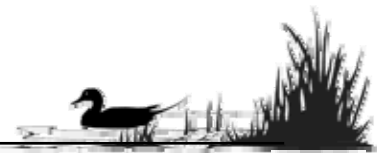


# Watershed Observer



NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN CHESTNUT LAND TRUST - VOLUME 25 NO. 1, WINTER 2011

## CONTENTS

REFLECTIONS ON ACLT AFTER FIVE YEARS  
AS PRESIDENT 1

ACLT ON FACEBOOK 2

ACLT'S 2010 ACCOMPLISHMENTS 3

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE COMMUNITY RELA-  
TIONS COORDINATOR 6

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT — TED GRAHAM 7

TRAVELING THE ROAD 8

CONTRIBUTIONS AND NEW MEMBERS 9

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 11

## CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

FEBRUARY 19 WINTER HIKE AT DOUBLE  
OAK FARM (1:30 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.)

FEBRUARY 26 VINE VINDICATOR WORK DAY  
(9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.)

MARCH 26 HIKING TRAIL MAINTENANCE  
DAY (9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.)

SEE ADDITIONAL CALENDAR ITEMS ON PAGE  
11 OR ON THE WEB.

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## From the President's Desk

### Reflections on ACLT after Five Years as President

This is my “farewell” President’s column. After five years, I am stepping down as President but will remain on the Board. I became President in 2006 after Karen Edgecombe accepted the position of Executive Director, taking over from Peg Niland who moved on to the Harford County Land Trust. Pat Griffin, who has been on the Board since 2001, is the incoming President.

ACLT, which was officially organized on December 5, 1986, will pass the quarter century mark this year. ACLT is healthy and continues to thrive, thanks to the combined efforts of so many outstanding staff, volunteers and other Board members. Here are a few highlights and reflections from the past five years:

- In 2006, ACLT **moved its headquarters** from the small cabin at the entrance to Scientists’ Cliffs, our home since 1992, to the house at Double Oak. Double Oak is the trailhead for the north side trails and is a focal point for many activities including the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner and the Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) project.
- The **annual meeting** continues to be well attended and provides an opportunity for the membership to catch up on the latest activities. At the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary meeting in 2006 Carl Fleischhauer convened a panel of Elaine Cochran Dunkle, Ralph Dwan and Gary Loew on the topic of “Inventing the ACLT.” Peter Vogt was not able to attend but was ably represented by a wooden effigy. Featured speakers in subsequent meetings were: Dr. Kent Mountford, ecologist and historian; author Tom Horton and photographer Ian Plant; religious leaders Rabbi Arnold Saltzman, Rev. Robert Conway, Father Peter Daly, and Rev. Lori Staubitz who presented an interfaith panel discussion on the topic of conservation; Jim Klein, landscape architect and ACLT facilities planning consultant; and most recently Professor Walter Boynton of the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory. Peg Niland was the recipient of the first Presidents’ Award in 2006. The other recipients of the Presidents’ Award have been Dave and Ellen Farr, Paul Berry and Caroline VanMason.
- The **annual auction** continues to be a success, both socially and financially. Last year the venue was changed to the Family Life Center at St. John Vianney church in Prince Frederick. About 230 people attended and ACLT netted more than \$24,000. The auction owes its success to those who donate and purchase auction items, and the staff and volunteers who devote untold hours to planning, setup and cleanup. Marcy and I are look-



**AMERICAN CHESTNUT  
LAND TRUST, INC.**

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

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 911 acres, manage 1,780 acres owned by the State of Maryland, and hold conservation easements on 360 privately-owned acres.

Editors: Ellen and David Farr

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Ginny Murphy, Membership Coordinator

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ing forward to using our auction purchases to catch a Nationals ball game and a fishing trip once the weather gets a bit warmer.

- **Land acquisition** in the Parkers Creek and Governors Run watersheds is still a priority. The Showalter property on Scientists Cliffs Road was donated to ACLT in 2006 and the Dwan Property adjacent to Parkers Creek near the Prince Frederick Town Center was donated in 2007. Another parcel will soon be acquired from St. John Vianney Catholic Church that will be a part of the trail connecting Prince Frederick to ACLT's existing trail system.
- **Membership and volunteering** are perhaps the most important aspects of a healthy ACLT. Membership has grown by almost 16% over the last 5 years. The many volunteer activities include "outdoor activities" such as: cemetery and barn restoration; trail maintenance; the creation of the CSA program; easement monitoring; and the continuation of water quality monitoring. There are also critical "indoor" activities like maintaining membership records; keeping the financial records up to date; and stuffing envelopes for various mailings. The hunters of the Double Oak Hunt Club devote countless hours on many projects. The importance of volunteers is reflected in the annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner.

