

Watershed Observer



NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN CHESTNUT LAND TRUST - VOLUME 27 NO. 1, WINTER 2013

CONTENTS

THE INVASIVE SPECIES EPIDEMIC 1

ACLT STRATEGIC PLAN 2013-2018: GETTING READY! 2

ON THE ROAD TO ACCREDITATION 3

OPEN LETTER TO ACLT MEMBERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS 4

PRINCE FREDERICK TO THE BAY OVERLOOK TRAIL (PF2BAY) CONSTRUCTION BEGINS 4

ACLT'S 17TH ANNUAL DINNER & AUCTION 5

THANK YOU TO DONERS AND VOLUNTEERS WHO SUPPORTED THE 17TH ANNUAL DINNER & AUCTION 5

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: ED KOBRINSKI 6

CONTRIBUTIONS AND NEW MEMBERS 10

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 11

COMING UP ON THE CALENDAR

February

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

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

March

9 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING (9:30 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.)

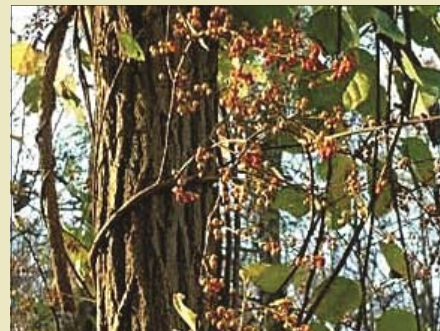
SEE MORE OF THE 2013 CALENDAR ON PAGE 11 OR ON THE WEB.

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Land Manager's Corner

The Invasive Species Epidemic

The American Chestnut Land Trust is a nonprofit organization committed to preserving many values associated with outdoor recreation and environmental stewardship. One management objective that consumes much of our resources here at ACLT is invasive species control. Although threats to the well-being of our forests come in all shapes and sizes, invasive species continue to be the focus of concern and debate. Considering the sensitivity of the issue, I thought it might be helpful to present a brief summary of how invasives function, how they impact our native systems, and what preventative measures can be taken to minimize infestations of invasive plant species.



Oriental bittersweet foliage and berries.

It goes without saying that our environment is fragile. Luckily for us, nature is resilient and tends to adapt to change. Nonetheless, our environment was not designed to encounter new and exotic species at the frequency to which it has been subjected. Native vegetation has a series of checks and balances put into place to keep populations in check, such as pathogens, grazers (or some sort of predation), and reasonable competition between species. The problem with invasive and alien species (IAS) is that they don't play by the same set of rules. When IAS enters the equation our flora cannot compete with them and have no means to control the exotic populations.

Over the past several decades, humans have incorporated exotic vegetation into native environments with severe consequences. Despite catastrophic impacts on native ecological systems, the number of introductions continues to rise. Introductions are more frequent in recent history due to human population growth, advancements in transportation/trade, and alterations of the environment. Biological invasions can alter a system in three broad, and often overlapping, modes: IAS can alter the distribution of different species across a landscape, IAS can compromise the functional integrity within a landscape, and IAS can manipulate structural diversity across a landscape (Cronk & Fuller, 1995). There are several ripple effects from these broad alterations (or combinations of alterations) including the changing of soil nutrient content, competition implications, and alternate hydrological and fire regimes, to name but a few.

Let us start with how managers define an "invasive species". Executive Order 13112 (Clinton, 1999) defines an invasive species as "an alien species whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health". It is important to note that not all exotic species are invasive in nature, and that not all invasive species are exotic. Oddly enough, we have a long list of "native invasives". To explain how an exotic species is able to get established in a new environment, weed scientists break down the process into three categories: introduction, colonization, and naturalization.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)



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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 922 acres, manage 1,780 acres owned by the State of Maryland, and hold conservation easements on 374 privately-owned acres.

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From the President's Desk

ACLT Strategic Plan 2013-2018: Getting Ready!

"You've got to be very careful if you don't know where you are going, because you might not get there." Yogi Berra

There may be a number of ways to interpret Yogi's statement. However, I would assert that ACLT embraced the gist of Yogi's wisdom, long ago. It did so by adopting a strategic planning exercise that it has conducted religiously every five years since 1992 and is about to undergo again in the summer of 2013.

