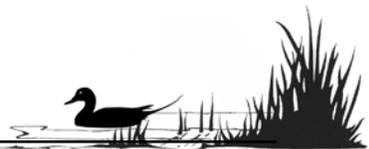


Watershed Observer



NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN CHESTNUT LAND TRUST - VOLUME 24 NO. 1, WINTER 2010

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CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

FEBRUARY 20 WINTER HIKE AT DOUBLE
OAK FARM (1:30 - 3:30 P.M.)

FEBRUARY 27 VINE VINDICATOR WORK
DAY (9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.)

MARCH 27 COMBINED HIKING TRAIL MAIN-
TENANCE/VINE VINDICATOR WORK DAY
(9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.)

SEE THE FULL CALENDAR ON PAGE 5 OR ON
THE WEB.

Online at
<http://acltweb.org>

Record your volunteer hours on line.
Follow the link listed under 'Get In-
volved'.

Land Manager's Corner

Adaptive Conservation Management: Responding to Changes in the Parkers Creek Watershed for the Long Term

The weather is changing, not only globally, but here at home in the Chesapeake Bay and in our own backyard of Parkers Creek. Whether or not you believe that human activity is responsible, there is a lot of scientific evidence that temperatures, wind, and precipitation rates are changing¹. These changes will affect the jewel of a watershed we love and its biodiversity. Land managers and land trusts around the world are looking at ways to manage our resources by studying the vulnerabilities in their ecosystems and assessing the adaptation options that will occur either naturally, or by aiding them, in the changing environment.

At the Land Trust Alliance's annual conference (LTA Rally 2009) in Portland, Oregon, 1,800 members came together from land trusts throughout the United States and from around the world to share ideas and inspire each other. While at Rally, I took a full day workshop given by the organization, EcoAdapt, called "National Land Conservation Climate Camp". The "camp" was designed to assist land trust staff and board members to consider how their organization's policies and programs might change as the climate is changing the environment and landscapes they cherish.



The flooded beach at the mouth of Parkers Creek. Photo by Nick Bohaska.

Climate zone maps, a fairly new invention, (developed first in 1931 to aid gardeners choosing plants that could survive winter chills in each area) are being updated². A temperature shift has occurred between publishing the 1990 USDA map and the most recent map by the Arbor Foundation in 2006. The shift shows warmer winter temperatures moving northward. From the earlier maps most of our area was in zone 7, but the updated map shows changes for most of the US, including a shift to zone 8 for parts of the eastern shore of Maryland³. Our area, the western shore, is expected to follow this trend.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)



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Other maps are being re-drawn for everything from ski resorts to maple syrup operations showing that if the weather trends continue many of these operations will be out of business in the next decade or two. Summer temperatures are also changing, with more days per year being over 90°F, increasing drought and severe storm events⁴. The prospects for the Chesapeake Bay are looking bleak with trends showing wider swings in weather. Melting glacial ice will raise sea level and bay levels (8 inches within 25 years)⁵. Higher temperatures and rising water mean more storm events, which leads to more runoff. The uncontrolled runoff creates toxic water chemistry changes and more “dead zones” (areas of the water that are un-oxygenated and devoid of life) in the bay and its tributaries, which includes Parkers Creek.

Rising sea levels will also affect habitat such as “vital coastal wetlands”⁶. Wetlands help slow down runoff and purify water before it goes into the bay. Wetlands are also nursery areas for many species of fish, insects, birds, mammals, amphibians and reptiles. Much of our area is expected to have abrupt shifts in water levels, storm events, and temperatures.

In the Chesapeake Bay and Parkers Creek area, specifically, rising water and increased tides in storms will affect the beaches and cliffs which are home for our already endangered species of Puritan and Northeastern Beach Tiger Beetles. The rising tides and water changes will affect diamondback terrapins that live in the brackish marsh. “Climate change also will eventually lead to major changes in the species composition of forests...”⁷. Rising temperatures will make certain tree species vulnerable and other tree species will thrive. Bald Cypress may do very well but we may lose some of our conifers and evergreens including, perhaps, our beautiful Mountain Laurels. With the change in tree and plant species, we may lose associated bird, butterfly, and other species.

Natural adaptation has occurred for millions of years as environmental change has taken place, especially as the Bay and Parkers Creek area have changed. To get a sense of how the land and water have changed, I suggest a visit to the Calvert Marine Museum to see their exhibit and the fossil record in the cliffs of species that have adapted in response to environmental changes of the past. However, environmental change has never occurred at the pace that it is now.