As ACLT moves beyond the quarter century mark, the **future is bright**. Financially the organization remains healthy. Membership, volunteer hours and visitors continue to increase steadily. The trail from Prince Frederick to a Bay overlook will become a reality. We should achieve Land Trust Alliance accreditation in the next couple of years. There continue to be prospects for additional land acquisitions. I'm cautiously optimistic that the proposed MAPP electric converter facility in the rural zone and in the Parkers Creek headwaters (to be the largest in North America or Europe) will be resolved satisfactorily, though lots of hard and careful work remains. But the main reason I am confident in ACLT's future lies in the strength and dedication of the staff, the Board, the incoming President and the ranks of the ACLT members and volunteers. It's been a real honor to have been able to have served as President these last five years.

Ted Graham  
Past President, ACLT

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<http://www.facebook.com/pages/American-Chestnut-Land-Trust/250928382473?ref=ts>

# Around ACLT

## ACLT's 2010 Accomplishments

*The Thinker*, by Auguste Rodin, depicting a man in sober meditation, seems an apt symbol to represent many of the activities at ACLT in the year 2010. A great deal of essential behind-the-scenes planning was done laying the foundation for the future progression of ACLT as an organization. As discussed more fully below, ACLT completed a draft of its master plan for future facilities and began work on the interpretive part of the plan—telling the story of ACLT and Parkers Creek through signage and other more high-tech options like cell-phone tours. The mapping of a new trail from Prince Frederick to the Bay Overlook also began to take shape and steady progress was made in our review of all of ACLT's policies and procedures in anticipation of registration for Land Trust Alliance Accreditation in late 2011 or early 2012. Finally, the ACLT Board of Directors approved a Feasibility Study/Business Plan for Double Oak Farm Community Supported Agriculture (CSA), paving the way to expand our new sustainable agriculture program to 35 shares in 2011.



Of course, there was also plenty of frenetic on-the-ground work and fun to keep life interesting and remind me more of a beehive. In fact, we had the rare thrill of observing an actual bee swarm when the queen bee left her hive here at Double Oak taking a swarm of worker bees with her! The fields at Double Oak Farm were alive with activity throughout the spring, summer and fall as our first season of the CSA farming operation breathed new life into old fields. The south side trailhead hummed with activity on Wednesday mornings as the Weed Whackers reached a milestone by eradicating the bamboo forest along Scientists Cliffs Road heralding the re-emergence of the frog pond. A full season of guided canoe trips, a series of school field trips, and the annual auction and volunteer appreciation dinners rounded out the fun in celebration of ACLT's community of supporters and volunteers.

The year ended with alarm bells and the reminder that land preservation is never really permanent and ACLT must be ever-vigilant. Both ACLT and the Board of County Commissioners were blind-sided by Pepco

Holding Inc.'s (PEPCO) proposed location of the largest converter station anywhere in North America or Europe to convert electricity from alternating current (AC) to direct current (DC) in Port Republic, Maryland (within a designated priority preservation area) at the headwaters of the longest tributary of Parkers Creek.

On January 24, 2011, the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County filed a petition to intervene in the proceedings before the Maryland Public Service Commission concerning **PEPCO's proposed Mid-Atlantic Power Pathway (MAPP) Project**. The Commissioners cited as reasons for their petition that the land proposed by PEPCO is "located at the headwaters of Parker's Creek, one of the largest and most environmentally sensitive creeks in Calvert County," that much of the watershed has been preserved to "maintain the creek and the surrounding area in their natural condition and to protect the water quality of the creek." The Commissioners also said, "the location of such a massive industrial facility in such close proximity to Route 4 would create a blight on the landscape and would be a violation of the Calvert County Comprehensive Plan and the Calvert County Zoning Ordinance." ACLT appreciates the County Commissioners' strong support for continued protection of the Parkers Creek watershed and for the integrity of the Calvert County Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance.

Developing a **Master Plan for Facilities and Interpretation for the American Chestnut Land Trust's Parkers Creek Preserve** began in late 2009 with the formation of a broad-based master planning committee consisting of past and present board members and staff members including Joy Bartholomew, Denise Breitbart, Karen Edgecombe, Carl Fleischhauer, Ted Graham, Ewing Miller, Steve Peters, Liz Stoffel, Caroline VanMason and Randi Vogt. We shortly discovered that within this group of seasoned ACLT veterans there was an amazing range of views!

At the Annual Meeting of the Membership in March 2010, members participated in a workshop about the facilities plan and an even more amazing range of views emerged! Over the course of the remainder of the year, reality checks and refereeing were provided by other board members including Carolyn Ebel, Marcy Damon, Dave Farr, Jim Greene, Steve Kullen, John Little, Gary Loew, Steve Stadelman, and Peter Stathis. Expert guidance and support throughout was provided by ACLT consultant and landscape architect Jim Klein as the principal



plan preparer, interpretive planner John Veverka, and National Park Service, Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network, grant manager Cheryl Branagan. A little over a year after the process began, at its January 2011 board meeting, the board agreed that the facilities plan is nearly complete.

