

# Watershed Observer



NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN CHESTNUT LAND TRUST - VOLUME 21 NO. 1, WINTER 2007

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GRAVATT EAST

APRIL 21 - EARTH DAY

APRIL 28 - CANOE TRIP

SEE [HTTP://ACLTWEB.ORG](http://acltweb.org) OR PAGE 15  
FOR FULL CALENDAR AND ADDI-  
TIONAL INFORMATION.

## SEEING THE FOREST FOR THE TREES

Imagine yourself on the Google Earth website viewing the Parkers Creek watershed from your perch miles above the earth. Now zoom out to view the entire Chesapeake Bay watershed. With the help of a new study entitled *The State of Chesapeake Forests* we are going to examine some of the broader issues relating to the state of our forests and how they affect the Chesapeake Bay. The Conservation Fund, the USDA Forest Service and the Chesapeake Executive Council recently produced this comprehensive "first of its kind" report on the health of forests within the Chesapeake Bay watershed. To view the entire report, go to <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/stateoftheforests.htm> (*Chesapeake Forests*).

Since 2007 is the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Captain John Smith's voyages on the Chesapeake Bay, let's begin with a historical frame of reference. When John Smith first arrived here, "forests covered an estimated 95 percent of the watershed of the Chesapeake Bay and protected 90 percent of its total stream network beneath a continuous canopy." The percentage of forest cover dipped below 50 percent during the century from the mid-1800s to the historic lows of the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. Today, forests cover 58 percent of the Bay's watershed, but the trend, once again, is downward with sprawl development as the main culprit. <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/info/forest.cfm>. As Rebecca Hanmer, Director of the EPA's Chesapeake Bay Program, recently noted in the January 2007 issue of the *Bay Journal*, "If we could somehow restore all of the forest land that existed when Capt. John Smith arrived here 400 years ago, computer simulations tell us that we would see 1,700 percent less phosphorus, 450 percent less nitrogen, and 300 percent less sediment than current loadings, surpassing all of our pollution reduction goals by a wide margin. And we'd owe it all to the trees." Although modern technology allows us to zoom in and out from our Google Earth perch above Parkers Creek, unfortunately, it does not allow time travel. So, we must fall back on our imagination, the rare remnants of old growth forest, and the few historical accounts we have of what the Chesapeake Bay region must have been like when there were fewer of us here.

But our focus is on today and the future. The evidence is in. Forests are the best land cover for improving water quality in the Chesapeake Bay. "Even though forests account for 58% of the land area in the Bay watershed, they contribute only about 15% of the total load of nitrogen and 2% of the phosphorus load to the Bay," less than any other type of land cover. *Chesapeake Forests*, pp. 2, 6. The report explains that forests act as pumps. They take water and nutrients up through their root system, storing them in the biomass of the tree, and releasing moisture into the air. Each year, as part of the

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 13)



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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 3,000 acres. We own 870 acres, manage 1,780 acres owned by the State of Maryland, and hold conservation easements on 360 privately-owned acres.

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## From the President's Desk ...

### Advocacy: ACLT's Obligations Protecting Open Space

The obligation - It is axiomatic that members of land trusts accept and understand the importance and value of land conservation. Preserved land offers much ... protecting habitat, hiking, supporting ecosystems, conserving cultural resources, hunting, preserving endangered species ... actions that resonate with what we value highly. In addition to ACLT's direct stewardship responsibilities, part of ACLT's Mission Statement provides that:

*"We promote the value of land conservation throughout Calvert County, Maryland. We promote sustainable public use of preserved properties for educational, scientific, recreational and cultural purposes."*

Promote, in the sense of: "to contribute to the growth or prosperity of" indicates that there is also an obligation to go beyond stewardship by advocating on behalf of conservation. This involves using activism to weigh in on critical issues and engaging in advocacy in support of land trust goals and principles. Being effective in this takes time, research, setting priorities and commitment. It also takes an awareness of what's happening at the local, state and federal levels. It is, however, an integral part of being a member of the land trust community.

**Locally** - At the local level, two examples reflect ACLT's willingness to take a stand on behalf of its land conservation responsibilities, particularly in the Parkers Creek watershed. Several years ago, ACLT took on the issue of the new "spray irrigation" sewage treatment plant, located adjacent to Parkers Creek, to serve Prince Frederick. While it's debatable just how much impact our testimony, meetings and site visits had, it was and is important to underscore the intensity of our commitment. More recently, ACLT was heavily involved in the response to the clearing, tree removal and sediment problems from the Prince Frederick Woods development. Our efforts did have a material effect on remediation and, one would like to think, inducing regulatory inspectors to be more effective in the future.

**What's Happening in Annapolis** - Perhaps the single most important act of continuing vigilance by conservation groups in Maryland is to ensure that the funding intended for Program Open Space (POS) is not diverted to non-conservation purposes. Dating to 1969, the 0.5% tax on real estate transfers supports many of the key state conservation programs, including the Rural Legacy Program, the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation and the Heritage Conservation Fund. Without this, the protected acreage in the Parkers Creek watershed would be far smaller than it is today. In recent years, much of these funds were diverted to purposes unrelated to land conservation. After a statewide outcry, led by the Partners for Open Space (ACLT is one of the partners), full funding was restored last year, though it is unlikely that the more than

\$400 million previously diverted will ever be fully repaid.

As this is being written, plans are taking shape for the annual Environmental Lobby Day on February 19 which provides for an opportunity to meet directly with legislators on environmental issues. Two years ago, Peg Niland, Peter Vogt and I participated; I'm convinced that the large showing from many organizations was instrumental in restoring POS funding. ACLT will again be represented. Clean air and water, energy conservation, climate change as well as land conservation are expected to be on the agenda. It is important that ACLT be a part of a larger coalition when our core mission is at stake.