Scientists have found that birds are moving seeds for plant species northward and insects with short life spans are evolving to meet earlier spring times and changing mating times. However, the pace at which tree species may need to move or die out may not be fast enough. Some plant and animal species may not be able to shift their areas because there just are not enough additional habitats for them to move into. Some of the environmental changes may be so abrupt that species will be overwhelmed and become extinct.

Some land trusts are assessing their future vulnerabilities and re-evaluating their land acquisition projects. Questions are being raised about how best to spend land acquisition funds. Why spend millions to protect islands or beach properties that are likely to be gone in 80 years? Why not invest in uplands and large corridors where species migration can occur? Land trusts are in this business for the long haul, in perpetuity.

Land managers are also looking at and re-evaluating their restoration projects. It is important to reduce current threats to our ecosystems such as non-native invasive plants, which can lower biodiversity and create vulnerable

monocultures. It is important to develop connected preserved areas that encourage species migration and transition. In restoring areas we look for a wide range of native plant species — some plants may be lost due to climate stressors but the more variety you have, the greater chance the area will stay intact. Encourage a host of animal species for the same reason. Protect special areas that host micro-climates; these areas may be the seed bank or species bank that survives into the future. More suggestions can be found in **“Buying Time: A User’s Manual for building Resistance and Resilience to climate Change in Natural Systems”** World Wildlife Fund Climate Change Program.⁸

Although the global climate changes are already evident and the predictions are dour, the future is salvageable. Changing human behavior may slow the process, however, most scientists doubt it will bring a halt to the changes or reverse what has been done. So we must look forward and do all we can. It is too difficult to just let the places and things (trees, birds, lizards, etc.) we love most wash out in a high tide to a sterile ocean. Land trusts are at a crossroads and at the forefront of protecting and preserving what will be the hope of the future through adaptive conservation strategies.

Liz Stoffel
Land Manager

-
1. http://www.chesapeakebay.net/status_weather.aspx?menuitem=19787
 2. <http://www.garden.org/articles/articles.php?q=show&id=44&page=1>
 3. http://www.arborday.org/media/map_change.cfm
 4. <http://www.globalchange.gov/publications/reports/scientific-assessments/us-impacts/regional-climate-change-impacts/southeast#issue4>
 5. <http://www.worldviewofglobalwarming.org/pages/rising-seas.html>
 6. http://www.chesapeakebay.net/status_weather.aspx?menuitem=19787
 7. Najjar, Raymond G., Christopher R. Pyke, Mary Beth Adams, Denise Breitburg, Carl Hershner, Michael Kemp, Robert Howarth, Margaret R. Mulholland, Michael Paolisso, David Secor, Kevin Sellner, Denise Wardrop, and Robert Wood. "Potential climate-change impacts on the Chesapeake Bay." *Estuarine, Coastal and Shelf Science* 86.1 (2010): 1-20.
 8. <http://www.worldwildlife.org/climate/Publications/WWFBinaryitem4922.pdf>

Around ACLT

2009 Outstanding Volunteers!

As 2009 wound down, we began to reflect on the success of the past year. And at the core of all of our successes you will find the volunteers, our unsung heroes. Each of you makes a considerable impact on what we can accomplish, and in 2009 you have reported over 5,600 hours donated!!

This year we had a remarkable number of people who each donated over 100 hours of hard work to the ACLT’s mission. The following 9 volunteers, listed below with the respective programs each is involved in, represent these unsung heroes that we treasure dearly:

Stan Benning – Handcrafting Memorial Benches

Paul Berry - Board of Directors Treasurer, Budget and Finance Committee, Personnel Committee, and Administration and Fundraising Committee.

Bob Douglass – Weed Whacking Wednesdays, Vine Vindicators, Hiking Trail Maintenance Day

Jeff Klapper – Double Oak Farm Manager, Earth Day, Weed Whacking Wednesdays, Vine Vindicators, Equipment Maintenance, and ACLT Stationery & Event Invitations

Ginny Murphy - Membership Coordinator, Outreach and Membership Committee, Water Quality Monitoring, Mowing, Earth Day, and Family Day

Arnie Petty - Weed Whacking Wednesdays, Vine Vindicators, Lumberjack, Trail & Road Clearing, and Facility & Tool Maintenance.

Janice Rodgers – Mowing, Cemetery Crew, Earth Day, Grounds Maintenance

Ken Romney - Land Management Committee, Weed Whacking Wednesdays, Vine Vindicators, Hiking Trail Maintenance Day, Memorial Benches, Double Oak Farm Test Garden, Facilities & Equipment Maintenance, Earth Day, Family Day, and the Greens Sale and Hayride.