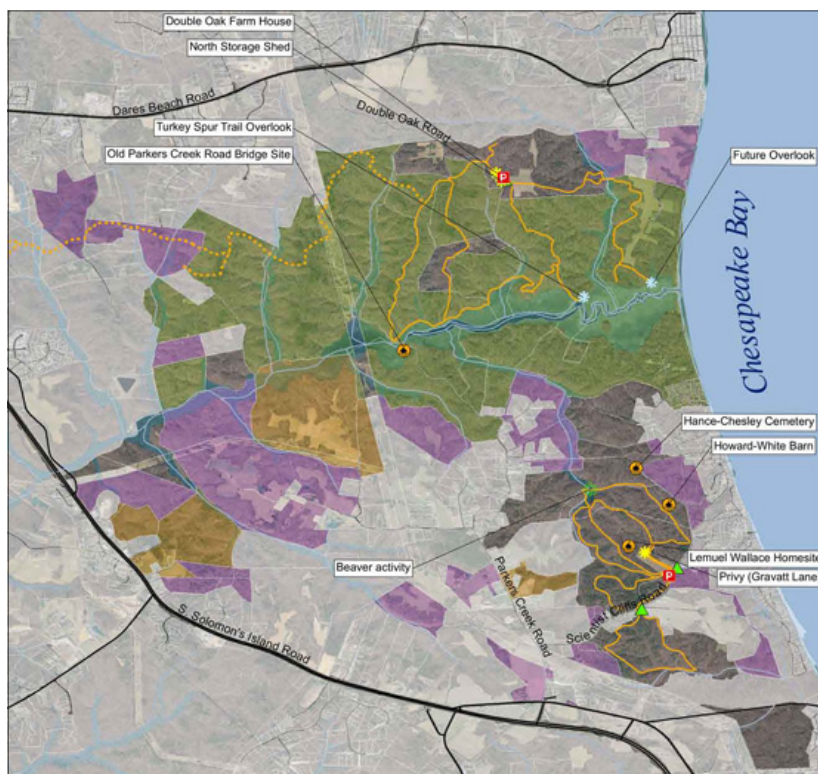
Some of the vision statements that guided the facilities planning included that the land protected and managed by the American Chestnut Land Trust in the Parkers Creek Preserve:

- Is a place where people can come learn about and experience the natural and cultural history of Parkers Creek;
- Is accessible to a wide range of users including neighbors, school and camp groups, families of all ages and abilities, visitors to Calvert County, researchers, artists, photographers, and, on a limited basis, hunters and mountain bicyclists;
- Is managed in a manner that demonstrates good resource stewardship including natural area management, preservation of cultural resources, and sustainable agriculture; and
- Is protected habitat for wildlife, rare, threatened and endangered species, and forest interior dwelling birds.

As one of eight “natural areas or parks offering natural and cultural resource interpretation that are open to the public in Calvert County,” it was important to define the niche of ACLT’s Parkers Creek Preserve. The other sites include Annmarie Gardens, Battle Creek Cypress Swamp, Calvert Cliffs State Park, Calvert Marine Museum, Flag Ponds Nature Park, Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum, and King’s Landing Park. At almost 3,000 acres, ACLT’s Parkers Creek Preserve is certainly the largest, contiguous preserved natural area in the county. As such, it offers a high quality, wilderness-type experience. The title “Parkers Creek Preserve” also recognizes the importance of water quality protection to our land preservation mission.

The plan also points out that Parkers Creek Preserve is utilized by a number of visitors who are not typical users of traditional public natural areas or parks. As the plan’s author, Jim Klein observed, “ACLT, as a membership organization, offers a sense of ‘ownership’ and one of personal engagement that, in and of itself, is an important ‘human’ resource worthy of continued support.” ACLT volunteers support our natural area management (e.g., invasive plant control program), preservation of cultural resources (e.g., cemetery and barn restoration programs), and sustainable agriculture (e.g., Double Oak Farm CSA). We hope that our volunteer opportunities teach, by example, ACLT’s stewardship ethic.

At last year’s annual membership meeting, we put to the membership an important preliminary question as to whether ACLT should concentrate future facilities such as office space and



**LEGEND**

- |                               |                               |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ACLT Conservation Land        | Cultural Feature              |
| MD DNR Land                   | Natural Feature               |
| ACLT Easement                 | Structure                     |
| Other Protected Land          | Viewpoint                     |
| Existing Trail                | Parking                       |
| Proposed Trail                | Trailhead                     |
| Wetlands                      | Potential Trailhead Option #1 |
| Potential Trailhead Option #2 |                               |

0 1,000 2,000 4,000 6,000 Feet



**Existing and Planned Features** DRAFT March 13, 2010

**American Chestnut Land Trust**

**Calvert County, Maryland**

Lardner/Klein Landscape Architects, P.C.