As many of you might know, the term strategy originates from the Greek word 'strategor', literally translated as generals of the army. These generals gave their political leaders what has come to be known as strategic counsel as to how to win the war rather than tactical advice, as to how to win the next battle. Strategic planning as we know it today basically plays the same role. It is an exercise that produces broad or "general" direction and goals that the involved organization will attempt to pursue. Its modern origins came into focus in the business community in the mid-twentieth century. It later took hold and found application in the nonprofit community and in government in the early eighties.

Each of these sectors pursued this exercise in a different context and with a different purpose. However, all of them recognized the process as an invaluable tool to help them manage longer term threats and opportunities both internally and externally.

The ACLT Board and staff have relied on this process and the strategic plans they produced as road maps for the five-year time frame that they were designed to cover. The Board reserves the right to adjust the plans annually as seems necessary and or appropriate. It relies on an annual review to examine the validity of the larger goals as well as assess whether the day to day tactical activities are effectively moving toward accomplishing those larger goals.

These experiences have produced subtle but significant shifts in the strategic direction of ACLT on a number of occasions over the years. For example, our strategic goals for the 1998-2003 plan recognized, as we became increasingly successful in acquiring land, we needed to become as focused on managing that land. This drove an important redirection of resources on a daily basis within the organization. During this period, we added a land manager and an administrative assistant/volunteer coordinator and expanded our ability to provide for these human resources by establishing the Land Management Endowment.

Similarly, our 2004-2008 plan appreciated the demand this change in emphasis, among others, had made on the organization. Consequently, there was a strategic commitment to expand our outreach to the community we serve. We sought to build and maintain cooperative partnerships with other nonprofit organizations, governmental agencies, and a broader segment of the Calvert County community. These decisions generated a host of organizational commitments internally as well as providing new services to our membership and the public.

In our most recent planning exercise that we undertook in 2009, we re-committed ourselves to what are now our core goals of preserving strategically located properties and remaining effective stewards of that land in terms of

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

Around ACLT

On the Road to Accreditation

Approximately three years ago, ACLT embarked on a journey to achieve accreditation through the Land Trust Alliance's (LTA) national accreditation program administered by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission. Why is accreditation important? The Accreditation Commission explains that:

“Accreditation provides public recognition of land trusts that are engaged in the long-term protection of the land in the public interest. It increases public awareness of, and confidence in, land trusts and land conservation.

Land trusts use the accreditation application process as a way to fine-tune their policies and streamline their operations. The Commission conducts an extensive review of the application and grants accreditation—and the right to use the accreditation seal—to land trusts that meet the practices.

The accreditation seal is a mark of distinction in land conservation. It recognizes organizations for meeting national standards for excellence, upholding the public trust and ensuring that conservation efforts are permanent.”

ACLT will file its application for accreditation in April, and I thought I would share with you some of my reflections on the journey, thus far.

Step One: Hubris

Whenever I am in a discussion with anyone about ACLT one of the first things I always say is “what a great organization” ACLT is. And by that I mean great people, great volunteer spirit, and great governance. (When I first joined the ACLT board in 1998, Ralph Dwan asked me to serve on the Governance Committee. Joy Bartholomew, chair of the committee, took me under her wing and provided me with voluminous articles she thought would illuminate me on the subject. Since that time, I have to admit I have become somewhat of a governance geek.)

I am, therefore, particularly proud of ACLT's active volunteer-led committees, willing and able Board of Directors, commitment to solid financial planning and reporting, strong ethics, untarnished reputation in both the local community and the land trust community, and a series of accomplishments that build on one another because they are based on a mission that is focused and achievable.

So, naturally, when ACLT started our internal assessment of the first seven LTA Standards, which deal with Organizational Management, I was pretty confident.

Step Two: Humility

Over the years since the Land Trust Alliance was established in 1992, LTA's *Standards and Practices* have grown from a small booklet, to a 1 3/4” thick Guidebook in 1997, to a 2 1/2” thick two-volume Operating Manual in 2006, now supported by an entire shelf full of curriculum books providing even more detailed guidance. These materials are used by the Accreditation Commission to evaluate whether a land trust should receive the accreditation seal. The wealth and sophistication of the resources provided by LTA to support land trusts in their work is both amazing and, yes, humbling.