Donna Wilson – Auction Committee Chair, Greens Sale, Outreach & Membership Support

As always, we send a sincere and heartfelt **Thank You** to all our wonderful volunteers!

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

The ACLT honored our hardworking volunteers on Friday, October 23rd with a dinner and get-together at Double Oak. The delicious dinner of meat and veggie lasagna, salad, and bread was catered by Trish Weaver from the

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

Volunteer Spotlight – Caroline VanMason



When it comes to championing the American Chestnut Land Trust, Caroline VanMason is a force to be reckoned with. A charter member and true ACLT enthusiast, she has been here since the beginning and is our longest standing board member.

Caroline grew up in Seattle, Washington just after the end of WWI with her father, mother, and younger brother, Edward. She graduated from the University of Washington with a Bachelor's of Science degree. By this point, WWII was on its way and Caroline knew she needed to be a part of the action. About a year out of college, she joined the Army. Caroline was sent to Indianapolis for training, and was assigned hospital duty until the end of the war.

After WWII, Caroline had numerous other assignments the next few years including: boarding a ship out of New York, then stationed in San Francisco, taking another tour on a ship, and ultimately going back to school under the GI Bill. This time she attended the University of Chicago and earned an MBA. Caroline taught in southern Illinois for a year before being recalled to Korea. She explained that she certainly understands what many of our troops are going through today with recalls to Iraq and Afghanistan. Caroline continued to travel and move around with the Army until retiring in 1972 after 28 years of service.

Caroline found herself in Washington D.C. after retirement, which she explained was due to her genetic bend for moving (her father and brother were also in the armed forces serving with the Navy and the Reserves). She took a job

at the Administration on Aging for 13 years working with programs in nutritional services for the elderly.

When looking for a nice get-away in the country, Caroline came across Scientists Cliffs — a place, she found, where the people seemed to be of the same orientation as her. She loved hiking the trails and being outdoors. In 1975, she purchased her home in the community and jumped right into the mix.

As many of you know, in the early 1980s when Mrs. Gravatt passed away, the property across from the Scientists Cliffs community was in danger of being sold. In an effort to keep this special land open for hiking trails and enjoyment of the greater community, a group got together, including Caroline, to raise the money to purchase the land. By 1986, the ACLT had been created and incorporated as a 501(c) (3) and Caroline joined the Board of Directors. Since then, she continues to serve on the Board, and has also participated in the Administration & Fundraising Committee as well as the Membership Committee.

You will always find Caroline spreading the word about the good work that ACLT is doing and encouraging people to join. According to one canoe trip participant, he had met Caroline at a yard sale and been thoroughly convinced that he needed to check out the ACLT! And that is just one of many similar stories.

While Caroline is content with all the places she's gone and the work she's done, her visions



and goals for the ACLT will continue, including a viewpoint over Parkers Creek, adding more benches to the trails as points of relaxation and reflection, and of course, reaching out to as many other local groups as possible. Recently, Caroline has been a large part of the driving force to welcome the religious community into the ACLT with the focus of being good stewards to the Earth. This past spring, Caroline spearheaded a guided hike and scavenger hunt for a large group of adults and children from the Church of Healing & Deliverance (pictured on preceding page).

After traveling the world and contemplating the geography of bliss, Caroline reflected that the Mediterranean had the happiest people on earth. But happiness is a relative term, and Caroline certainly found it in her traveling and careers in the Army and the Administration on Aging. When asked where her favorite place in the world was, she responded, "Besides here?" Well, her second favorite would have to be Germany.

Besides traveling and devoting time to the ACLT, Caroline's other hobbies include the theatre, opera, and reading. Caroline is positive that the natural places of the world and especially Calvert County will be preserved for many years to come. We have certainly been blessed by her dedication, hard work, and most of all her passion. Thank you Caroline for all you have given to us and to the road you have helped pave for the future.

