

# Watershed Observer



NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN CHESTNUT LAND TRUST - VOLUME 33 No. 3 SUMMER 2019

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## COMING UP ON THE CALENDAR

### July

- 13 Sat — Southern Maryland Nature Fest  
(10:00 am–2:00 pm)
- 20 Sat — Guided Canoe Trip  
(Sunrise 6:30 am–9:30 am)
- 27 Sat — Hunting Creek Paddle  
(10:00 am–1:00 pm)

### August

- 10 Sat — St. Leonard Creek Paddle  
(9:00 am–11:00 am)

See more of the 2019 Calendar on page 9 or online at <http://acltweb.org>.

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## The Griffin Meadow Trail

Earlier this year, ACLT's fearless leader, Pat Griffin, retired from his role as President of the Board of Directors. With 18 years of service on the Board and 8 of those years as Board President, Pat has played an integral role in many of ACLT's impressive accomplishments. Under Pat's leadership ACLT purchased the Harrod, St. John Vianney I and II, and Holly Hill properties, permanently preserving 480 acres of prime forest and farm land in the Parkers Creek watershed. Pat's visionary outlook helped expand the work and mission of ACLT as he guided the Board and staff in creating a working farm on Double Oak Farm, creating the Science Committee and the Advisory Committee, and expanding the boundaries of our land preservation efforts by initiating the Watershed Awareness Program.

At the 2018 Annual Membership meeting Pat was given the President's Award for his years of dedicated service and guidance as the ACLT Board President. This summer, staff and volunteers will be working to establish the "Griffin Meadow Trail" around the North Side meadow. This new trail will be just under a mile in length and will traverse the relatively-flat border between the forest edge and the North Side meadow. It will provide an option for ACLT visitors who want to come and experience the beauty and calming effects of nature even though they may not have the desire or ability to hike a long strenuous trail laden with hills and tripping hazards such as roots. In this way, the Griffin Meadow Trail will expand the population who will be able to experience ACLT's properties, a goal that has always been near and dear to Pat's heart. It will also offer a new variety to the most avid and adventurous ACLT hikers as it will be the only ACLT trail in a habitat other than woodland and it is likely that it will eventually be the access point to the future trail on Holly Hill.

The Griffin Meadow Trail will offer visitors views of the North Side meadow and Double Oak Farm as well as passage near many of ACLT's bluebird nesting boxes that are also located around the edges of the meadow. Hikers will see a greater diversity of both plants and wildlife along this trail than on most other ACLT trails as it will be in edge habitat where woods and meadow meet. In addition to the



(CONTINUED ON PAGE 9)



**AMERICAN CHESTNUT  
LAND TRUST, INC.**

P. O. Box 2363  
Prince Frederick, MD 20678  
Phone: 410-414-3400  
Fax: 410-414-3402  
info@actweb.org  
<http://actweb.org>

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Editors: Ellen and David Farr

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# From the President's Desk

## Moving Forward

This newsletter highlights continued progress on two of ACLT's primary objectives—land conservation and improving access to our beautiful land.

The West Governors Run Watershed includes two of ACLT's protected properties—East Gravatt and the Kenwood tract. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources Natural Heritage Program described the West Governors Run Watershed as “a mature hardwood forest, many portions of which have not been logged for 70 years. Large tracts of older forest such as this are uncommon in the region.” The watershed is composed of three large tracts. The northern property, East Gravatt, was ACLT's first purchase. At the southern end is the Kenwood property purchased by ACLT in 1990. The middle portion, 80 acres, is owned by the Governors Run Development Corporation. ACLT now has a contract to purchase this middle portion. This is an exciting development. The land is biologically valuable and connects two of our existing holdings. See the map and read more about the property on page 3.

In keeping with the goal expressed in our tagline, “Connecting people with the land”, ACLT is always looking for ways to broaden the range of people who can enjoy the outdoor experiences made available by ACLT. The new Griffin Meadow Trail will be a relatively flat trail that will follow the border between the woods and the North Side Meadow. This will open the ACLT experience to those who do not have the desire or ability to hike our other more strenuous trails. The trail will also be our only trail in a habitat other than woodland. While you're walking the Griffin Meadow Trail, take a look at the flowers of the grasses that are a major component of the meadow.

David Farr, President



# Around ACLT

## GRDC-Yowell Property Under Contract

From ACLT's formation in 1986, acquisition of this 77 acre site has been a logical purchase because of its location, its condition, and its history. The deal just needed to happen at the right time. We are hoping that right time will be 2019. It is a pristine property worth protecting.

In 2008, the Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources Natural Heritage Program described the West Governors Run Watershed (which includes the GRDC property) this way: "West Governors Run Watershed contains a mature hardwood forest, many portions of which have not been logged for 70 years or more. Large tracts of older forest such as this are uncommon in the region, due to the clearing of forests for timber management, agriculture, and residential and commercial development. Old maps show that this site was one of the largest forested sites in the area in the mid-1800s, when most of coastal Calvert County had been cleared for agriculture, especially tobacco farming." Three large tracts make up the West Governors Run Watershed. East Gravatt is the most northerly tract and was part of ACLT's first land purchase. The Kenwood Tract was ACLT's third land purchase (1990) and is mostly on the south side of Governors Run Road. That left the GRDC property as the only large unprotected forested property in the West Governor Run Watershed.