The planimetric information shown on this plan is based on copyrighted GIS Data from Calvert County, Maryland and may not be copied or reproduced without express written permission from the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County, Maryland or their designee. Calvert County GIS Data contains proprietary information belonging exclusively to the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County, Maryland. Additional GIS data was provided by the American Chestnut Land Trust, Maryland State Highway Administration, and Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

educational/meeting/event space at our north side trailhead location on Double Oak Farm or at our south side trailhead location on Gravatt West. A third option of locating ACLT's office in the Prince Frederick Town Center was suggested by members during the workshops held at the annual membership meeting.

**Option 1: Office in Town.** The office-in-town alternative presented several problems—first, it removes a physical presence on ACLT-owned property; second, expenditures to purchase or lease town center property would not benefit existing ACLT-owned property; and third, a town center office location would present logistical burdens for staff in planning ACLT's land management activities which form the basis for the majority of ACLT's facility needs. Although sound from a smart growth point of view, staff prefers to be physically located at one of the two trailheads to provide a presence for outreach and land management activities.

**Option 2: Renovations to Double Oak.** The farmhouse at Double Oak was converted into the ACLT office in 2006. The building is adequate for present and foreseeable future office needs, but does not provide indoor or outdoor covered meeting space for ACLT's frequent mid-size events (up to approximately 75 people) for training and education programs, volunteer land management activities, and other events including, for example, Vine Vindicator training, Double Oak Hunt Club meetings, Trail Maintenance Day and Earth Day picnics, Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, and CSA farm-related dinners. Larger events such as the annual meeting and the auction should continue to be held off-site. The plan recommends further study of the feasibility of expanding the existing meeting room, addition of a handicap-accessible ramp and restroom facilities, and a covered porch and/or deck to accommodate mid-size meeting needs. Renovations to Double Oak also provide an opportunity to enhance its visual character bringing it more in keeping with its current use as a natural area center and to improve its energy efficiency. Renovations to Double Oak are

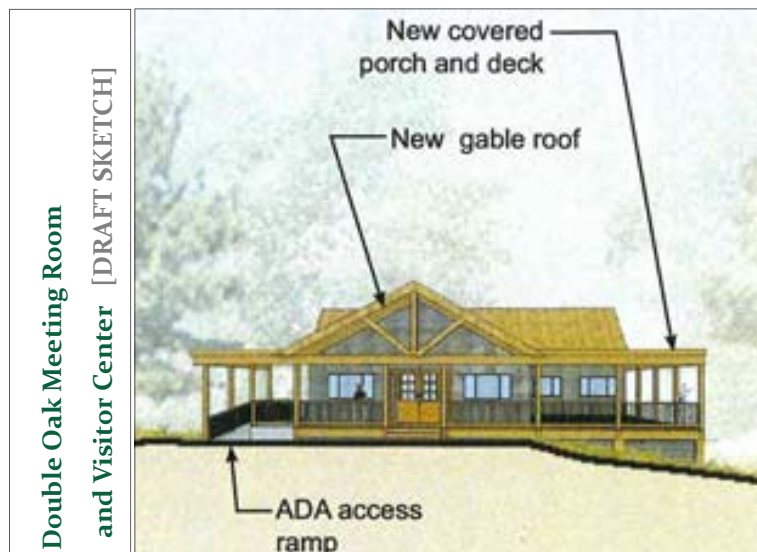
expected to be the least costly alternative and could be done in phases as funding becomes available.

**Option 3: New South Side Building.** For this option, the ACLT office, as well as meeting/education/training space could be located in a new building near the existing trailhead parking area. The existing south side barn would need to be relocated further back on the property. Under this scenario the Double Oak building would revert to a farmhouse/caretaker residence. The cost of providing all new utilities at this site, plus the need to move the existing barn (originally built by volunteers), and concerns about traffic and other impacts on the neighborhood outweighed the disadvantage of the more isolated Double Oak location.

**Recommendation.** After an evaluation of a variety of factors the plan concludes, "The recommended approach is to focus resources on making improvements to facilities on the north side .... The north side emphasis envisions the use of the Double Oak building (expanded) as both the office and as the principle place people gather for meetings, social events and lectures. People who come to Double Oak to hike or to visit the farm would be directed to a trailhead kiosk located beyond the office building. Upon their return, Double Oak could also provide a place to stop and rest on the porch in the shade." [See draft sketch below.]

Once the Interpretive Plan is finished the entire plan will be published on our website. ACLT is grateful for funding generously provided by a grant from the United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network in support of this master planning effort.