Joy Woppert, Community Relations Coordinator

ACLT Calendar of Events 2010

February	20	Winter Hike at Double Oak Farm (1:30 - 3:30 p.m.)
	27	Vine Vindicator Work Day (9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)
March	27	Combined Hiking Trail Maintenance/Vine Vindicator Work Day (9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)
	28	Barn Work Day (8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)
April	10	Canoe Guide Training (11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.)
	17	Earth Day (8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)
	24	Spring Guided Hike on Gravatt East (9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.)
	25	Children's Guided Hike (10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)
May	25	Barn Work Day (8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)
	8	Guided Canoe Trip (11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.)
	22	Vine Vindicator Work Day (9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)
June	23	Guided Canoe Trip (10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.)
	12	Parkers Creek to Flag Ponds Paddle (8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.)
	19	Vine Vindicator Work Day (9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)
July	26	Guided Canoe Trip (3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.)
	10	Guided Canoe Trip (2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.)
	24	Vindicator Work Day (9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)
	25	Barn Work Day (8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)
August	7	Guided Canoe Trip (1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.)
	14	Vine Vindicator Training (9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.)
September	11	Holly Arboretum Work Day at Warrior's Rest (9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)
	18	Guided Canoe Trip (12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.)
	18	Vine Vindicator Work Day (9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)
	25	Silent Auction & Dinner Celebration
	26	Guided Canoe Trip (5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.)
October	9-10	Patuxent River Appreciation Days
	22	Volunteer Appreciation Dinner (6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.)
	24	Guided Canoe Trip (3:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.)
	24	Barn Work Day (8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)
	30	Vine Vindicator Work Day (9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)
	31	Fall Foliage Hike at Double Oak (1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.)
December	5	Arboretum Work Day at Warrior's Rest (1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.)
	11	Greens Sale & Beach Hayride (11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.)

Putting the “Farm” back in Double Oak Farm

ACLT has been extolling the benefits of sustainable agriculture and the locally grown food movement in the pages of the *Watershed Observer* for several years. See “Farming for the Health of our Watersheds and Our Own Health” (Winter 2006); “Locally Grown” (Spring 2008); and “Local Foods – Sustaining the Chesapeake” (Winter 2009). We knew, however, that we had limited staff time to devote to developing a sustainable agriculture program at ACLT and so, in the Winter 2009 issue of the *Watershed Observer*, we posted a plea for a volunteer to step forward.

In 2009, ACLT began a test garden at Double Oak Farm under the able leadership of ACLT volunteer Jeff Klapper (affectionately referred to as “Mr. Green Jeans”). Jeff responded to our plea for a volunteer to take on the development of a sustainable agriculture program “in spades”! With \$2,200 in “seed” money (literally), Jeff and a small band of volunteers installed an electric fence, tilled the compacted soils, developed and implemented an organic fertilization method, grew seedlings for transplant, conducted organic weed and insect control, and produced 17 different crops on 1/3 of an acre! The ACLT staff was wowed by the smell of fresh basil wafting up the stairs in the office on Fridays as Jeff prepared the week’s crops for market downstairs in the ACLT office kitchen. We all, in turn, wowed our families with the fresh, healthy meals we created from the produce grown by Jeff and his tireless band of helpers.

One satisfied Double Oak Farm customer, Don Dahmann wrote, “We bought several items from the ACLT farm stand Saturday...OH MY – dill that not only out-dilled any I had ever had before, but with real POP; basil with BITE; Swiss chard (which I have only been able to get the family to eat once a year ‘for their health’) that my wife actually ENJOYED. ACLT farm produce is the countervailing answer to the recently released and well worth seeing documentary film, “Food, Inc.,” REAL vegetables, LOVINGLY grown, FRESHLY picked, as though they had come from our own kitchen garden. Amen.”

With the 2009 test garden declared a resounding success, and with YOUR HELP, we would like to launch a small-scale Community Supported Agriculture program (CSA) in the 2010 growing season. You can help in any one of three ways:

First, we need donors willing to invest in the capital improvements that ACLT’s Double Oak Farm will need, including permanent water and electric service to the field, a pole building for processing and distributing produce, additional fencing, a water collection and irrigation system, seeds and equipment. We have formed the “Founding Farmers Club,” similar to ACLT’s Charter Members to provide “stimulus” funds. Our goal for this year is to raise \$17,500 for these infrastructure costs. We are currently applying for grants to match these Founding Farmer donations. There are two ways you can become an ACLT Founding Farmer:



Donate \$1,000 to ACLT by March 31, 2010
(place "Farm donation" in the memo field on your check;

Donate \$600 to ACLT and purchase a \$400 Share of the 2010 Season Produce by March 31, 2010 (place "Farm donation and 2010 CSA Share" in the memo field on your check).

