel  
The Lay Center at Foyer Unitas in Rome  
c/o Nancy Lindsay  
Patricia Molumby  
Nancy McK. Smith  
Marijka & Robert Ulanowicz

In memory of **Col. Carolyn VanMason** who was a Charter Member, and served on the Board of Directors as Corporate Secretary, as an emeritus member, and served on numerous committees:  
Kathleen McGillicuddy

In memory of **Molly Weaver Petty** who was a Charter Member, one of the founders of the ACLT and a dedicated volunteer and supporter throughout the years:  
Barbara & Stan Benning  
Joan & Michael Cunningham  
Nancy & Jeff Klapper  
Gunny & Patrick Murphy  
William Petty  
James Weaver

## Holly Hill Memorial

### Donations:

In memory of **Dr. Thomas Turner and in honor of his family**.

Dr. Turner, former owner of the Holly Hill property, was a longtime member and ardent supporter.

Dr. Charles Bennett & Gail Hueraff-Bennett

### In Honor of Contributions

Thank you to the following member who made an "in honor of" contribution since our last newsletter:

In honor of **Lisa Manning & Dave Cassidy** on their upcoming wedding. Lisa has been a longtime supporter for many years:

Molly Jennings

In honor of **Daniel Boesz's** birthday. Dan has been with the ACLT since its beginning days as a Charter Member and dedicated volunteer and supporter: Joy Bartholomew & Mark Edmondson

## Sustaining Membership

Congratulations to the following members who have reached the level of Sustaining Membership:  
Stephen Straka

## Holly Hill Donations

Thank you to the following, who made donations to the Holly Hill campaign since our last newsletter:

Fran Armstrong  
Dawn & Steve Balinski  
Michael Duffy  
Kathy & Mike Ellwood  
Norman J Fisher and  
Doris Fisher Foundation  
Hank & Dorothy Howe  
Bruce and Barbara (Barbie) Hudson &  
Family  
Judy Kay  
Ron & Kathy Klauda  
Kathleen Miller  
Peter & Jennie Stathis

## Workplace Giving through the Maryland Charity Campaign

Matthew Abbott  
Heidi Dudderar  
James Dunkerson  
Brian Foster  
Laurence Herman  
Rose Longfield  
Robert McGowan  
Mary Rodriguez  
Stephen Schatz  
Betty Seifert  
Gary Setzer  
Gerry Sneeringer  
Ashley Staples

## Land Preservation Donations

Carl Fleischhauer  
Jeff Klapper

## Farm Program Donation

Farm Heritage Conservancy

## General Donations

Jessica & Ty Clark  
James Dugan  
Carl Fleischhauer & Paula Johnson  
Jenny Heinritz  
Elaine Strong  
Paul Vetterle  
Stephen Straka  
Sherman Suter & Mary Parrish  
Michael Terrin & Bess Keller

## Spring Appeal Donations

Louis Amtmann  
Joy Bartholomew & Mark Edmondson  
Daniel Boesz  
David Falk  
Jeffrey Greene  
Scott Hite  
Jim & Caroline Jepson  
Penny Firth & David Knapp  
Cheryl Place  
Michael Rubino  
Mr. & Mrs. W.A. White



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

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MD

**Why does it say "Or Current Resident" in my address?**

In order to use your donations as efficiently as possible, we use USPS Bulk Mail and this statement is now required in the address. Thank you for understanding!

## 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

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—\$5000.00

### Corporate Membership

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.