Karen H. Edgecombe  
Executive Director





## Highlights from the Community Relations Coordinator

### Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

ACLT Staff invited volunteers to Double Oak on the evening of October 22 to thank them for all their hard work and dedication in the preceding year. Catered by Expressions Catering of Owings, volunteers enjoyed a Mexican-themed dinner consisting of enchiladas, rice, beans, salad, chips, and salsa. We can't wait to celebrate with you again next year!



### Greens Sale and Beach Hayride

On a delightfully sunny day, the second weekend of December, ACLT members and neighbors came out to support our annual fundraiser to benefit Warrior's Rest Sanctuary. Warrior's Rest saw a rush in the morning to the Greens Sale, but a steady flow of visitors, young and old, to enjoy the hayride down to the beach. Thank you all for supporting this fundraiser. We hope you all enjoyed the beautiful greenery on your homes and had a joyous holiday season.



### 2010 Outstanding Volunteers!

Volunteers are the life source of any nonprofit and especially of ACLT. As Ted Graham shared in this issue's *Volunteer Spotlight*, "Volunteering is perhaps the single most important aspect ensuring the long-term health of ACLT." In 2010, our volunteers reported over 4,500 hours donated!!



The following four volunteers dedicated over 100 hours of service last year and their respective activities and committees they participate in are described below:

- **Paul Berry** - Board of Directors, Treasurer, Budget and Finance Committee, Personnel Committee, and Administration and Fundraising Committee.
- **Jeff Klapper** - Double Oak Farm Manager, Beekeeping, Land Management Committee, Earth Day, Weed Whacking Wednesdays, Vine Vindications, Equipment Maintenance, and ACLT Stationery & Event Invitations.
- **Ginny Murphy** - Membership Coordinator, Outreach and Membership Committee, Water Quality Monitoring, Mowing, and Earth Day.
- **Ken Romney** - Weed Whacking Wednesdays, Vine Vindications, Land Management Committee, Hiking Trail Maintenance Day, Memorial Benches, Double Oak Farm CSA, Facilities & Equipment Maintenance, Earth Day, and the Greens Sale and Hayride.



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

Joy Woppert  
Community Relations Coordinator

Photos top to bottom:

1. Volunteers enjoyed the company of friends and neighbors at the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner in October.
2. Gerry Landes and Ed Haack assembled bundled swags during the Greens Sale Prep Day at Warrior's Rest.
3. Beautiful wreaths created by volunteers from the evergreens and holly on the Warrior's Rest property.
4. Ken Romney on his way back from a hayride down to the beach with trailer full of visitors.

Photos 1 & 2 by Joy Woppert; 3 & 4 by Bruce Armstrong.

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

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## Volunteer Spotlight Ted Graham

There comes a time in one's life when we can say goodbye to years of regimented work, kick up our feet, travel anywhere we want, delve into long forgotten or new hobbies, catch up on sleep, and all those books. Ah, yes... retirement. This year, Ted Graham reached this sacred rite of passage. At the end of January, he retired not only from his career, but also as the President of ACLT's Board of Directors.

Most of Ted's career has been spent in water resources planning and engineering for local governments and utilities in the Washington, DC area. In 1998, he took the position of Director of the Water Resources Program at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments from which he just retired.

Ted was born in Washington, DC and grew up in Bethesda. His parents first rented at Scientists' Cliffs when he was 2 years old, built a summer home at the cliffs in 1951, and finally their retirement home in 1965 which has stayed in the family.

Ted attended high school at Cheltenham College in England while his dad was stationed there. He received his undergraduate degree from MIT in 1964 in Electrical Engineering and continued his schooling by getting his MS ('65) and PhD ('69) at Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh. Ted has lived in Washington, DC full time since 1970 while making frequent visits to Scientists' Cliffs.

Thanks to his dad, Ted became a charter member of ACLT in 1986. He began volunteering in 1998 as one of our esteemed invasive warriors, working on bamboo removal on the Gravatt property.

To date, Ted has spearheaded many new initiatives at ACLT as well. He started the GIS (Geographic Information System) program, first on his own computer, and then, by preparing a successful grant application which became the nucleus of ACLT's current GIS. In 1999, Ted also started the Parkers Creek water quality monitoring program. The first group of volunteer monitors was trained by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. Ted now conducts an annual training at the beginning of each year for new water quality monitoring volunteers.

Around this same time, Ted joined the Board of Directors and served as Vice President under Karen Edgcombe until she became Executive Director and Ted took her place as President. As President, Ted has participated in the work of all ACLT's committees helping to guide us in land conservation, providing sustainable public access to preserved properties, and protecting Calvert County's

natural and cultural resources. He can also be found participating in Earth Day and various trail maintenance activities as well as photographing events.