On my return flight from attending the LTA Rally in Portland, Oregon in 2009, I read the Operating Manual from cover-to-cover. As ACLT moved into an “Assessing Your Organization” process, I delved into guidance documents drafted by the Accreditation Commission and that shelf full of curriculum books. It quickly became clear that achieving accreditation would be far from a cake walk even though ACLT is a great organization. Since that time, the board and I have been “fine-tuning” ACLT's policies and practices. In many ways, great and small, ACLT is a stronger organization as a result of this process and now it is time to take the plunge and submit our application.

Step Three: The Leap of Faith

Achieving land trust accreditation was a goal of ACLT's Five Year Plan for 2009-2013. If we are successful, we will be able to show that we have demonstrated **excellence** in our operational programs, policies and procedures; we will inspire **trust** by our members, our donors, our partners, and the public that we adhere to established national standards; and we will have done everything possible to ensure the **permanence** of our commitment that the land we protect is being preserved forever.

You have an opportunity to comment on ACLT's application. Please see the open letter on page 4.

Karen H. Edgecombe
Executive Director

Open Letter to ACLT Members and Other Stakeholders

The land trust accreditation program recognizes land conservation organizations that meet national standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever. The American Chestnut Land Trust, Inc. (ACLT) is pleased to announce that it is applying for accreditation in 2013. A public comment period is now open.

The Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance (LTA), conducts an extensive review of each applicant's policies and programs to determine conformity to the LTA *Standards and Practices*, a comprehensive set of 12 standards and 88 practices designed to ensure responsible land trust operations. ACLT began an internal assessment of its compliance with each of the standards and practices in 2009 and the Board of Directors resolved to apply for national accreditation in 2011. Our application will be submitted on April 18, 2013. Preparation to apply for accreditation has resulted in many improvements, great and small, that will help us to achieve our vision for ACLT as a model community-based conservation organization that is robust and financially secure, that shares its land preservation and management expertise with others, that is an attentive steward of the Parkers Creek and Governors Run watersheds, and that serves as a catalyst for effective land preservation throughout Calvert County.

The Land Trust Accreditation Commission invites public input and accepts signed, written comments on pending applications. Comments must relate to how the American Chestnut Land Trust complies with national quality standards. These standards address the ethical and technical operation of a land trust. For the full list of standards see <http://www.landtrustaccreditation.org/tips-and-tools/indicator-practices>.

To learn more about the accreditation program and to submit a comment, visit www.landtrustaccreditation.org, or email your comment to info@landtrustaccreditation.org. Comments may also be faxed or mailed to the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, Attn: Public Comments.

Fax: 518-587-3183;
Mail: 36 Phila Street, Suite 2, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866.

Comments on ACLT's application will be most useful by June 2, 2013.

Sincerely,

Karen H. Edgecombe, Executive Director
American Chestnut Land Trust

Prince Frederick to the Bay Overlook Trail (PF₂BAY) Construction Begins

In late November 2012, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and Calvert County Division of Inspections and Permits cleared the way for ACLT to begin construction of the new trail that will begin at St. John Vianney Catholic Church on Main Street in Prince Frederick and will connect with ACLT's existing trails on the North Side of Parkers Creek. The trail will end at the Bay Overlook Platform located near the mouth of Parkers Creek where it joins the Chesapeake Bay. The platform was constructed in 2011.

Since the permits were issued, ACLT Land Manager Steven Gaines has already held two trail construction work days. The first occurred on December 9 and was well attended by volunteers who assisted in roughing in the trail from Double Oak Road to No Name Road. The second work day was held on January 13 and completed the roughing in of the second half of the trail from No Name Road to St. John Vianney Church.

The new trail will cross five small tributary streams that flow into Parkers Creek. Each stream requires a footbridge, and the arduous task of organizing this effort has been accepted by Ian McClain with coordination provided by his father Ron McClain. Ian originally planned to build one of the five bridges as his Eagle Scout project this past fall, but delays in obtaining the MDE permit required that he choose a different ACLT project

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)



Left to right: Ron McClain, Ian McClain, and Ken Romney installing bridge pilings.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

in order to complete his Eagle Scout project within his deadline. By that time, however, Ian was heavily invested in getting all five bridges constructed by Earth Day 2013!