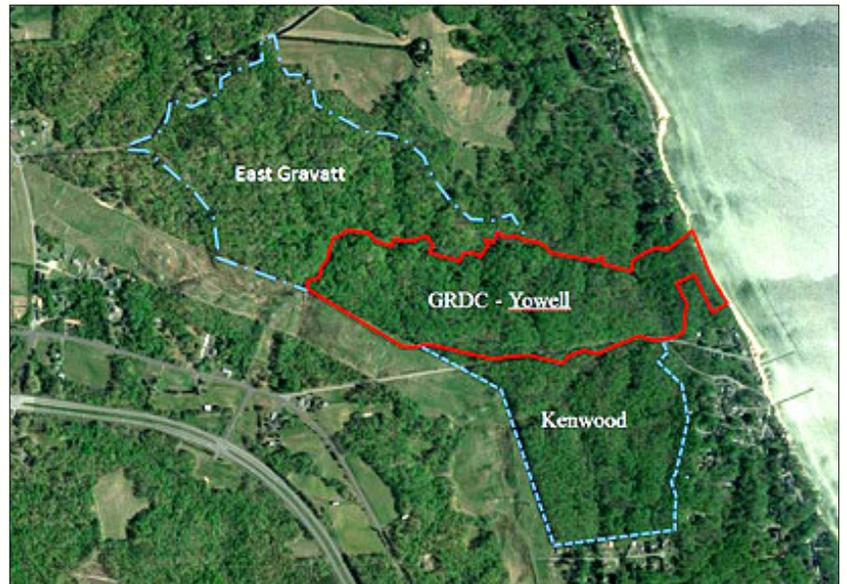
Program staff added that "a number of uncommon plants grow at this site because of its unusual geology and the deep humus and litter layers that have developed in the absence of recent soil disturbance. Underlying marl deposits from the Miocene Epoch have produced soils that are much less acidic than most Coastal Plain soils. These circumneutral soils support several plant species found more often in the mountains and Piedmont than on the Coastal Plain."

Peter Vogt, one of ACLT's founders, cites the Maryland state geologist Julius Timolean Ducatel who in 1836 praised the "the geological features of the county, on the north side of Governor's Run, on the plantation of Mr. Frazier. In this locality the cliffs are upwards of one hundred feet high and afford a luminous view of the strata containing the fossils as well as many of the intermediate ones..."

The 80+ acre parcel, including a small tract on the south side of Governor's Run Road, were purchased by Greg and Alicia Yowell in 1981. Together with others, they founded the Governors Run Development Corporation (GRDC) and the Governors Run Condominium Association (GRCA) the small community at the end of Governor's Run Road. GRDC was placed in a Forest Management Plan and then was approved and recorded as an Ag Preservation District. However, no Transferable Development Rights (TDRs) were sold, so it could have been removed from the

District and developed had the shareholders wished.

It was in this condition that the GRDC Board of Directors approached the ACLT Board of Directors in 2018 about the possibility of purchasing the land for the preservation purposes. We are grateful to the Yowells and to all the other shareholders of GRDC for holding on to the property for so many years and for their stewardship of the property.



Aerial of GRDC property including boundaries



GRDC wooded glade.

If we are successful, it will be the end of another chapter in ACLT's quest to preserve the lands in the Governors Run Watershed and it will extend the unbroken chain of protected lands all the way from Western Shores to Dares Beach Road a continuous span of 4.6 miles of largely forested lands along the Chesapeake Bay.

Once again, Maryland's Rural Legacy Program has proven to be an effective tool for land preservation. With leftover funds from a previous grant, Rural Legacy money is paying for the bulk of the land preservation costs. In exchange, ACLT commits to moving toward "old growth forest" condition, to active stewardship of the property, and to the creation of public access trails.

Many thanks to the donors who have continued to fund ACLT's land preservation program. With this purchase we will have practically depleted its resources. Therefore, we are hoping that members will give generously in replenishing the Land Preservation Fund so that we can protect the last few remaining gems in the Parkers Creek and Governors Run watersheds which cannot be protected by private property owners themselves.

Greg Bowen, Executive Director

## ACLT's Year of the Volunteer: Golf Cart Donation Fuels Pollinator Education

During 2018, ACLT's former Board President Pat Griffin decided that his Golf Cart could be better used here at ACLT. Thanks to Pat and the soon to be Griffin Meadow Trail named in his honor, donors and members with disabilities will be able to more fully enjoy the Double Oak Farm/North Side Trailhead location. The golf cart will allow staff and volunteers to take these guests comfortably around the grounds and on limited portions of trails.

Long-time volunteer, Bob Field, saw a further opportunity for the golf cart, particularly at ACLT events. Bob envisioned it as a "Monarch Mobile" carrying ACLT guests to the meadows and milkweed patches.