Most recently, Ted has been actively involved with the grass-roots efforts opposing Pepco's proposed MAPP electric converter station in Port Republic. The proposed industrial facility, which would cover 34 acres and would include a 65-foot high building, would be the largest such facility in North America and Europe. It is in the headwaters of Parkers Creek, is fundamentally incompatible with the county's land use plans and zoning and threatens ACLT's land conservation goals. Ted, joined by many other community members, has spoken with the County Commissioners and written letters in opposition to the siting of this facility in Port Republic.

When asked why he felt volunteering was important, Ted shared, "Volunteering is perhaps the single most important aspect ensuring the long-term health of ACLT. In addition to the direct benefit to the organization (from trail maintenance to barn restoration to maintaining membership records to keeping track of financial records), volunteering keeps members engaged in the mission of the organization and helps maintain a strong membership."

In his newfound retirement, Ted plans to spend time at his retirement home at Scientists' Cliffs and in New Hampshire. Ted will continue to hike, ski, travel, and attend plays and concerts as well as pick up a few new hobbies including learning to draw and tending the fields in New Hampshire on his recently acquired tractor. He will also continue to co-host the Annapolis Café Scientifique which features monthly talks by research scientists. And of course, spending time with his new bride!

Although Ted is stepping down as our President, he is staying on the Board of Directors and will continue to dedicate time to volunteer activities and endeavors. Thank you, Ted, for your commitment to ACLT's mission and more specifically for your leadership and direction as President these past 5 years. We couldn't have done it without you!!



Ted Graham;  
Ted and Marcia Olson completing water sampling along Parkers Creek.

Joy Woppert  
Community Relations Coordinator



# Land Manager's Corner

## Traveling the Road

As I travel north on Rte 4 from St. Mary's County to Calvert I am following a pickup truck bullying its way close behind a small yellow sports car. Besides being wary of the aggressive driving going on in front of me and remembering the words from our President this week asking us to treat each other more civilly, I find the scene even more disturbing because the pickup is loaded with split firewood. You've probably seen the commercials—moving firewood (even from county to county) is just not a good idea.

Diseases can travel quickly, from person to person, from state to state—even globally. People get sick and although they might want to stay home, they can't afford the airline penalty to reschedule their flight. Or they are away and pick up something that puts them "under the weather". What about the added cost of a few extra nights in a hotel room? Who wants to be sick in a foreign country? So their germs travel with them and in just a matter of hours they are thousands of miles away, contaminating other people in other countries. Tree diseases can travel in similar ways from one forest to another.

At breakfast I had a conversation with a friend who talked about how she has brought firewood to a family two counties away "only 40 miles down the road". It is free, so they save money on their heating bill. Other friends do this, too—bringing firewood from one place to another because it is free. I am guilty, too, having brought firewood from home for camping trips with my kids. My justification at the time (before I was aware): it's dry, it's cut, and I don't have to spend time looking for it or money to buy it if I can't find any. But what was the long-term environmental cost? What diseases did I carry with that wood? What tree species did I make vulnerable to a disease that I might have carried to them?

My friend and I got on this conversation because she suspected that red oaks in Frederick County, MD are being decimated by Oak Wilt. Oak Wilt is a fungal disease that spreads by roots (most easily in sandy soils, such as ours). It is also spread by 3 types of sap (nitidulid) beetles and oak bark beetles which carry the fungus from one area to another. The beetles will infect one damaged tree and then a cluster of oaks are killed by spread of the fungus through the intertwining roots. ([http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/howtos/ht\\_oakwilt/toc.htm](http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/howtos/ht_oakwilt/toc.htm))

We, at the American Chestnut Land Trust, are very aware of how a disease (the chestnut blight from Asia) has affected our namesake tree. American chestnuts were at one time a dominant tree of the forest. One fourth of the forest was covered in chestnut. American chestnut was used for food and wood; however, it was not its overuse that diminished the population, but the disease brought in from somewhere else that, in less than 100 years, caused the population to dwindle to just a few trees here and there.



Namesake Chestnut tree in 1987. Photo by Carl Fleischhauer.

We know the legacy of Dutch Elm disease on the great lanky, vase-shaped elm trees. This disease is caused by a fungus (thought to originate from Asia) and carried by the elm bark beetle. The fungus has devastated both American and European elms. It was first identified in the Netherlands and was given the name Dutch for this reason. If you have ever seen an elm, you would agree, it is great loss of these beautiful graceful shade trees.

In the past few years, you may have become aware of purple boxes hanging in trees, like captured kites, on major roadsides. The boxes are traps for emerald ash borer beetles (another non-native pest from Asia). The traps have been set out by the USDA to gauge the extent of the infestation. The emerald ash borer beetle is close to our Parkers Creek Preserve, having been found in both Prince Georges County and Charles County. The beetles were shipped into Maryland in 2003, unknowingly, to a nursery in Prince Georges County with some ash seedlings and now threaten ash trees throughout the state. Are you starting to wonder, like I am, which county did the guy in the pickup truck get his wood from?