**What's Happening Nationally** - Only a couple of years ago, enough controversy plagued the land trust community (e.g., grossly inflated appraisals for donated easements) that Congress sat up and took notice. For a while, there was a distinct possibility that much of the tax incentives for protecting land would be lost. It took a lot of intense action by land trusts across the country to engage members of Congress and also to come out for strong reforms to turn that around. Last August, Congress passed, and President Bush signed into law, a bill that significantly strengthened the tax incentives for making a charitable donation of a conservation easement. See *The Wall Street Journal* article, "Tax Break with a View" reprinted on page 9. The hitch is, however, that it only applies to donations made in 2006 and 2007. In January, Senators Baucus (D-MT) and Grassley (R-IA) introduced legislation to make these changes permanent. As this progresses through the legislative process, it will be important for Congress to receive supporting statements from land trusts and land conservation advocates.

**Expanding ACLT's Efforts** - Coming together with other organizations to address issues of common concern is important and will continue. Through organizations like the 1000 Friends of Maryland and the Land Trust Alli-

ance, ACLT can keep abreast of the latest in Maryland and in Congress. However, one of the best resources to affect local or national policies and programs is through the timely communication with land trust members. Often, a spate of well-timed letters, emails, phone calls or personal visits can have an impact on the outcome of a budget, legislation or regulation.

**Invitation to Engage** - For those interested in more information, I'd suggest looking at the web sites for the Land Trust Alliance (<http://www.lta.org>), 1000 Friends of Maryland ([www.friendsofmaryland.org](http://www.friendsofmaryland.org)), and Partners for Open Space (<http://www.partnersforopenspace.org>) as good places to start. We're also open to any suggestions on how we can be more effective in promoting our land conservation values.

As we look to ways to better serve our members and our mission, we are considering a notification system to get the word out quickly not only to be better informed but also to provide informed comment to legislators, whether they be in Prince Frederick, Annapolis or Washington. A key component of such a notification system will be a comprehensive database of email addresses for the ACLT membership. If we don't already have your email address, please provide your name and current email address to [info@acltweb.org](mailto:info@acltweb.org).

Ted Graham  
President, ACLT



# Around ACLT

## The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Membership Meeting of the ACLT



The 20<sup>th</sup> annual membership meeting on February 10<sup>th</sup> officially called to a close a year in celebration of the ACLT's 20th anniversary. The year 2006 saw many highlights including:

- The award of a significant new grant from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to control non-native invasive species;
- ACLT's first-ever outright donation of land, allowing us to reach the new milestone of 3,000 acres under ACLT ownership/management/or easement;
- A new Executive Director and a new part-time Outreach and Communications Coordinator;
- Relocation of the ACLT office to Double Oak Farm;
- The reinstatement of Family Day as a tradition;
- The unveiling of new interpretive panels and maps at our two trailheads provided with funding from the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network; and
- Re-invention of the Chili Cook-Off as a catered event featuring locally grown foods and wines.

The year was bittersweet, however, in that it commemorated two significant losses to the organization—the departure of long-time Executive Director Peg Niland and the loss of our namesake American Chestnut tree.

The year 2007 ushered in the John Smith Four Hundred Project in which the ACLT and

other organizations throughout the Chesapeake Bay region will join together to celebrate the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the landfall of Captain John Smith on the mid-Atlantic coast of North America in the spring of 1607. At the ACLT annual membership meeting, we commemorated this event. Plantation owner Godiah Spray portrayed by Aaron Meisinger of Historic St. Mary's City greeted members upon arrival at the annual meeting. Although we could not quite feel those warm spring breezes that Captain John Smith must have enjoyed, the audience at the ACLT annual membership meeting was captivated nonetheless by keynote speaker Kent Mountford's tales of the explorer's voyages on the bay.



Andrea Clarke and Alan Wilson discuss farming practices with Godiah Spray.

Banner image above: Kent Mountford's talk about John Smith's Chesapeake Bay journeys in 1607 was illustrated by slides projected on a screen just to the right of this panoramic photograph. Mountford, standing at center, discussed Smith's vessel, its rigging, and effects of wind and tide on Smith's ability to navigate in the Bay's shallow waters.

## A Special “Thank You” to the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and Auction Volunteers

As the Event Chair for last year’s 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and Auction, I would like to thank the following volunteers for generously donating their time to help make the October 2006 event a wonderful success.

**Chairs and Oversight:** Joy Bartholomew - Event Chair and coordination with committee chairs listed below.

Andrea Clarke, ACLT Board liaison and event co-chair.

**ACLT Staff** - Karen Edgcombe, Seaona DeGennaro, Liz Stoffel and Pat Tantum

**Food and Beverage:** Andrea Clarke (Chair), Marie Bundy, Ted Graham, Carolyn McHugh, Janette Petersen, Amy Thompson, Bill Wright

**Bartenders:** Paul Blayney (Chair), Stan Benning, Karen Edgcombe, Carl Fleischhauer, Paula Johnson

**Set up:** Liz Stoffel (Chair), Paul Blayney, Freeman Dods-worth, Skip and Flo Ford, Bill Gray, John Little, Eugene McHugh, Janette Petersen, Maggie and Chris Reynolds, Scott Thompson

**Lighting:** Jack Andrews, Caleb Clarke, Pat Simpson, Liz Stoffel

**Finance:** Bill Haile (Chair), Marc DelaVergne, Jeannie Howe, Valerie Lancaster, Peter and Jenny Stathis

**Auction:** Jerry Adams (Chair), Marie Bundy, Steve Peters

**Decorations:** Donna Wilson (Chair), Niki Baker, Barbara Benning, Steve Peters

**Program Book and Database:** Mark Smith and Denise Breitburg

**Registration/Greeters:** Seaona DeGennaro (Chair), Barbara Benning, Flo Ford, Katie Hanlon, Mary Ellen Romney, Bill Wright

**Invitations:** Mimi Little, Jen Seidel

**Clean up:** Ted Graham (Chair), Marie Bundy, Marcy Damon, Seaona DeGennaro, Dave and Ellen Farr, Mimi and John Little, Ginny Murphy, Steve Peters, Janette Petersen, Pat Simpson and Pat Tantum, Liz Stoffel

I’m sure seeing these wonderful volunteers’ names listed reminds you of the fun you had during our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. Were you a lucky bidder purchasing one of the terrific items at the Auction? I hope so.