One of Bob's many hobbies is tagging and helping to teach about Monarch Butterflies and the challenges all

pollinators currently face. Monarchs are experiencing dangerous declines in their populations due to loss of milkweed and nectaring habitat, deforestation in Mexico, and changing and severe weather patterns. The golf cart will enable staff and volunteers to escort guests around the meadows where Monarchs can be netted, tagged and released to help scientists to understand more about their migration patterns as well as approaches to improve their likelihood of survival. Thanks to Pat and Bob, these are new activities we can add to our Double Oak/North Side Trailhead events.

## ACLT and the Chesapeake Conservation Corps Program

During four of the past eight years ACLT has had the opportunity to be a host site for the Chesapeake Conservation Corps (CCC) Program. This program, organized by the Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT), aims to give young adults a year of hands-on field experience at one of many environmental non-profits or government agencies throughout Maryland. They do this by matching 18-25 year old CCC members with a host site, such as ACLT. The CCC member works full-time at the host site for a full year under the guidance of a mentor. At ACLT, the mentor has traditionally been the Land Manager, with our first two CCC members working closely with former Land Manager Steven Gaines and the second two working under my mentorship.

Because the program requires CCC members to work full-time for a year, the CCC member applicants are usually recent high school or college graduates. There is an extensive selection process which begins with host sites and potential Corps members applying to be selected to move into the second phase of the matching process. Usually roughly 60 Corps applicants and 50 potential host sites are selected to move into the second round where potential members and host sites interview each other to see which hosts sites are the best fits for each potential member. The host sites then rank members they would be willing to host for the year and potential members list their top choices for host site placement. Then, CBT decides which host sites and members get placed and where. It is a competitive process and each year there are host sites that do not receive a Corps member and Corps member applicants that do not get placed at a host site.

For those that do get placed, CBT pays the Corps member a stipend for the year. Host sites have the option of asking for a second Corps member if they are willing to supply the full cost of supporting a Corps member for the year. This year, the ACLT Board of Directors elected to



pursue this route and have committed to supplying the stipend of a second Corps member if CBT decides to place two here. The Board's reasoning for this decision was because it would further increase the organization's capacity and, based on ACLT's knowledge of the history of the program, it seems that being willing to provide a stipend for a second member increases an organization's likelihood of getting a placement.

While the Corps members do receive a stipend, it is not usually enough for them to cover the cost of living in Calvert County on their own. In the past, ACLT has been fortunate to have CCC members that were from the area and thus could live with their families for the duration of the program, or, have had ACLT members who provided affordable housing options for CCC members who were transferring to Calvert County from another area. ACLT has submitted its selection form for member applicants that we would be willing to host for the 2019-2020 CCC Program. Depending on whether CBT places any Corps members here and whether they are from outside of Calvert County, we may once again be sending out the call to our membership to consider providing affordable housing



options for a new Corps member. If you have available space, please keep ACLT in mind in August as we may be preparing to welcome one or two new CCC members. Having an affordable place to live will be an integral part of them getting the most out of their CCC experience at ACLT.

While the CCC members gain a multitude of valuable skills during their year at ACLT, anyone who has worked with ACLT's past CCC members knows that ACLT has certainly benefited in a huge way from having them work with us over the course of a year. In the 2011-2012 CCC Program ACLT hosted its first CCC member Taren Evans.

While I never met Taren, I have heard from her admirers about her hard work ethic on Double Oak Farm, her proficiency with tools, and her ability drive stick shift! During the 2013-2014 CCC Program, CCC member Phillip Gross was placed at ACLT. I met Phillip

during the last few months of his time here when I became Land Manager in May of 2014, however Phillip spent most of his time with Steven Gaines and picked up Steven's love of forestry (and chainsaws!), in addition to providing invaluable help on Double Oak Farm and establishing two rain gardens for his capstone project.

I, of course, can speak the most about ACLT's two most recent CCC members as I have worked with both of them closely during the course of the years they spent here. Mike Molina (2016-2017) was part ecologist, part farmer, part fisherman. His passion for all three of these things meant that he significantly increased the amount of food produced by Double Oak Farm, conducted fish diversity surveys in Parkers Creek and its tributaries, initiated forest diversity studies, and helped with a multitude of other land stewardship projects during his time at ACLT. Last but not least, ACLT's current Stewardship Coordinator Taylor Roswall began her time with ACLT as a CCC member during the 2017-2018 Program. During her year in the CCC Program, Taylor designed and carried out a study to monitor macroinvertebrate populations and water quality on the streams on Holly Hill, played an integral part in ACLT's phragmites control program, helped write numerous successful grant applications, and has taken over the responsibility of coordinating the Trail Stewardship Program.

Without a doubt, the young environmental stewards that have come to ACLT through the CCC Program have made a lasting impact on the organization. We hope that we will be welcoming a new CCC member, or maybe two, this August. If that wish becomes a reality, I hope that you consider providing low-cost housing options for the new members if you can. Both the CCC member and ACLT will be grateful for the opportunity.