Photo courtesy of David Cappaert, Michigan State University, Bugwood.org.

Butternut trees, although not a major contributor to the forest population in Maryland, still have value both for food, wood products and biodiversity. This tree has also nearly been killed off in the south by the butternut canker, another fungal disease that is believed to come from Asia. Lost, too, are the beloved chinkapins

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)



# Thank you for your support ...

## New Members

ACLT would like to welcome the following new members since the Fall 2010 newsletter:

Mr. Thomas V. Cash II  
Mr. Eric Raun  
Mr. Wess Ringgold  
Ms. Leonora M. Sheeline  
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Wedewer

## Sustaining Membership

Congratulations to the following member who have reached the level of Sustaining (Lifetime) Membership:

Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Hudson  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Koenig  
Dr. & Mrs. James G. Sanders  
Mr. & Mrs. Linden Welch

## Memorial Contributions

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

In memory of Mrs. Ella Lee Manning who was a Charter Member and longtime supporter:  
Mrs. Lucille Fuson

In memory of Mr. George Mlinaric who was a Double Oak Hunt Club member and a longtime supporter:  
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Stanford

## Gift Memberships:

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

Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Armstrong  
Dr. Christine & Col. Daniel Boesz  
Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Griffin  
Mr. Jonathan Kelly  
Capt. & Mrs. Patrick Murphy, USN (Ret.)  
Mrs. Carol Teich &  
Mrs. Emily vanZee, Walden III Heritage

## In Honor of Contributions

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

In honor of Mr. & Mrs. Glynn Frank, who are longtime supporters and volunteers, on the occasion of their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary:

Ms. Ethel Dutky & Mr. Alvin Wilson

## General Contributions and Designated Gifts

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

Anonymous – Land Management Endowment  
Mr. Thomas V. Cash II  
Mr. & Mrs. Ty Clark  
Ms. Kelley Ellsworth –  
Land Management Endowment  
Dr. & Mrs. David F. Farr –  
Land Management Endowment  
Mr. & Mrs. Patrick J. Griffin  
Mrs. Dorothy Howe –  
through America's Charities  
National Capital Area Garden Clubs  
Mr. Glen O. Pyles –  
Land Acquisition Fund  
Mr. Wilmer Waller  
Ms. Emily Hanke vanZee

## Fall Appeal

The Staff and Board of Directors wish to thank the following for their contributions to the 2010 Fall Appeal:

Mr. & Mrs. Louis Amtmann  
Mr. & Mrs. Don Baier  
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Bailey  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Baldo  
Ms. Carol Bendorf  
Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Benning  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Berry  
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 Mr. Klaus Zwilsky &  
 Ms. Roberta Safer

### Only 6 shares and 3 work shares remain for 2011!

The farm fields at Double Oak have been planted in a cover crop of rye and clover to be ready to provide you with delicious and nourishing produce this year. We will be tripling our CSA size from 10 to 30 shares! We offer a long season of at least 26 weeks of the freshest produce you can get! We grew over 50 varieties last year and volunteer Farm Manager Jeff Klapper plans to expand on that this year.

Please contact the office a.s.a.p. if you are interested in a share this year.



(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8)  
 (chinquapins) that the old timers used to tell me were their favorite snack food as they picked paper bags full, walking to and from school as children. The chinkapin was less susceptible to the chestnut blight but still vulnerable, so you will have difficulty finding them in a natural forest setting.

In *Forest Leaves* (a quarterly newsletter published by the School of Forest Resources of the Pennsylvania State University) there is an article titled “*Thousand Cankers Disease: A Red Alert for Black Walnuts*”. Thousand Cankers Disease has caused the decline of black walnuts in Colorado and is spread by the tiny (smaller than a grain of rice) walnut twig beetle carrying a fungus. So far the disease is contained to Colorado, however, we need to heed the Red Alert! This summer, traveling across several states to update New York on vacation, I saw several RVs with neat bundles of firewood netted on roof racks. How many states did they carry the wood through? According to the article, “researchers have found as many as 20,000 beetles in a four-foot section of a small walnut log!” <http://rnnext.cas.psu.edu/PDFs/FLAutumn2010.pdf>

It is really only “free” firewood if the long-term environmental costs are minimal. In the case of the chestnut and the elm, the impact of introducing a disease from somewhere else has been huge - a change from the way our forests once looked and the loss of some important hardwoods. Can we imagine our forests without oaks, black walnuts, and ash trees? What is black walnut ice cream without the black walnuts? ...Just ice cream! I want my great-grandchildren to know what the proverb means when it talks

about the “mighty oak”. The healthy biodiversity of our Parkers Creek watershed relies on having a variety of tree species. So please, do not move firewood, pay the extra price, buy local - our forests are worth it!