It’s not too early to think about ACLT’s next yearly fundraising event! Remember to mark your calendars for September 29, 2007. This is the perfect time to think about the items you may wish to donate for the auction. We hope to offer great travel get-away packages, luxury gift certificates, and gourmet dinner and theater outings through your generous donations. Corporate event sponsorship opportunities will also be available. If you have any questions about the upcoming Auction and Dinner, please feel free to call the ACLT office at 410-414-3400.

Thanks again to all the hard working volunteers!

*Submitted by Joy Bartholomew and Andrea Clarke, Co-Chairs of the 2006 and 2007 Auctions.*

[P.S. The ACLT Board and Staff would like to add our appreciation for all the volunteer time and effort that goes into this fun fundraising event. Thanks especially to Joy and Andrea for agreeing to Co-Chair this event again in 2007.]

## Land Preservation Options: County and State Programs

The Calvert County Department of Planning & Zoning will be hosting two workshops on land preservation in March.

### Land Preservation Options: County and State Programs

Monday, March 19, 2007, 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m., County Services Plaza, 150 Main Street, Room 102. Prince Frederick, MD 20678.

This workshop provides an overview of County and State land preservation programs. In the event of inclement weather on March 19<sup>th</sup>, this workshop will be held in conjunction with the workshop on March 28<sup>th</sup>.

**The Newest Option for Land Preservation: Forest Conservation Transferable Development Rights** Wednesday, March 28, 2007, 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m., Calvert Library, 850 Costley Way, Prince Frederick.

This workshop provides an overview of the County and State land preservation programs with a special emphasis on properties with forested areas. Forest Conservation Transferable Development Rights will be explained.

For more information, please contact the Department of Planning & Zoning, 410-535-1600 x 2337, 301-855-1243 x 2337. <http://calendar.yahoo.com/calvertpz>. Email: pz@co.cal.md.us.

## Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

### Weed Whacking Wednesdays

Every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 12 noon join Land Manager Liz Stoffel and other volunteers in removing non-native invasive plants on various ACLT properties. This project will improve the wildlife habitat, views, and trails of the ACLT.

Meet at the ACLT barn on Scientists Cliffs Road in Port Republic. Bring your favorite pair of work gloves and a bottle of water. We'll provide the equipment. RSVP's appreciated.

[Note: Weed Whacking Wednesdays will be cancelled for heavy rain, snow, or temperatures below 35 degrees. To check on the status, volunteers can call Land Manager Liz's cell phone at 443- 624-5850.]

### Hiking Trail Maintenance Day

On Saturday, March 10, 2007 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon work alongside staff and other volunteers to prepare ACLT trails for spring and summer hikers. Meet at the ACLT barn on Scientists Cliffs Road in Port Republic, OR at Double Oak Farm in Prince Frederick. Crews will be working in both locations. Please RSVP to volunteer@actweb.org so we can ensure lunch for everyone. Bring a pair of work gloves and loppers or clippers if you have them. We'll provide other equipment and lunch at 12 noon at Double Oak Farm.

### Vine Vindicator Work Days

The fourth Saturday of the month, from now until October help us improve native plant species on ACLT lands by identifying and removing non-native invasive plant species. Meet at the ACLT barn on Scientists Cliffs Road in Port Republic. Bring a pair of work gloves and loppers or clippers if you have them. We'll provide the water and snacks. RSVP's appreciated.

2007 dates will be: March 24<sup>th</sup>, April 28<sup>th</sup>, May 26<sup>th</sup>, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, July 28<sup>th</sup>, August 25<sup>th</sup>, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, October 27<sup>th</sup>.

### Vine Vindicator Training

On Saturday, March 31, 2007, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. train with Land Manager, Liz Stoffel and other experts, to recognize non-native invasive plant species and properly remove them to improve habitat for unique and rare native species. The session will include an overview of

the problem with invasive plants, in depth identification of common species in our watersheds and some hands-on training on removal techniques. Part of the session will be in the conference room and part will be outdoors so dress for the weather.

The session will take place at Double Oak Farm. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to volunteer@actweb.org.

### Canoe Guide Training

On Saturday, April 14, 2007 attend a class on the safety and naturalist training needed to be a canoe guide on Parkers Creek led by Land Manager, Liz Stoffel and Community Relations Coordinator, Seaona deGennaro.

The session will include training from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, and a practice run on the creek 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Meet at Warrior's Rest Sanctuary. Wear appropriate canoe clothing. Water, snacks and lunch will be provided. RSVP's to volunteer@actweb.org appreciated.

### Earth Day

On Saturday, April 21, 2007, from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon join neighbors, friends, and other volunteers to clean up on and around ACLT properties. Meet at the ACLT barn on Scientists Cliffs Road in Port Republic. Bring work gloves. Other supplies and lunch will be provided for all participants. RSVP's to volunteer@actweb.org appreciated.

For more information on any of the above volunteering opportunities or to RSVP, please call the office at 410-414-3400 or e-mail volunteer@actweb.org



Volunteer canoe guides lead ACLT canoe trips on Parkers Creek.

## Volunteer Spotlight – Chuck Rodgers

The lights are often on at the ACLT office well after 10 p.m., and at times even midnight. Inside, our “computer elf”, as we so fondly refer to him, is working diligently setting up our network in the new office, managing the network, installing software, running network backups, repairing equipment, debugging hard drives, answering endless technology questions from staff, researching new equipment and software at non-profit prices, and recommending and making upgrades. And it all takes place behind the scenes, while the office is closed. He alone has logged in over 200 hours of volunteer time in the past two years, which translates into thousands of dollars to the ACLT, since the going rate for technical staff is, well, liquid gold.

Chuck Rodgers, our computer elf, has an impressive resume including his work as the Chief Technology Officer for OPTIMUS Corporation in Silver Spring, where he was in charge of the company’s Research and Development efforts for ten years. He earned both his Bachelors and Masters degrees in Electrical Engineering from Georgia Tech. Last year he and his partners sold OPTIMUS to investors. Since then he has been doing consulting work and traveling, with a great deal of reading, hiking, kayaking, writing, and volunteering for the ACLT on the side. But his dedication to the ACLT didn’t just begin last year. He and his wife, Janice, are seasoned ACLT members and have been involved as our volunteer technical support staff for six years now.