Autumn Phillips-Lewis  
Land Manager

CCC Members (top to bottom)  
Taylor kayaking. Taryn on Farm. Phillip on Trail Maintenance (3rd from the left). Mike Molina during his fish diversity survey.

### Save a Tree! Go Paperless!

Email us if you would prefer to receive the *Watershed Observer* electronically. You will receive a notice when the PDF version of each issue is available. Send your request to [volunteer@acltweb.org](mailto:volunteer@acltweb.org)

# A Galaxy of Land Trusts—Where Does ACLT Fit?

## Part II—Comparing ACLT with four other land trusts in the Chesapeake watershed

Peter Vogt

In this part I compare and contrast today's **ACLT** (the **Parkers Creek Preserve**) with four of the many other land trusts in the 64,000 square mile Chesapeake watershed—home to more than 18 million people and counting. Two of the four I chose are nearby (**Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust, PTLT**; and **Eastern Shore Land Conservancy, ESLC**), while the other two (**Finger Lakes Land Trust, FLLT**; **Otsego Land Trust, OLT**) are in New York State, at the northern edge of our watershed. Their missions are very similar—to preserve from development important lands variously for farming, forestry, scenery, history, and for some trusts to maintain and restore native American nature.

Note that land trusts are only one mode of land preservation. While the 170+ land trusts in the Chesapeake watershed have so far preserved 4% of its area, other preserved lands (e.g., state and county parks and forests) raise this total to 22%. However cash-strapped governments (including Maryland) have proposed trading away or selling park or other land acquired for preservation. At the local scale, ACLT-preserved land is just 10% of what has been preserved in Calvert County (about 30% of County area). Most of the other preserved land involved just the landowner and either the County or the State government, both of which have been leaders in US land preservation.

Our neighbors the **PTLT** (office in Leonardtown, founded 1996, >5200 acres preserved to date, five-county 'footprint' but preserved land so far only in St Mary's County, no full-time staff); the **ESLC** across the Bay (**ESLC**, Easton, 1990, >60,000 acres, six-county footprint, 18 full-time staff). Two northern land trusts straddle the watershed divide: the **FLLT** (Ithaca, NY, 1989, >22,000 acres—of which 5600 acres in the Chesapeake watershed, 12-county footprint, 11 full time staff); and the **OLT** (Cooperstown, NY, 1987-88, >11,000 acres, four-county footprint, 4 full-time staff). With footprints (areas of operation) each covering more than one county and more than 1000 square miles, these four are regional land trusts.

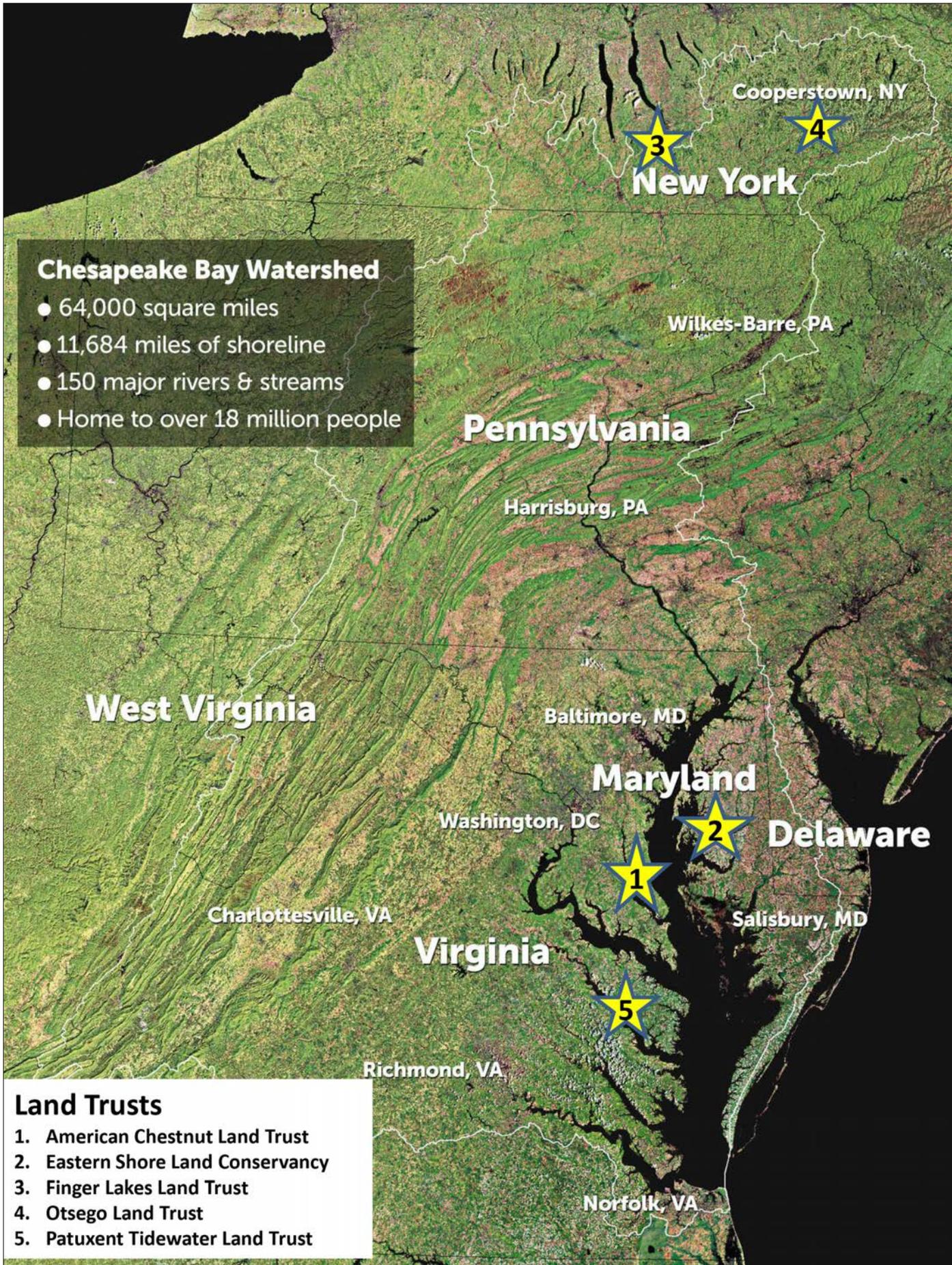
By contrast, the **American Chestnut Land Trust (ACLT)**, 1986, >3600 acres preserved, three full-time staff) has a footprint covering two small watersheds totaling a dozen square miles. However, ACLT with partners has so far preserved more than 60% of its footprint, vs less than 5% for each of the others. 90% of the land preserved by ACLT and its DNR partner is fee-simple and all variously open to the public. By contrast PTLT owns 0% of its preserved land, ESLC <1%, and OLT 5%. Only the FLLT owns a sizeable 25% of its preserved land—35 separate preserves totaling 42 miles of hiking trails. The largest contiguous preserve—Steege Hill near the Chemung River, a Susquehanna tributary—covers 793 acres, but even Steege Hill is only 1/5 the area of the Parkers