Second, we need a committed volunteer work force that is willing to agree to a regular schedule in exchange for a share ("work shares"). If you enjoy gardening and working outdoors, and you are willing to commit to working three hours a week for 26 weeks, you can earn a share in the produce of the 2010 season. By working for a share, you will become an essential part of expanding the farm and growing our produce. Your ability to participate on a weekly basis will be necessary for our success. If you would like to volunteer on a more casual basis when you are available, your help is also needed and will be very much appreciated. If you are interested in contributing to the success of the CSA through a work share, please check the appropriate box on the enclosed 2010 CSA application form by *March 31, 2010*.

Finally, we need CSA shareholders who would like to purchase a share of produce from Double Oak Farm's premier 2010 season. Because you will be participating in the continuing development of a new project, not an established farm, the subscription price for 2010 will be a below market price of \$400 for ACLT members (membership will be determined as of the date of the ACLT annual meeting on February 6, 2010) and \$460 for nonmembers. The additional \$60 for nonmembers will entitle the subscriber to a one year membership in ACLT at the \$60 Land Protector Level. Only a limited number of regular shares will be offered during the 2010 growing season on a space-available basis -- Founding Farmers will have priority. Please complete the application (insert enclosed with your newsletter) and return it to ACLT, P.O. Box 2363, Prince Frederick, MD 20678 by March 31, 2010.

Karen H. Edgecombe, Executive Director
Jeff Klapper, Double Oak Farm Manager



Farm volunteers Ed Haack and Jeff Klapper weeding and mulching.
From the farm: Jeff Klapper with tomatoes, French Breakfast Radishes and Yellow Squash.



Pulling the basil crop. Students from the Calverton School helping out in the garden.

ACLT's 2009 Accomplishments



ACLT's five-year plan for 2009-2013 guided our efforts in 2009. Among the strategies and actions that we worked on this year were:

Management of ACLT Operations

➤ **Strategy:** Optimize our facilities to support our land management and outreach activities. **Action:** Adopt a master facility plan of existing and proposed facilities needed to support the ACLT mission. This planning process is well underway, funded by a grant from the National Park Service, Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network. ACLT has hired James R. Klein, of Lardner/Klein Landscape Architects, P.C. to prepare a master plan to guide improvements that will: 1) utilize ACLT trails to tell the stories associated with the Parkers Creek watershed; 2) increase both visual and physical access to Parkers Creek; 3) improve the capacity of our facilities/structures to provide opportunities for outdoor education, natural and cultural resource interpretation, and to provide multi-purpose space; 4) utilize our existing agricultural lands to demonstrate sustainable agricultural practices; 5) stabilize and plan for future preservation needs of existing cultural sites; and 6) review the adequacy of existing vehicular access and parking. An interpretive planner will also be hired in 2010 under this grant to assist with decisions as to which stories are important to tell and where/how best to provide this information to the public.

➤ **Strategy:** Maintain and enhance good governance practices. **Action:** Achieve Land Trust Alliance accreditation. The Land Trust Alliance has adopted 12 Standards and 88 Practices that constitute best practices for the land conservation community on a full range of topics including both organizational and transactional strengths. The first step to achieving accreditation is to do a systematic review of all of the LTA Standards & Practices and assess internally how ACLT is doing with respect to each one. ACLT has made substantial progress on this self-evaluation and will be readying ourselves to apply for accreditation over the coming year. ACLT received assistance from the Janice Hollmann

grant administered by the Maryland Environmental Trust and from the MARPAT Foundation in support of these efforts.

Land Acquisition and Preservation

➤ **Strategy:** Complete, wherever possible, preservation of remaining properties in the Parkers Creek and Governors Run watersheds. **Action:** Work with county and state government and landowners to establish a greenway connection/trail between Prince Frederick and the Bay. ACLT was honored to be selected for a grant from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, a program of the Maryland Department of Planning, to acquire land necessary to connect the Prince Frederick Town Center to ACLT's existing north side trails and to construct an overlook platform to provide year-round views of Parkers Creek and the Bay at the end of ACLT's Bay Overlook trail. Work under this grant will continue into 2010.

Land Management

➤ **Strategy:** Be effective stewards of ACLT owned and managed lands within the Parkers Creek and Governors Run watersheds, protecting both the natural and cultural resources of these lands and waterways for the benefit of current and future generations. **Action:** Continue working on the 5-year Invasive Control Program set up in 2006 through the LIP Grant. The grant that



Jim Klein and Lisa Siri of Lardner/Klein Landscape Architects, P.C. survey ACLT's south side trails with Karen Edgecombe and Randi Vogt.