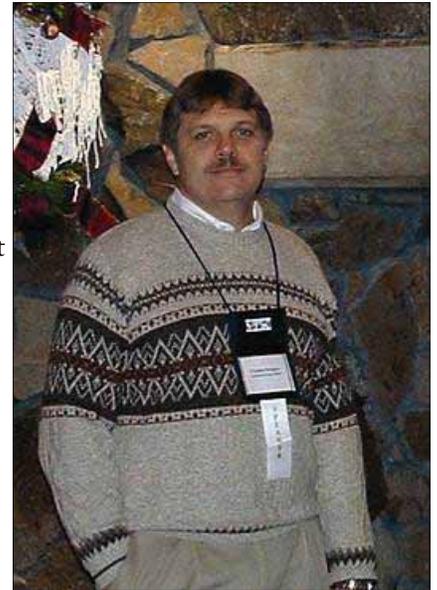
I was able to ask Chuck some questions recently to find more about how he initially came to the ACLT and how we have been so fortunate to count on his talents all of these years. After doing so, I realized that our computer elf is not only enviously intelligent; he’s awfully witty too.

**Seona:** How did you and Janice first find out about the ACLT?

**Chuck:** Janice discovered the ACLT when looking for a new place to walk our dog [Space]. She soon started volunteering extensively for the ACLT, and soon thereafter, cajoled me into helping out when I had time.

**Seona:** Your depth of technical knowledge, resourcefulness to diagnose issues and to prevent future problems continually astounds us. I’m curious as to what volunteer activities you enjoy the most?

**Chuck:** I enjoy the challenge of maintaining the computer network at the ACLT office. It is interesting to diagnose the inevitable computer problems that arise, and it is a continuous effort to protect the network from hackers, worms, and viruses. We have



made progress in upgrading the computers and network in the last year, including adding a backup system that proved valuable when the office encountered a power surge last year. I’ve also enjoyed occasionally helping my wife with the water sampling of Parkers Creek and mowing at Warrior’s Rest. Since my dog and I are usually on the trails at least five days a week, I do a fair amount of informal trail maintenance as well.

**Seona:** I remember all too well last year when we endured the power surge in the office. It happened overnight, two weeks before the Annual Meeting when we were all frantically working to get everything completed before the big day. You and Janice researched, purchased, and installed a new computer, transferred all the salvageable files from the old computer, and literally saved us. The rewards of having you as a volunteer are clear. What are some of the rewards of being a volunteer with the ACLT?

**Chuck:** The main reward is in knowing that you are contributing to the continued preservation of an endangered natural environment that supports a wide variety of animals and plants, and which is accessible to all. Some personal rewards include the vivid colors kayaking Parkers Creek at dusk, finding myself five feet from a beaver chomping on branches and oblivious to my presence, being startled by the trumpeting of a territorial buck hidden in the woods, the spooky hoot of a nearby owl at twilight, watching the flight of big bald eagles and ospreys over the creek, and the midnight satisfaction of discovering the obscure reason why suddenly no one could access the server from the network. Also, the

ACLT staff and volunteers are a pleasure to know and work with.

**Seaona** (laughing): I remember calling your cell phone a few years ago, to ask you something of alarming consequence, I'm sure. You were in New York City at the Museum of Modern Art, as I recall, and you answered my question. You are one of our "on call" unpaid staff for sure! What does volunteering mean to you?

**Chuck:** It means using some of my capabilities and my most precious possession, my free time, to support worthy endeavors that directly benefit my local community. I contribute financially to other non-profit causes, but there is not that same sense of investment that comes from being involved personally in a communal effort.

**Seaona:** I remember my high school running coach telling us, "Running is like a bank. You get out of it, what you put in." You and Janice are excellent examples of this type of thinking. Your generosity of time, patience, technical talent, and flexibility are in a word, phenomenal. We are forever grateful to you and realize we could never repay the hours and thought you have selflessly given to make the ACLT a more productive, more efficient organization. The ACLT staff adores and thanks you.

*Note: For more information on the unique talents and contributions of Chuck's wife, Janice, who was featured as the Volunteer Spotlight recipient in the ACLT's Winter 2002 newsletter, visit us online at [www.actweb.org](http://www.actweb.org). Click on newsletters, 2002, Winter.*

Seaona deGennaro, Community Relations Coordinator, ACLT

## 2007 Canoe Trip Schedule

April 28 - Canoe Trip 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

May 12 - Canoe Trip 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

June 23 - Canoe Trip 9 a.m. - noon

July 21 - Canoe Trip 8 a.m. - 11 a.m.

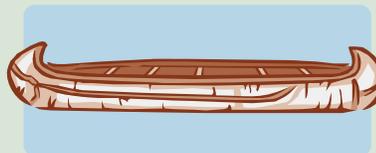
August 18 - Sunset Canoe Trip 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

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

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

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

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



The following article is reprinted from the Wall Street Journal.

### Tax Break With a View

Landowners Rush to Take Advantage of New Law That Boosts Deductions for Blocking Development; a Crackdown on Abuse

By Rachel Emma Silverman

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

Muscoe R.H. Garnett Jr.'s farm in Loretto, Va., hasn't changed much since the family acquired it in the 1600s. Now, the retired insurance executive has made sure it will stay that way.

Encouraged by recent tax legislation, Mr. Garnett has placed a "conservation easement" on much of his property, located about 80 miles from Washington, D.C. The move permanently shields the rolling pastures, timber forests and croplands from being turned into a housing subdivision or business park. Under the easement, which is a binding agreement typically made with a land trust, the Garnett family still owns the land and can continue to use it for farming and timber but most of it can never be developed.

Landowners who place conservation easements on their scenic, environmentally sensitive or historic properties have long been able to get tax breaks from the federal government, and some states have also begun offering tax incentives. Now, a little-noticed provision in the wide-ranging pension law Congress passed last summer has made the federal tax breaks even more generous. Conservation groups say this has spurred a sharp increase in the number of landowners interested in placing easements on their property.

"The incentives are fantastic, and I don't think a lot of people realize it," Mr. Garnett says.

But the expanded federal incentives, backed by some influential lawmakers from agricultural states, are due to expire at the end of this year, unless Congress acts to extend them. (A bill recently introduced in the Senate would make the changes permanent, and President Bush also called for them to be made permanent in this week's budget proposal.) For now, landowners might need to act quickly, since conservation easements can take several months to put together.