Creek Preserve. The ACLT stands out in the effort and funds devoted to maintaining a multifaceted nature park, free to the public, but without substantial funding from State or County governments. The ACLT office is directly in the heart of the preserve, not in a nearby town. The ACLT's tagline "*Connecting People with the Land*" differs little from FLLT's ("*Connecting People to the Land*") or OLT's ("*Connecting People with the Lands and Waters that Sustain Us*") but ACLT does this more literally. Fewer than one American in six has gone on a hike during the previous year, but far more feel connected to scenic land simply by admiring it from their car or buying produce at a farm stand.

The acre—not the square mile—is the common unit in land preservation. Compared to suburban lots of ½ or even a few acres, 100 or 1000 acres sounds like plenty of land. It's sobering to think that all land preserved by the five land trusts together would cover only 70% of Calvert County, at 220 square miles Maryland's smallest.

Many US land trusts (including the FLLT and ESLC) have transferred by resale permanently preserved land to public agencies or to private individuals. Instead, ACLT manages 1809 acres of MD DNR owned land which MD agreed to purchase with the proviso that ACLT would manage the land at no cost to the State. Actually this acreage was purchased and preserved by The Nature Conservancy with subsequent resale to the State. Over its 33 year history, ACLT has spent more on managing the preserved area—basically a nature park—than on land purchase. The years 1987 and 2017 were exceptions—with parcels of ca. 430 and 405 acres preserved via major fund-raising drives.

Of the five land trusts, all but the youngest (PTLT) are 'Accredited' by the Land Trust Alliance. However PTLT is more typical of all US land trusts, of which more than half are also run entirely by volunteers, just as the ACLT was in its early years. The number of staff tends to increase with the preserved area (notably the ESLC), but also depends on how much land is owned fee simple and managed for public access (notably the ACLT). The dramatic contrasts between the ACLT and the ESLC partly reflects the different topographies—the Eastern Shore is mainly flat and well suited as privately owned farmland. The ACLT (Parkers Creek Preserve) topography is



**Chesapeake Bay Watershed**

- 64,000 square miles
- 11,684 miles of shoreline
- 150 major rivers & streams
- Home to over 18 million people

**Land Trusts**

1. American Chestnut Land Trust
2. Eastern Shore Land Conservancy
3. Finger Lakes Land Trust
4. Otsego Land Trust
5. Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust

dissected by steep-sided valleys and ravines, leaving little level enough for farming (mostly tobacco) and thus remains mostly forested. That said—the ACLT proudly manages the preserve’s ca 100 farmed acres for historic, demonstration and other purposes. Both the ACLT and the ESLC have expanded their missions beyond land preservation: The ACLT hosts annual Maryland Master Naturalist training, sponsors triathlon races and service dog exhibitions, and maintains a small vegetable farm. The ESLC has branched out into responsible town planning and environmental advocacy.