Ian decided to coordinate the bridge building project as a Hornaday conservation project and to enlist the help of other Scout Troops in the area. William T. Hornaday Awards are given for distinguished service in natural resource conservation and we certainly agree that this project is worthy. Steven Gaines accompanied Ian to a recent meeting of Boy Scout Troops from throughout the Western Shore District and invited other troops to participate in a multi-phase conservation service project to build all five footbridges. Several other Scout Troops have already indicated an interest in adopting one of the bridge sites.

On behalf of the ACLT staff and board, I would like to express our gratitude to everyone who has assisted in anyway with this project to date. A lot of work remains to be done; however, there are a few key people without whom this project would never have been possible. First, we would like to thank **Father Peter Daly** for having the vision to support this project wholeheartedly from the outset. We would also like to acknowledge ACLT volunteer **Art Cochran** who provided expert surveying, wetland delineation and storm water management calculations that were essential to complete the MDE permit application. Bridge plans were drawn by ACLT board member and architect **Scott Galczynski**; concrete piling design for the bridges as well as load bearing-calculations were provided by ACLT volunteer and engineer **Ken Romney**, who has also taken on the task of maneuvering the ACLT Kuboda RTV to places we never knew it could go in order to deliver materials to the bridge sites. Coordination of the bridge construction is being ably led by **Ian McClain** with logistical support provided by his father **Ron McClain**. Finally, we would like to thank **Lynne Sneade of Sneade's Ace Home Center** who did not hesitate to offer a very healthy discount on materials for the construction of the footbridges. It truly takes a village to build the PF2BAY trail!

Karen Edgecombe,
Executive Director

A Great Success—Thank You!! **ACLT's 17th Annual Dinner & Auction**

The theme of ACLT's 17th Annual Auction & Dinner, "Prince Frederick to the Bay" was a celebration of ACLT's new trail that will connect the Prince Frederick Town Center to the Chesapeake Bay. The Prince Frederick to the Bay Overlook Trail is being planned by ACLT in partnership with St. John Vianney and Calvert County and is slated to open in 2013.

Successful Event! The annual dinner and auction was held on Saturday, November 3rd and was a great success. Guests enjoyed a catered dinner prepared by Expressions Catering and both a silent and a live auction in St. John Vianney's newly renovated Vianney Room. All seemed to agree that the new venue was perfect. Scott Hymes and his trio entertained the crowd with music that appealed to all ages. Many guests were lucky enough to go home as happy owners of some of the over 100 auction items. Popular auction items included: vacation rentals in the Bahamas, the Baja peninsula of Mexico, the Gulf Coast of Florida and lakeside in Michigan; air tickets on Southwest Airlines; original local art; sporting event tickets; wine tastings; wine baskets; restaurant gift certificates; the ever-popular Whiskey cakes and so much more. In fact, auction item proceeds were the highest we've seen since 2005!

Thanks to all who helped make the event a true success!

Steve Kullen
Auction Committee Chair

Thank you to everyone who donated auction items for ACLT's 17th Annual Auction & Dinner, Prince Frederick to the Bay, and who came to support our annual fundraiser. We regret that we cannot list the hundreds of you who regularly support this event with your donations and your attendance!

ACLT would like to thank our **2012 Auction Angels** - those who made monetary contributions in support of our annual fundraiser:

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Bashore - Mr. & Mrs. Paul Berry - Dr. Christine and Col. Daniel Boesz - Mr. & Mrs. David Bonior - Mr. & Mrs. Frank R. Caldwell, Jr. - Mr. and Mrs. John C. Campbell - Mrs. Ralph H. Dwan, Jr. - Dr. & Mrs. David F. Farr - Mr. & Mrs. Philip A. Fleming - Ms. Jane S. Harrell - Mr. & Mrs. Adam C. Joseph - Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Klapper - Mr. & Mrs. Joseph A. Mihalcik - Mr. & Mrs. Warren Prince - Wanda & Holly Van Goor - Col. Caroline VanMason, USA (Ret.)