Here's how it works: A landowner typically donates a conservation easement to a land trust, a type of non-profit organization that helps put together the easement and monitors its restrictions over time. The value of the donation for

income-tax purposes generally is the difference between the land's unrestricted value and its new value with limited development or usage rights.

Be careful, though. The Internal Revenue Service and Congress in recent years have been concerned with easement abuses in which donors have taken inflated deductions or placed restrictions on land with little conservation value, such as golf courses. The new law includes stiffer rules and penalties regarding appraisals, to prevent donors from overstating the deduction for their land. The IRS says it is currently auditing hundreds of easements.

But the law is designed to encourage easement donations by allowing larger tax deductions. Landowners can now deduct the value of a donation up to 50% of their adjusted gross income per year, up from the previous ceiling of 30%. That means if your adjusted gross income is \$100,000, you are now eligible for as much as a \$50,000 tax deduction a year, instead of \$30,000. And if your income is too low to deduct the full amount of your gift in one year, you can now carry forward the deduction for 15 additional years, up from five years previously.

Property held in family limited partnerships, limited liability companies and some types of corporations may also be able to take advantage of the increased deduction limits, says Stephen J. Small, a Boston tax lawyer who specializes in conservation easements.

The law is even more generous for career farmers and ranchers who earn at least half their income from their land. These property owners, who are often land-rich, but cash-poor, can now deduct up to 100% of their income. "If you're a farmer you could pay no federal income taxes for 16 years," says Rand Wentworth, president of the Land Trust Alliance, a coalition of 1,600 land trusts across the country.

Colorado rancher Jay Fetcher in recent years placed conservation easements on two large parcels of his 2,000-acre cattle ranch near ski resort Steamboat Springs. The first donation, on 1,350 acres, was worth about \$1.1 million for tax purposes. But Mr. Fetcher, limited at the time to deducting a small portion of his income, was able to take only about \$60,000 of that donation in deductions over six years. "We left almost all of the donation on the table," he says.

Mr. Fetcher is planning this year to make another easement donation on 270 acres to a Colorado land trust. He expects the value of the donation will be about \$1.2 million, and thinks he will be able to recoup roughly half that amount because of the higher federal tax deductions and an increase in state tax credits. "The changes helped us," says Mr. Fetcher.

Still, he says the financial incentives are secondary to his desire to preserve the land, in his family since 1949, with its sweeping views of mountains and pine forest. "Our family has no desire to ever see the ranch developed. That's at the beginning of it all," says Mr. Fetcher.

The tax-rule change has generated sharply increased interest in conservation easements, say land trust officials from Washington and Wyoming to Georgia. "Some landowners whom we've been talking to for five or almost 10 years say that now it makes economic sense for them," says Laurie Wayburn, president of the Pacific Forest Trust in San Francisco.

Conservation easements can generate other tax benefits, too. They can cut estate taxes, because the land is considered to be worth less under an easement. A growing number of states offer a range of income tax breaks. Colorado and Virginia, for example, give donors state income tax credits that are transferable, which means that landowners who don't need the tax credits can sell the credits to other taxpayers for instant cash. You may even get a property tax break, depending on where you live.

Conservation easements can vary. A farm owner, for instance, could still retain the right to farm the land and to build a couple additional homes or barns, but could limit the land from being further subdivided. Property owners can sell their land, but buyers are obligated to honor the easement.

Peter Bance recently placed a conservation easement on 65 acres of the Virginia farmland that has been in his family since 1840. The property was zoned to allow construction of six housing sites, and he donated the rights to five of those sites to a state-run land trust. (He kept one site in case a descendant wanted to build a house in the future.) "We think we have a piece of heaven and we hope to keep it that way for generations to come," says Mr. Bance, 55, who is an executive with Wachovia Corp.

If you're thinking of doing a conservation easement, it's best to contact a land trust in your area to find out if your property qualifies. (Try [www.lta.org](http://www.lta.org), the Web site of the Land Trust Alliance.) There's no minimum size, but in order to get a tax deduction the property has to meet certain criteria, such as having significant environmental, scenic or historic value. Also, be sure to work with a tax and legal adviser familiar with local applicable laws.

The land has to be appraised (try [www.appraisers.org](http://www.appraisers.org), the Web site of the American Society of Appraisers) and may need to be surveyed, which can cost a few thousand dollars. There are also legal fees to draw up the easement, which can cost several thousand dollars, depending on the complexity of the

deal. Some land trusts also recommend landowners make cash donations to the land trust to help fund the organization's future monitoring of the the easement.

Because easements are placed in perpetuity, a family has to be sure it wants to permanently restrict development – and the potential for a big windfall – before committing.

Several months ago, after discussions with his wife, children and grandchildren, Eslick Daniel placed a conservation easement on his 200-acre farm in Columbia, Tenn., near Nashville. The easement on the farm, called "Sweet Easy," limits development, except for a couple of building sites that Dr. Daniel's descendants could use for housing. For Dr. Daniel, 65 years old and a retired orthopedic surgeon, the tax incentives weren't a factor. "We wanted to keep it where it would be open land for our family and for other people," he says.

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### Saving the Farm

A recent law boosts tax incentives for landowners to donate conservation easements, which limit development rights. Here are some highlights of the new rules:

- Donors can now deduct the value of the easement – up to 50% of their adjusted gross income each year.
- Qualifying farmers and ranchers may be able to deduct easement values up to 100% of their income.
- Donors can take deductions for their contributions over as many as 16 years.
- The incentives are slated to expire at the end of 2007, unless Congress extends them.