Almost all the land preserved by the five land trust was mantled by old-growth forest prior to European colonization, with today’s forests repeatedly logged. Due to a colder climate, the native forests of the FLLT and OLT footprints differ in species composition from those in Southern Maryland. For example we lack white pine, paper birch and red spruce, while our northern colleagues lack dogwood, pawpaw and bald cypress. Other species, such as northern red oak and red cedar, grow in both forests.

Some land less valuable for farming has reverted to forest in the last century, and much has been irreversibly developed. The remaining forests have been assaulted by an ever increasing variety of alien invasive biota. The north-temperate forests of FLLT and OLT has avoided warmth-loving invasives like kudzu, and Oriental bittersweet is rare. However, Japanese knotweed infests the roadside of both Double Oak Road and New York 79 near the watershed divide. The forests once covering all our five land trusts have all lost the American elm and the American chestnut—to alien blights. The Finger Lakes and Lake Otsego are infested with alien zebra mussels. While salt keeps those mollusks out of our brackish tide-water, oysters once plentiful off Parkers Creek remain decimated by invasive parasites. Shorelines everywhere are encrusted with alien homo sapiens, making undeveloped shores expensive to preserve.

Our five land trusts have much in common—notably WATER—besides preserving open space from development. The northern two trusts (Finger Lakes and Otsego) have ‘footprints’ partly in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, while the southern three are not only totally within the Bay watershed but have preserved or also manage (ACLT) lands bordering brackish Chesapeake tidewater. The FLLT-saved forestlands along the Chemung River drain into the Susquehanna, as do OLT-saved lands draining into Otsego Lake, considered the headwaters of the great Susquehanna. On their long way south (400-500 miles) these waters mingle with those of myriads of other streams before high tides slosh them into lower Parkers Creek. Runoff from Southern Maryland can’t influence Otsego Lake, but our tidewaters are at the mercy of what the Susquehanna delivers.

Which then is the most successful of the five land trusts? This depends very much on how ‘success’ is defined and how the various attributes are prioritized. The **most common measures of land trust success is the number of acres preserved to date, and acres preserved per year.** However, would some of the preservation have happened even in the absence of land trust involvement?

**Fragmentation of preserved lands** is another measure of land trust success---**contiguity** is desirable for privately owned farmland and **especially important where lands are preserved**

Top to Bottom: PTLT-Sivak Family Farm easement; Eastern Shore Land Conservancy (ESLC); Finger Lakes Land Trust; Otsego Land Trust.



for nature, and from hikers' points of view essential for **preserves with public trail access**. Land trusts in the Eastern US generally are confronted by land ownership fragmentation dating back many years. Generally the **size of average preserved parcels** is important because smaller sizes mostly means greater fragmentation and more numerous developed pockets and unpreserved inholdings. All five land trusts are located in regions with very fragmented land ownership. **Shape** is also important—oddball or thin/gerrymander type property boundaries make the land more vulnerable to invasive alien species and human trespassing, and hostile to Forest Interior Dwelling species. Yet, narrow land preserves are unavoidable as **riparian buffers** or more generally as **wildlife corridors** through populated areas. What is the **preservation value of any parcel**—as measured for farmland as soil quality, or for forest as Site Index? For nature preservation—what about rare or endangered species or habitats? What about **historical or archeological attributes**? Finally there is **land and land management costs**—how much of the money raised by land trusts goes to preserving the land vs operating the organization? Land trust boards and staff have to be ever conscious of these factors as they debate priorities in terms of land trust missions.

If preserved acreage is the metric, ACLT is the least successful, averaging only about 50 acres per year since founding in 1986. However by preserve contiguity, nature and public access, ACLT is the most successful. The ESLC has preserved the most acres and agricultural productivity, but ranks low in public access and nature preserves. While second in both metrics, the FLLT best combines fee simple public access nature preserves with private lands preserved by conservation easements. The OLT has little fee simple land but its Blueway trail connects a necklace of preserves from Canadarago Lake to the Susquehanna River. While the PTLT appears to rank low in both categories it is still a rising star, and with a volunteer staff ranks highest in preserved acres per dollar.

Land trusts have just begun on a long journey—our five examples are all so far successful in their ways. Permanent land preservation should remain top in priority. A preserved farm field could regrow forest, or conversely, and trails can be abandoned. Development however is a one-way street. That said, this founding ACLT member thinks ACLT should raise the money it takes to preserve what is left of our footprint. Then, given the Chesapeake watershed was robbed of its wildness after European settlement, patiently and scientifically restore our small green 'island' to some semblance of the old-growth forest it was before 1650. Even if it takes until 2200.

P. Vogt Last update 6 May 19

Next: Final Part (III) Ice Age Ancestries

(**GRIFFIN MEADOW TRAIL**—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

woodland plants and animals that ACLT hikers are accustomed to seeing on the trails, there will be many small mammals, song birds, and butterflies, bees, and other insects utilizing the flowers and grasses that only grow in open sunny areas. This habitat type has become exceedingly important as it is often viewed as less useful and desirable than forests, farms, or even lawns; however, it is necessary to support many of our song birds and pollinators whose populations are declining.