ACLT obtained in 2006 from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources through the Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) has inspired a dedicated cadre of volunteers who work every Wednesday morning and one Saturday per month, weather permitting, to clear bittersweet vines, bamboo and other invasives from ACLT's south side trailhead, amassing 1,066 volunteer hours in 2009.

➤ **Strategy:** Encourage environmentally sustainable public access to ACLT managed lands by maintaining and enhancing the ACLT trail system. **Action:** Revise trail maps in 2009 to set up a numbering system with coordinated numbers on sign posts on the trails at key points, including trail intersections, so visitors can verify their location. The north side trails and trail maps (pictured at right) received a complete facelift in 2009, thanks to the dedicated *pro bono* assistance of graphic designer and artist Suzanne Shelden, trail blazing by ACLT volunteer Dick Worth, new hand-lettered signs by ACLT Community Relations Coordinator Joy Woppert, and the donation of numbered signs by ACLT member and volunteer Brian Treece and his company, Banana Banner.

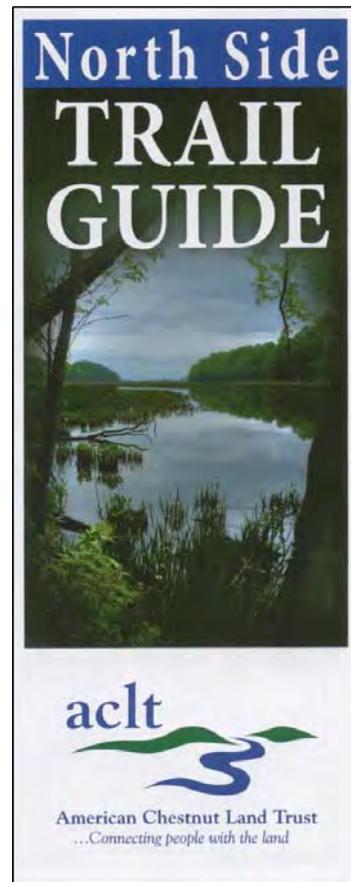
➤ **Strategy:** Investigate the feasibility of putting fallow agricultural fields back into production in order to continue the tradition of farming and diversify the ways that people can connect with the land through ACLT. **Action:** Determine the feasibility of providing infrastructure and human resources necessary to implement the plan for Community Supported Agriculture (CSA). As you will read elsewhere in this newsletter, ACLT volunteer Jeff Klapper has demonstrated the feasibility, challenges and opportunities for ACLT to develop a CSA program beginning in 2010, based on the success of the test garden he oversaw in 2009. It is now up to our members and volunteers to show their support for this program by becoming a Founding Farmer, purchasing a share, or earning a work-share through contributing volunteer time on the farm.

Outreach and Membership

➤ **Strategy:** Develop Strategic Partnerships – build and maintain lasting partnerships with local nonprofit organizations focusing on environmental stewardship, education, community service and other common interests between ACLT and the nonprofit community at large. **Action:** Once a year, identify a group for which we would like to increase participation in ACLT (e.g., county commissioners, neighboring communities, other non-profits) and invite them to a special hike, tour of ACLT properties, or other event. In 2009, ACLT focused on identifying common ground with local religious organizations beginning with our “Green Reflections” interfaith panel discussion at last year’s annual meeting by asking the question, “What does your faith teach us about our responsibility to be good stewards of the earth?” The discussion was very enlightening and well-received by ACLT members. The Green Reflections concept, the brainchild of ACLT board member Caroline VanMason, was followed up with a special event sponsored by ACLT for the children of families belonging to the Church of Healing and Deliverance in Prince Frederick. A similar children’s guided hike is scheduled for this coming April for the children of the Beit Chaverim congregation of Calvert County. A scheduled Vine Vindicator program with members of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Chesapeake unfortunately had to be cancelled due to the weather.

As always, ACLT is grateful for the support of our grant funders as well as our members and volunteers without whom none of this would be possible.

Karen H. Edgecombe
Executive Director



Come hike and explore the ACLT.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

local restaurant Dream Weaver in Prince Frederick. We spared our volunteers from any lengthy speeches, and took the time to catch up and individually thank them for their hard work. Approximately 65 volunteers enjoyed the fun and festivities.

Greens Sale and Beach Hayride

On Friday, December 11th, volunteers gathered at Warrior's Rest in preparation for the Greens Sale. Thirteen volunteers used trimmed evergreens and holly from the Warrior's Rest property to create beautiful wreaths, swags, and garlands. The following day, the ACLT's annual Greens Sale was held from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Warrior's Rest where many members of ACLT and the community came to purchase greens for holiday decorating. Hot cider, cookies, and hayrides to the beach were available to enjoy the beautiful day! Thank you to everyone who made this year's event a success!