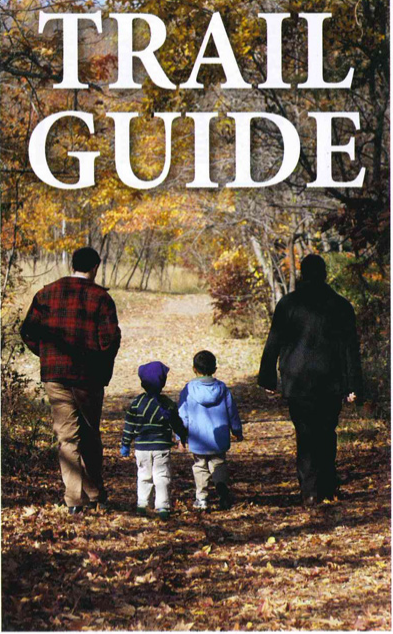
**“From little acorns  
 mighty oaks do grow.”**


Liz Stoffel  
 ACLT Land Manager

Parkers Creek Preserve

## South Side

# TRAIL GUIDE





American Chestnut Land Trust  
 ...Connecting people with the land

### New Trail Guide Available

Be sure to stop by our south side trails for a hike this season and check out our new *South Side Trail Guide*. Our trail guides were designed by Suzanne Shelden of Shelden Studios.

# ACLT Calendar 2011

## February

- 5 Annual Membership Meeting (9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)
- 19 Winter Hike at Double Oak Farm (1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.)
- 26 Vine Vindicator Work Day (9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)

## March

- 5 *Snow Date:* Annual Membership Meeting
- 26 Hiking Trail Maintenance Day (9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)
- 27 Barn Work Day (8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)

## April

- 2 Canoe Guide Training (12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.)
- 3 *Rain Date:* Canoe Guide Training
- 16 Earth Day (8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)
- 30 Spring Guided Hike on Gravatt East (9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.)
- 30 Children's Guided Hike (1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.)
- 30 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Photograph (3:30 p.m.)

## May

- 1 Barn Work Day (8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)
- 7 Maryland House & Garden Pilgrimage (10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)
- 15 Guided Canoe Trip (12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.)
- 21 Vine Vindicator Work Day (9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)
- 28 Guided Canoe Trip (10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.)

## June

- 11 Parkers Creek to Flag Ponds Paddle (7:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)
- 26 Guided Canoe Trip (9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.)

## July

- 10 Guided Canoe Trip (9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)
- 24 Guided Canoe Trip (8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.)

## August

- 13 Guided Canoe Trip (1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.)
- 28 Guided Canoe Trip (1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.)
- 28 Walk Along the Bay Membership Event (tentative date)

## September

- 10 Farm Harvest Event
- 10 Holly Arboretum Work Day at Warrior's Rest (9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)
- 10 Guided Canoe Trip (12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.)
- 17 Vine Vindicator Work Day / Training (9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)
- 25 Guided Canoe Trip (12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.)

## October

- 8-9 Patuxent River Appreciation Days
- 15 Guided Canoe Trip (time TBD)
- 21 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner (6:30 – 9:00 p.m.)
- 23 Barn Work Day (8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)
- 29 Vine Vindicator Work Day (9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)
- 29 Fall Foliage Hike at Double Oak (1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.)

## November

- 5 Silent Auction & Dinner – 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

## December

- 4 Arboretum Work Day at Warrior's Rest (1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.)
- 10 Greens Sale & Beach Hayride (11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.)

### Hiking Trail Maintenance Day

*Saturday, March 26th*

Join the crew to help install the new south side trail signs that correspond with our new Trail Guide! Or join another crew to help prepare our trails for the upcoming hiking season!

### Earth Day Clean-up & Celebration

*Saturday, April 16th*

Join your friends and neighbors as we clean up our communities and work on various projects on ACLT properties. Bring the whole family—there's something for everyone! And don't forget to come enjoy the picnic celebration after the morning work!

**Volunteers needed with construction skills to help build the overlook platform for the Prince Frederick to the Bay Overlook Trail on April 16.**

### 25th Anniversary Photograph

*Saturday, April 30th*

Smile!! Help celebrate ACLT's 25th Anniversary with a commemorative photo like the original National Geographic photo taken in 1988. See the 1988 photo at: <http://acltweb.org/about/History.cfm>.

### Annual Dinner & Auction Celebration

*Saturday, November 5th*

Please note the new date for this year's Dinner & Auction! Mark your calendars to join us at St. John Vianney Catholic Family Life Center for this year's special 25th Anniversary celebration.



# 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**

**NONPROFIT  
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PERMIT NO.  
548  
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MD**