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# Land Manager's Corner

## Riparian Buffers: Does Size Matter?

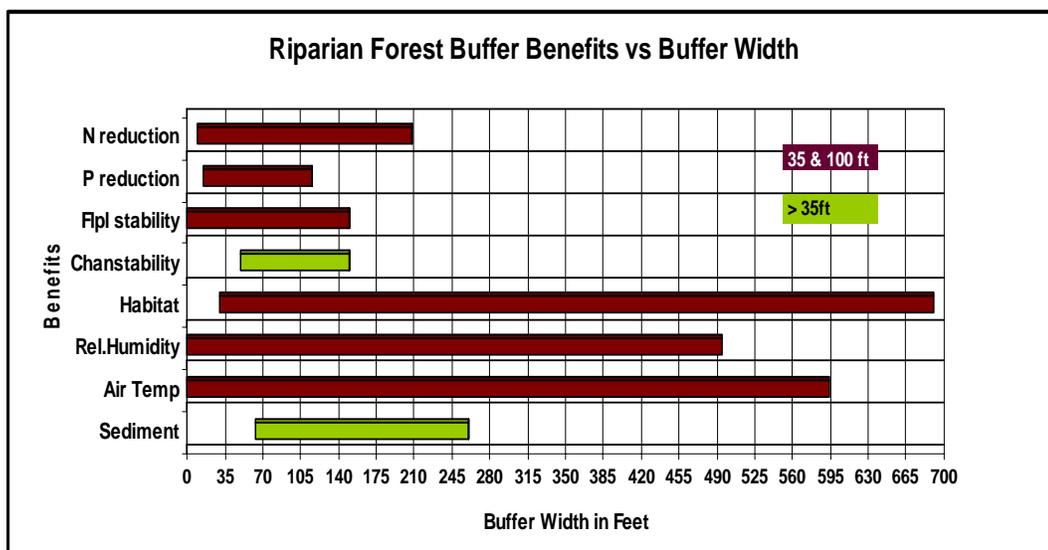
While I was working for other land trusts in both Howard County, Maryland and the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia, planting and restoring riparian buffers was seen as a major solution to the many ills that have degraded the waters of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. In one organization, we counted our milestones in “acres preserved and riparian miles restored”. In the other organization, we restored 24 acres of riparian buffers by planting thousands of trees with the help of hundreds of student and adult volunteers. Here, at ACLT, we are lucky because the land, although once farmed intensely for tobacco, was allowed to grow back to forest. At the time the land was permanently protected, most of it had mature forests growing on it, especially within the most ecologically sensitive 100-foot buffer of the critical area (within 1,000 feet of the tidal waters of the bay). One question has always plagued me: why some programs call for 100 foot buffers (such as in the Bay's Critical Area Program), some programs (like the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, CREP) call for 150 feet to 1,000 feet buffers and other programs call for only a 35-foot buffer? What is the best size for a riparian buffer to be most effective?

Many people who are attuned to environmental concerns know that riparian buffers can provide for cleaner water in our streams and bay. The trees and grasses take up nutrients and slow down surface-water flow which, at

high velocity, causes stream bank erosion and turbidity by increasing particles in the water. The trees also provide habitat for wildlife such as birds, reptiles and mammals and create protected corridors, as well as providing food sources. The trees also protect stream temperatures, while the leaves and roots provide habitat and food for macroinvertebrates, amphibians, and diverse fish populations.

But my question is, what size (width) is best for a riparian buffer and why are the programs so different in their requirements? Part of the answer is that it depends on who the landowner is and what they value most. Judy Okay of the Chesapeake Bay Program recently spoke to a group of scientists at the North-East Weed Science Society NEWSS Symposium on Invasive Plants about riparian buffers. She produced the chart at the lower left. As the chart indicates, a 35-foot buffer can benefit nutrient reduction (N nitrogen and P phosphorous), flood-plain stability, some habitat, relative humidity and air temperature. To be most effective in stream channel stability and sediment control (a major side effect of increased development) buffers need to be at least 63 feet in width. At the same time, a buffer less than 685 feet is of no benefit for forest interior dwelling species (FIDS) of birds.

As for who the landowners are and what they value, this can be interesting and varied. ACLT and the MD Department of Natural Resources value FIDS habitat as well as diversity in other plant and animal species. Protecting large expanses of existing forests is an important strategy, which benefits these species. Other landowners may value their viewshed more than clean water, fresh air, and habitat; requirements for any type of riparian buffers may just be a nuisance that they believe should not be state man-



dated. But have they been shown the importance of buffers? Have we adequately done our job to educate them on how buffers benefit the water quality where their children like to swim, benefit their local economy (crab, oyster, recreational fisheries), benefit their houses through natural flood control, and benefit their health and pocketbooks by providing cooler summer temperatures and reducing drought?

Many people point their fingers at farmers, claiming that they are the big culprits in creating bay degradation. People forget that it is the rich bottomland farms that feed us. Farmers do not want to lose their most precious commodity, the soil, and most farmers do see the value in riparian buffers. The problem with riparian buffers, from the farmer's point of view, is that a mile long shoreline or stream edge with a 35-foot width buffer is 4.2 acres of land that can no longer be used for food production. A hundred foot buffer a mile long is 12 acres, a significant loss in productivity, which is why the CREP pays a 10 to 15 year rental to farmers to take precious land out of production. Farmers have a lot to sacrifice when they take land out of production; it often means a smaller profit margin where they are already close to none.

There are many untapped opportunities for bay restoration. Whenever I go out by boat I see land that is mowed right to the edge of the water or has only a small, thin strip of trees at its edge. The opportunities are there; you see them when you travel past large estates that use lawn services, industrial areas, corporate headquarters, schools, government complexes and parks. Much of the opportunity is in land that is not used for food production.

Size does seem to matter, even 35 feet has benefits and more is even better. The farmers are educated and they are approached constantly by USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), foresters, Soil Conservation Service, Cooperative Extension, Farm Services Agency, as well as several nonprofit organizations. Do you see opportunities for bay restoration in your own neighborhoods, around your school grounds, government offices, and corporate sites? Do you see little streams that flow through mowed fields or yards that open wide to bay frontage? Bay restoration is possible and riparian buffers are a wonderful tool to achieving it.