Don't forget to record your volunteer hours online by going to <http://acltweb.org/Administration/volunteer/index.cfm>



Check us out on Facebook. Become a fan of the [American Chestnut Land Trust](#) today!

Thank you for your support ...

New Members

ACLT would like to welcome the following new members since the Fall 2009 newsletter:

Mr. Donn Ahearn &
Ms. Christina vanPelt
Ms. Deborah H. Daniel
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Fleming
Mr. & Mrs. Brett Hansen
Ms. Karen Holcomb,
Leadership Southern Maryland, Inc.
Ms. Jean Stephens
Mr. James Schauble
Ms. Kathy Stockton
Mr. Hutch Valanidas &
Ms. Rachel Visintainer
Dr. & Mrs. Clayton Wagner
Mr. & Mrs. Linden Welch

Sustaining Membership

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

Del & Mr. Steven Kullen
Ms. Kim Arbutnot & Dr. Fred Mowrer
Dr. Nancy McK. Smith

Memorial Contributions

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

In memory of **Mr. John P. Girolamo**, who was a member, volunteer and fiancé of ACLT Community Relations Coordinator Joy Woppert
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Berry
Ms. Denise Breitburg & Mr. Mark Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Griffin
Dr. Edward U. Graham
Ms. Peggy Hovermale
Ms. Anne Cole Johnston
Del. & Mr. Steven Kullen
Mr. & Mrs. John Little
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Reynolds
Ms. Joy Woppert

In memory of **Dr. William Haile** who was a Sustaining Member, longtime supporter and volunteer:
Mr. Edward W. Haile

In memory of **Mary Loew**, Charter member and longtime volunteer and supporter, and in honor of all the contributions of the Loew family:
Ms. Shirley Mihursky & Mr. Robert Pfeiffer

In memory of **Alison McKeachie**, who was an environmentalist and friend of Land Manager Liz Stoffel:
Ms. Andrea Clarke

In Honor of Contributions

In honor of ACLT board member and longtime supporter **Col. Caroline Van Mason**

Dr. Christina Boesz & Col. Daniel Boesz
Ms. Marie Bundy & Mr. Randy Estabrook
Ms. Cheryl Place
Ms. Nancy McK. Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Wilson

A Christmas gift in honor of **Dr. Glenn Edgcombe**, Sustaining member and longtime supporter and volunteer:
Ms. Lindsay Edgcombe

A Christmas gift in honor of **Dr. & Mrs. Robert Rudin, Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Laning & Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Imoos**:
Dr. Christine & Col. Daniel Boesz

In honor of **Mr. & Mrs. Paul Berry**, ACLT Board Member and Treasurer (Paul), Sustaining Members and dedicated volunteers:
Ms. Marsha Berry

In honor of **Mr. Bruce Armstrong**, longtime supporter, volunteer and photographer for ACLT:
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Wilson

In honor of **Mrs. Karen Z. Lucas**, Charter Member and dedicated supporter:
Gardeners of the Junior League

In honor of **Mr. & Mrs. Edward Graham** on the occasion of their marriage. Ted currently serves as President of the ACLT, is a Charter Member and longtime volunteer & supporter.
Mrs. Vera Graham
Ms. Renee Massaua

In honor of **Mr. & Mrs. Paul Dennett**, Sustaining Members, dedicated volunteers and supporters:
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Wilson

In honor of **Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Griffin**, ACLT Board Member (Pat), Sustaining Members and dedicated volunteers and supporters:
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Wilson

Fall Appeal

The Staff and Board of Directors wish to thank the following for their contributions to the 2009 Fall Appeal:

Ms. Danielle Chappell & Mr. Karl Adler
Mr. & Mrs. Louis Amtmann
Mr. & Mrs. Don Baier
Mr. & Mrs. John Bailey
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Bailey
Ms. Joy Bartholomew
Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Benning
Hon. Charles Bernstein
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Berry
Mr. & Mrs. David E. Bonior, M.C. (Ret.)
Mr. Robert J. Boxwell
Mr. & Mrs. Sean Buckley
Mr. Frederick H. Bumgarner
Mr. & Mrs. William Bushnell
Mr. & Mrs. James T. Cavanaugh
Mr. & Mrs. Charles E. Cook
Drs. Judith & Donald Dahmann
Mr. & Mrs. Robert D. Dallen
Ms. Marcy Damon & Dr. John Kane
Mr. & Mrs. Don Denton
CDR & Mrs. Freeman Dodsworth
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis Drumm
Ms. Ann C. Dunnington
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Dwan
Dr. & Mrs. Glenn Edgcombe
Mr. & Mrs. Samuel M. Ellsworth
Mr. Carl Fleischhauer & Ms. Paula Johnson
Mr. & Mrs. Philip A. Fleming
Sen. & Mrs. Bernard Fowler
Mr. & Mrs. Glynn Frank
Mr. & Mrs. D. Duncan Frazer
Mrs. Magda Freeman
Mr. & Mrs. William I. Gay
Dr. Edward U. Graham
Mr. & Mrs. Patrick J. Griffin
Mr. & Mrs. Robert J. Griffin, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Art Guarinello
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Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Hildebrand
Mr. & Mrs. James C. Hollowell
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen A. Howerton
Mr. & Mrs. Robert A. Jaeger
Mr. Peter A. Johnson
Mr. Jeff Klapper & Ms. Nancy Coltery

Mr. & Mrs. Ellis Knox
Del. & Mr. Steven Kullen
Mr. & Mrs. Gregory W. Locraft
Mr. & Mrs. John M. Lucas
Mr. & Mrs. Ron C. Magnussen
Mr. Gilbert S. Masters
Rev. Jack E. McClendon
Mr. Bruce L. McDonald
Mr. Howard J. McDonald
Mr. John P. McGahey, Jr.
Ms. M. McGahey & Mr. T. Sheldon
Mr. & Mrs. Lee McKnight
Mr. John J. McNeely
Mr. Kenneth Michael
Ms. Pamela-Jeanne Moran
Mrs. Kathryn Z. Nicodemus
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Nisonger
Mr. & Mrs. Edwin A. Noell
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Nutter
Mrs. Virginia O'Neill
Col. & Mrs. Geoffrey Parker
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Pattison
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Phillips
Rev. William M. Plummer
Mr. & Mrs. Robert D. Prince
Mr. Glen O. Pyles
Ms. Betty Lynn Roberts
Mr. & Mrs. Michael J. Rubino
Mr. Daniel W. Sampson
Dr. & Mrs. James G. Sanders
Mr. & Mrs. William Scharpf, Jr.
Schwab Charitable Fund – Anonymous
Mr. Joseph F. Showalter
Ms. Susan Simon
SMECO
Mrs. Rosalind Springsteen
Mr. & Mrs. Steven P. Stadelman
Mr. Steve Stanford
Ms. Leslie Starr & Mr. Joseph Turner
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Stathis
Mr. & Mrs. David Strand
Ms. Elaine Strong
Mr. & Mrs. George Surgent
Mrs. Rhoda Switzer
Mr. & Mrs. John P. Theriault
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Thompson
Mr. & Mrs. Harry M. Tollerton
Ms. Helen M. Rubino-Turco
Walden Three Heritage
Ms. Mary C. Walker
Mr. Wilmer Waller
Mr. John D. Watson, Jr. &
Ms. Lelia Blackwell
Mr. Alan E. Wilson

Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey F. Wood,
Wood & Whitacre Contractors
Mr. & Mrs. Richard D. Woppert
Ms. Harriet Yaffe & Mr. Jerry Adams
Mr. Klaus Zwilsky & Ms. Roberta Safer

General Contributions and Designated Gifts

Thank you to the following for your generous gifts and support:

Dr. & Mrs. David F. Farr –
Land Acquisition Fund
Mr. & Mrs. Patrick J. Griffin –
Founding Farmers Club
Ms. Loretta Schaeffer &
Mr. Gian Carlo Guarda
Mr. & Mrs. Peter N. Stathis
Mr. Wilmer Waller
Mr. & Mrs. Linden H. Welch

Through America's Charities:
Mrs. Dorothy Howe

Gift Memberships:

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

Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Armstrong
Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Griffin
Mr. Jonathan Kelly
Ms. Crawford Feagin Stone
Mrs. Carol Teich &
Emily vanZee, Walden III Heritage



Come Join Us!

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

Name _____ e-mail _____

Address _____

Phone _____ I (we) learned about ACLT from _____

Regular Membership

Corporate Membership

Land Saver - \$35.00

Habitat Protector - \$500.00

Land Saver Corporate - \$150.00

Land Protector - \$60.00

Trustee of Land - \$1000.00

Land Protector Corporate - \$250.00

Land Conservator - \$150.00

Sustaining - \$2500.00

Land Conservator Corporate - \$500.00

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



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

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