The ACLT staff and Board of Directors hope that you come and experience the Griffin Meadow Trail this summer to enjoy some of the wonder and tranquility that Pat helped to create. We send our sincerest thanks to Pat for all he has done for ACLT and hope that he enjoys this token of our gratitude.

Autumn Phillips-Lewis  
Land Manager

## American Chestnut Land Trust Calendar of Events

### July

- 13 Sat — Southern Maryland Nature Fest (10:00 am–2:00 pm)
- 20 Sat — Guided Canoe Trip (Sunrise 6:30 am–9:30 am)
- 27 Sat — Hunting Creek Paddle (10:00 am–1:00 pm)

### August

- 10 Sat — St. Leonard Creek Paddle (9:00 am–11:00 am)

### September

- 7 Sat — Guided Canoe Trip (9:30 am–12:30 pm)
- 14 Sat — The Sip & Save (Regional Beer Tasting Fundraiser)
- 21 Sat — Guided Canoe Trip (Sunrise 7:30 am–10:30 am)

### October

- 5 Sat — Parkers Creek Challenge Triathlon (8:00 am check-in, 9:00 am start)
- 26 Sat. — Guided Canoe Trip (1:30 pm–4:30 pm)

### November

- 2 Sat — Annual Dinner & Auction Fundraiser (6:00 pm)

### December

- 5 Thurs — Wreath Making Workshop (6:00 pm)
- 6 Fri — Wreath Making Workshop (10:00 am)
- 7 Sat — Holiday Wreath & Greens Sale (11:00 am)

# How do You Put a Value on Land Conservation?

What is the value of a meadow, a bog, a forest? For the latter, foresters have been able to concisely estimate the commercial value of the timber in a forest, but isn't a forest worth more than the sum of its board feet?

In some sense, calculating the dollars and cents of natural lands may seem like sacrilege to true conservationists. How do you put a value to a treasured landscape? However, in a capitalist economy, items that don't have measureable economic value are often cast aside and replaced.

I hear of people wanting to colonize the moon and I think. . .why? Its ecosystem services barely exist. What is an ecosystem service? It can be broadly defined as a benefit people receive from the environment. On the moon, you cannot breathe without assistance. There is no water. You cannot produce food from the moon's surface. There is no wildlife to be seen. Those ecosystem services are not present on the moon. As I view it, the lunar surface, like a parched desert here on earth, is a perfect reminder of why we need to protect what we have. Otherwise, if we finish paving paradise, humankind may have to find another compatible sphere in the universe on which to live.

Enter a generation of new ecological economists who are combining the research data from many sources to begin to paint a very interesting picture of the value of our rural landscapes. Dr. Elliott Campbell is one such economist. He directs the Center for Economic and Social Science within the Maryland Department of Natural Resources' Chesapeake and Coastal Service and he has developed a system to account for the ecosystem services of properties in Maryland.

He has made use of established models from the US Geological Service (USGS), US Forest Service, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the quantity of the ecosystem service (mt of carbon, kg of N, etc.). From this models, he establishes a dollar value for the ecosystem services of a property based on its location and the typical services that vegetation and land conditions provide.

Ecosystem services currently included in the Maryland model include:

- Air quality improvement
- Carbon sequestration
- Groundwater recharge
- Nutrient uptake
- Wildlife habitat and biodiversity
- Stormwater mitigation

The value of the services is calculated from the many different ways society invests in protecting or replacing the environment, such as:

- In a market (such as carbon trading)
- Cost of restoration
- Assessed mitigation fees
- Cost to regulate

Farm and forest products and potential commercial and recreational income/value are not included and no value is ascribed to spiritual, aesthetic, inspirational, or educational services.

Using this model, I went to the Maryland Greenprint map ( <https://geodata.md.gov/greenprint/> ) and the Conservation Benefits Assessment revealed that our newest acquisition, the 77 acre GRDC (to be called the Yowell) property has an annual ecosystem value of \$197,000 (see table to the left—the sum of the values in the right-hand column times 77 acres).'

Note that this value does not include the aesthetic value of viewing healthy woodlands, nor the capability that hikers will have to walk in wildlands from Governors Run to Dares Beach or to Prince Frederick. That will be priceless!