Liz Stoffel  
Land Manager, ACLT

### Land Manager's Wish List:

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

#### Items needed:

- Clean **5-gallon buckets**, with or without lids, used for the Earth Day Event & Annual Green Sale (kitty litter & pet food buckets are good);
- **Gardening & trail maintenance tools:** loppers, clippers, shovels, weed whackers, rakes, pruning saws, chainsaws, etc.;
- **Carpentry tools** such as screwdrivers, hammers, saws, drills, pliers, etc.;
- **Power tools** such as extension cords, band, jig, radial arm and circular saws, etc.;
- **Canoe program equipment** such as kayaks, canoes, life vests and paddles;
- Tall **extension ladders** for barn restoration;
- Small **pull behind cart** that attaches to a lawn tractor;
- Newer type **Brush Chipper** with all safety features working;
- **Trailer for a truck** to haul equipment, the inside area of bed must be a minimum 60 inches wide and at least 108 inches in length.

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

Please confirm our need for your donation by first contacting me by phone at 410-414-3400 or by email at [land@actweb.org](mailto:land@actweb.org)

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

nutrient cycle, approximately two tons of leaf litter is deposited on each acre of the forest floor. This organic material shields the soil and fosters water infiltration resulting in one of the principal benefits of forests—the relatively low rate at which water flows overland through a forest compared with any other land cover. The study finds that the capacity of forests to absorb and store runoff can be almost 20 times higher than a parking lot (or other impervious surface) and up to six times higher than your lawn. They report that “Even as we spend millions of dollars annually on best management practices to control polluted runoff, nothing yet devised works like an intact forest.” *Chesapeake Forests*, p. 50. As ACLT’s keynote speaker Kent Mountford wrote recently in his “Past is Prologue” article in the September 2006 issue of the *Bay Journal*, “From the point of view of the Chesapeake Bay, which has existed for 10,000 years, forests—old growth forest—is the ‘highest and best use’ of the landscape.”

In addition to the water quality benefits already noted, forests provide significant air quality benefits. Trees help to reduce air temperatures by cooling the surrounding environment with shade and releasing water to the atmosphere through transpiration. We are all familiar with the fact that cities and other developed areas can be 2 to 10 degrees warmer than the surrounding countryside. In urban areas of the Chesapeake Bay region, trees are credited with removing 42,700 metric tons of pollutants annually. One fourth of the nitrogen entering the Bay is actually deposited on land from the air-generated by the cars that we drive and the various point sources of air pollution such as electric utilities. Trees are incredibly efficient—absorbing 88% of the nitrogen they receive—but the study cautions that there is a limit to the ability of Chesapeake forests to provide this buffer. At some point, the soils will become so laden with decades of nitrogen deposition that the trees’ ability to retain nitrogen will lessen. Trees also serve to shade buildings in the summer and block wind in the winter, thus contrib-

uting to energy savings in urban areas such as Washington, D.C., estimated at \$2.6 million per year. *Chesapeake Forests*, pp. 54, 64-65.

Recreational benefits such as hiking, wildlife watching, hunting, and camping are enjoyed by millions of people in the Bay region annually. Quality of life and increased property values are reported for those who are fortunate enough to reside in or near forested areas. Healthy forests also provide food, shelter, shade and nesting sites for fish and wildlife. As I walked out to the shed to haul in some more firewood for the evening, it occurred to me that both the supplemental heat from my woodstove and the aesthetic benefit of a beautiful red winter sunset viewed through a silhouette of trees were two more of the many benefits of forests.

The *State of Chesapeake Forests* places a \$24 billion per year price tag on the ecological services that the forests of the Chesapeake Bay watershed provide to the residents of the area. Forests currently cover 24 million acres in the watershed. This translates to ecological benefits of \$1,000/acre. Zooming back down to the level of the Parkers Creek watershed using these findings, the 3,000 acres of forest land permanently protected by the ACLT is generating \$3 million annually in benefits to the Chesapeake Bay and its residents! With forests in the Chesapeake Bay watershed being lost at a rate of *100 acres a day*, “It is unlikely that watershed residents can maintain their quality of life and restore the Chesapeake Bay unless forests and their conservation become a more prominent part of public discourse.” *Chesapeake Forests*, p. 12. We, at ACLT, say “amen” to that!

Karen Edgecombe  
Executive Director, ACLT



# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT ...

## New Members

The ACLT would like to welcome the following new members who have joined since the Fall 2006 Newsletter:

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Dreason  
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Harkin  
Ms. Monica M. Healy  
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Kirk & Family  
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Koloski  
Ms. Valerie Lancaster  
Ms. Jane Lateer & Mr. Arthur Dixon  
Mr. Wesley Reintzel & Ms. Eileen Shoemaker  
Mr. & Mrs. David Strand & Family  
Mr. Jeff Wood

## Corporate Memberships

Chesapeake Hills Golf & Country Club  
(Mr. Thomas Raley)  
Dickinsons Flowers (Ms. Judi Fields)  
Fridays Creek Winery (Mr. Frank Cleary)  
Maertens Jewelers (Heather & Darren Maertens)  
Wentworth Nursery (Ms. Rosie Connelly)

## Sustaining Members

The ACLT would like to congratulate the following members who have reached the Sustaining Member contribution level:  
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Trentman

## Fall Appeal

The Staff and the Board of Directors wishes to thank the following members who made a contribution to the 2006 Fall Appeal

Mr. & Mrs. Roger A. Anderson  
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Apple  
Mr. & Mrs. William Arms  
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald W. Bailey  
Dr. & Mrs. Robert L. Bartlett  
Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Benning  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Berry  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul H. Blackman  
Mr. & Mrs. David E. Bonior  
Dr. David C. Brownlee  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Caldwell  
Mr. & Mrs. John C. Campbell  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Carmany  
Mr. & Mrs. James T. Cavanaugh  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Cook  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Cunningham  
Rev. Peter J. Daly

Mr. Jesse J. Davis  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Dennett  
Mr. & Mrs. David Didion  
Mr. & Mrs. Freeman Dodsworth  
Dr. & Mrs. William Dorsey  
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis Drumm  
Ms. Anne C. Dunnington  
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Mr. & Mrs. Samuel M. Ellsworth  
Mr. & Mrs. Bart Ewalt  
Ms. Christine Ferrandino  
Ms. Paula Johnson & Mr. Carl Fleischhauer  
Mrs. Magda Freeman  
Ms. M. Jacqueline Grabis-Bunker  
Dr. Edward U. Graham  
RADM & Mrs. James B. Greene, Jr., USN (Ret.)  
Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Griffin  
Mr. & Mrs. Gian Carlo Guarda  
Dr. Edward Hacksylo  
Ms. Joy Bartholomew & Mr. William B. Haile  
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Hammett  
Ms. Jane S. Harrell  
Ms. Barbara Harris  
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Head  
Mr. & Mrs. Conrad L. Hoska  
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Howerton  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Jaeger  
Mr. Peter A. Johnson  
Dr. Christina & Mr. William Johnston  
Ms. Anne Cole Johnston  
Ms. Laurie Kauffman, Mr. Hal Rogoff & Mr. D. Phillip Anderson  
Mr. & Mrs. Francis King  
Del. Sue & Mr. Steve Kullen  
Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Locraft  
Mr. & Mrs. Ron Magnussen  
Ms. Anne Warner & Mr. Michael Makuch  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Manning  
Dr. Keith S. Matlack  
Mr. John J Mc Neely  
Rev. Jack E. McClendon  
Mr. & Mrs. Howard J. McDonald, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Lee McKnight  
Dr. Kathleen Miller  
Ms. Donna Ari & Mr. Ewing H Miller  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Moe  
Hon. Constance & Mr. Anthony C. Morella  
Ms. Margaret L. Niland  
Mr. & Mrs. Edwin A Noell, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Franklin Nutter  
Ms. Gladys Ogden  
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen T. Phillips  
Dr. & Mrs. Austin Platt

Rev. William Plummer  
Mr. & Mrs. Norman Prince  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert D. Prince  
Mr. Glen Pyles  
Ms. Helen Rubino-Turco  
Dr. & Mrs. James Sanders  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Showalter  
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Smith  
Ms. Nancy McK. Smith  
Ms. Rosalind S. Springsteen  
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Stathis  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph D. Steller  
Mr. & Mrs. Jeremy Stone  
Ms. Carol Hanke Teich (In memory of Anne & Byron Hanke)  
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Trentman  
Mr. & Mrs. John Turner  
Ms. Leslie Starr & Mr. Joseph Turner  
Col. Caroline E. VanMason, USA (Ret.)  
Mr. Wilmer Waller  
Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan R. Warner  
Ms. Lelia Blackwell and Mr. John Watson  
Mr. Richard Wich & Ms. Joyce Harmon (In honor of James Hollowell)  
Mr. Robert W. Wilden  
Mr. & Mrs. James E. Williams  
Mr. Alan E. Wilson  
Mrs. Margaret B. Young

## General Contributions and Designated Gifts

Thank you to the following for your generous gifts:

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth F. Doyle - In honor of Janice Rodgers  
Dr. & Mrs. Maurice Fried  
Dr. & Mrs. William Gay  
Ms. Monica M. Healy  
Ms. Kathleen Heins & Mr. Peter J. Watson  
Mr. Jonathan C. Kelly - A Christmas present for Christopher C. Kelly  
Mr. & Mrs. Eugene McHugh

## Gift Memberships

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

Ms. Andrea Clarke  
RADM & Mrs. James B. Greene USN (Ret.)  
Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Griffin  
Capt. and Mrs. Patrick Murphy, USN (Ret.)

Newsletter Printing Partially Funded by



## Memorial Contributions

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

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

Ms. Virginia Ayres and Ms. Tamara Mount

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Baldo

Mr. & Mrs. David Beard & Mrs. Nancy Bell

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Berry

Ms. Annie Carter

Mr. & Mrs. David Didion

Mr. & Mrs. Ralph H. Dwan, Jr.

Mr. Carl Fleischhauer & Ms. Paula Johnson

Mr. & Mrs. Philip Fleming

Mr. & Mrs. Gian Carlo Guarda

Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Head

Ms. Judith Landis

Mrs. Mary Loew and Family

Capt. and Mrs. Patrick Murphy, USN (Ret.)

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Post

Ms. Roberta Safer & Klaus Zwilsky

Mr. & Mrs. Peter Stathis

Ms. Gladyce Sumida

Mr. & Mrs. John Theriault

Mr. William H. Woodward

**In memory of Mr. John Handley, Omaha, Nebraska**

Mr. & Mrs. Ron Magnussen

**In memory of Mr. Charles Crowder**

The Honorable Constance & Mr. Anthony Morella

**In memory of Anne and Byron Hanke, Charter Members of the ACLT**

Mrs. Carol Hanke Teich

**A contribution for a Memorial Bench was made by Patrick and Abbey Griffin in honor of Mrs. Edith Griffin**

## ACLT Calendar of Events – 2007

**Saturday, March 10, 9 a.m. – 12 noon – *Hiking Trail Maintenance Day*** – Join ACLT staff and volunteers as we work on the hiking trails in preparation for spring and summer hikers. Cook out and picnic lunch for volunteers at noon.

**Sunday, March 25, 2:30 p.m.** – ACLT and the Calvert Marine Museum bring you Al Gore's film: *An Inconvenient Truth: A Global Warning* followed by a community discussion in the Museum's exhibition building auditorium, refreshments following. No charge.

**Saturday, April 7, 9 a.m.–12 noon – *Spring Guided Hike on Gravatt East*** – Enjoy the newly spruced up trails and spring's early offerings on the East Loop Trail.

**Saturday, April 21, 8:30 a.m. – 12 noon – *Earth Day*** – Volunteer crews will be working along roadsides and on selected sites. This is a fabulous chance to meet neighbors and improve the Calvert County community. A picnic lunch will be hosted at the end of the day's activities.

**Saturday, June 2, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. – *Family Festival Day at Double Oak Farm*** – A day of family activities, food & farm fun to celebrate the natural and cultural resources of Calvert County.

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

**Saturday, September 8, 9 a.m. – 12 noon – *Holly Arboretum Work Day*** – Join the Holly Arboretum Volunteer Crew at the bucolic Warrior's Rest as they prune and maintain these historic trees.

**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, part of a year-long series made possible by a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network.

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

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

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

**Saturday, November 10, 6:30 pm – 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.

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In addition, ACLT offers guided canoe trips from April through October. Reservations are required for these popular trips. Please see page 8 for the 2007 schedule of ACLT canoe trips.

# 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

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