Greg Bowen Executive Director

## Ecosystem Service Assessment

Ecosystem Service Name (and biophysical unit) (range)	Annual Per-Acre Values	
	Biophysical	Economic
Air Pollution Removal: Carbon Monoxide (CO) (kg per year)(0-1.35 kg per acre per year)	1.31	\$0.04
Air Pollution Removal: Nitrogen Dioxide(NO <sub>2</sub> ) (kg per year)(0- 9.01 kg per acre per year)	5.60	\$0.24
Air Pollution Removal: Sulfur Dioxide(SO <sub>2</sub> ) (kg per year)(0- 6.67 kg per acre per year)	2.47	\$0.03
Air Pollution Removal: Ozone (O <sub>3</sub> ) (kg per year)(0-34.35 kg per acre per year)	25.39	\$6.10
Air Pollution Removal: Particulate Matter(PM <sub>10</sub> ) (kg per year)(0-8.34 kg per acre per year)	6.81	
Air Pollution Removal: Particulate Matter(PM <sub>2.5</sub> ) (kg per year)(0-1.80 kg per acre per year)	0.96	\$7.98
Carbon Sequestration (mT per year)(0-4 mt per acre per year)	0.75	\$103.90
Groundwater Recharge (m3per year)(445 - 1236 m3 per acre per year)	67.67	\$364.38
Nitrogen Uptake Potential Index (1 = low to 3 = high)*	No Data	\$34.82
Stormwater Mitigation Potential Index (1 = low to 5 = high)*	No Data	\$819.32
Wildlife Habitat and Biodiversity Potential Index (0 = low to 100 = high)*	No Data	\$1,224.08
Surface Water Protection	No Data	\$0.00
<b>Total Annual Economic Value</b>	No Data	<b>\$2,561.73</b>

## Farewell from Pam



The time has come for me to say goodbye to my role as Community Relations Manager here at ACLT. Since September of 2014, I have had the honor and pleasure to get to know many of you and to share our shared passion for land, wildlife and waterways.

Without question, my time here has changed me for the better. In particular, our volunteer team – our “Force of Nature!” – has impacted my understanding of the critical importance of volunteering in a community. I know for sure that, somehow, some way, I will always be a volunteer. (My future retirement years look very different now!) More than anything, I will take with me the lesson that **VOLUNTEERS MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE.**

It has been a privilege to be a part of this amazing ACLT team and I send my most sincere thanks for your kindness and support. I wish you and the organization a happy and successful future.

All my love,  
Pam Shilling

## Thank you for your support ...

### New Members

ACLT would like to welcome the following new members since the Spring 2019 Newsletter:

Tracy Buckmaster  
Ahshun Chiang  
Eric Frere  
Griff Harrison  
Audra Howard  
Linda Moore  
Bill & Cindy Peil  
Diane Posey  
Leah Royce  
Dakota Shelton  
Janet Whalen  
Jeffrey Wilson  
Ron Wilson

### Gift Memberships

Thank you to the following members, who donated gift memberships since our last newsletter:

Joy Bartholomew & Mark Edmondson

### Memorial Donations

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

In memory of **Caleb Clark**, who was a strong supporter of the ACLT and its mission of land preservation:  
Louise Merrow

In memory **Julie Nisonger**, who was a Charter Member and one of the founders of the ACLT, a dedicated volunteer and supporter:  
Mary, Marty, Michael & Elizabeth Remmers

### General Contributions and Designated Gifts

Thank you to the following for your generous gifts:

William & Caroline Arms  
Jessica & Ty Clark  
Exelon Foundation  
Norman J Fisher &  
Doris Fisher Foundation  
Glynn & Dagmar Frank  
Sandra Jarrett  
Elaine Strong  
Paul Vetterle

### In Honor of Donations

Thank you to the following members who made an “in honor of” contribution since our last newsletter.

In honor of **Dr. & Mrs. Peter Vogt**, who are Charter Members and founders of the ACLT, longtime supporters and dedicated volunteers:  
Barb Southworth

### Spring Appeal Donations

Joy Bartholomew & Mark Edmondson  
Sylvia Batong  
Kathy Daniel  
David & Helen Didion  
Michael & Margaret Duffy  
Glenn & Karen Edgcombe  
Bob Field  
Carl Fleischhauer & Paula Johnson  
Carlton & Marion Green  
Jan Greene  
Steve & Betty Howerton  
Robert Jaeger  
Martin & Jennifer Kilpatrick  
Ronald & Kathy Klauda  
Sue & Steve Kullen  
Flag Harbor Marina  
Gilbert & Shannon Masters  
Bruce McDonald  
Penny Moran  
Stephen & Ann Phillips  
Bob & Pam Platt  
Stephen Straka

### Through Macy's/Bloomingtondale's Workplace Matching:

Gregory Locraft

### Holly Hill Donations

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

Anonymous  
Fran Armstrong  
Dawn & Steve Balinski  
Joy Bartholomew & Mark Edmondson  
Greg & Tamea Bowen  
Elliott Hamilton  
Judy Kay  
Ron & Kathy Klauda  
Robyn, Eric & Wesley Truslow

### Through Intel Corporation Workplace Matching:

Elliott Hamilton



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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 \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Regular Membership**

**Corporate Membership**

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land Saver—\$35.00        | <input type="checkbox"/> Habitat Protector—\$500.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Saver Corporate—\$150.00       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land Protector—\$60.00    | <input type="checkbox"/> Trustee of Land—\$1000.00  | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Protector Corporate—\$250.00   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land Conservator—\$150.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining—\$5000.00       | <input type="checkbox"/> 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.