We would also like to thank our business supporters and sponsors of the 17th Annual Dinner & Auction:

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Habitat Protector Sponsor:

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Nick's of Calvert
Scott Hymes

This event would not be possible without the generous donation of volunteer time in the weeks and months leading up to and following the event.

Special thanks to all of the Dinner & Auction Volunteers:

Jack Andrews – The Arc of Southern Maryland – Bruce Armstrong – Joy Bartholomew & Mark Edmondson – Paul Blayney – Denise Breitburg & Mark Smith – Greg Bowen – Steve Cloak – Veronica Cristo – Marcy Damon – Isa Engleberg & Allan Kennedy – Glenn Edgecombe – Mike & Kathy Ellwood – Marie Estabrook – Dave & Ellen Farr – Carl Fleischhauer – Scott Galczynski – Ted & Marcy Graham – Pat Griffin – Jane Head – Mary Hollinger – J.J. Jelks – Ed Kobrinski – Sue & Steve Kullen – Mimi & John Little – Sandra & Gary Loew – Mike & Jane Manning – Cheryl Place – Chris & Maggie Reynolds – John & Betsy Saunders – Elise Schryver – Suzanne & Craig Shelden – Sue Simon – Renee Stadelman – Peter & Jennie Stathis – Liz Stoffel – Rose & Richard Thompson – Randi Vogt – Ann White – Joy Woppert & Jeff Scott.

Volunteer Spotlight: Ed Kobrinski

As I begin writing about Ed Kobrinski, our feature volunteer, I should note that he is outside—in 30 degree weather—helping to put the finishing touches on ACLT's new Double Oak barn. Ed has been working since early this morning, along with Jeff Klapper and Tom Tearman (our other construction superstars). Despite cajoling from the office staff, Ed and company insisted on eating lunch outside so they wouldn't have to leave the construction zone.

Today is no exception to the kind of work ethic Ed shows with every volunteer activity he undertakes. From constructing the barn, to participating in our weekly invasive plant removal program, to helping Jeff run the CSA farm, Ed is our jack-of-all-trades volunteer extraordinaire. As a testament to that, he occasionally lets me rope him into event set up—his favorite ACLT activity.

In the following paragraphs, Ed shares with us a little about his family, what drew him to ACLT, and why submarine captains should be wary of Northern Right Whales.

KE: How long have you lived in Calvert County and what brought you to the area?

EK: Counting the years while we still lived in Michigan, but had our sailboat at Zahniser's, 17. During the first two years when we spent occasional weekends on our boat in Solomons ("That other drinking town with a sailing problem near Annapolis"), we fell in love with the area. When my employer in Ann Arbor, Michigan had more and more work in Washington, DC, and a property became available to buy on Back Creek near the Calvert Marine Museum, we made our move.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 7)



Top row left to right:
-Steven Gaines, ACLT Land Manager and bartender extraordinaire.
-Pat and Ginny Murphy swapping stories with Hutch and Rachel Valanidas



Bottom row left to right:
-Connie and Tony Morella debate who has the best dance moves and Sue Kullen.
-Karen Edgecombe, Joy Woppert, and Jeff Scott

All photos by Bruce Armstrong.

KE: How did you first find out about ACLT?

EK: When I was laid off from my position at Altaurum Institute in DC during the latest downturn in the economy, my freelance interests in nonprofit organizations (mostly “free”) led me to explore a number of local opportunities. ACLT is one of them.

KE: Why did you choose to volunteer with ACLT?

EK: My wife and I have always enjoyed Mother Nature and been staunch advocates of environmental preservation. I concluded long ago that MN always bats last and wins in the end so why not learn to play well with a winner—especially one who can kill you if she loses? I believe that the leadership, staff and other volunteers at ACLT get that, too, which makes volunteering there a privilege, except after a hurricane, or when it’s 90 degrees with 90 percent humidity, or when I get an email that the day’s event has been cancelled AFTER I arrive on site.

KE: Hmm, not it! In addition to helping me with event set up and breakdown, what are your other favorite ACLT activities?

EK: Regardless of the activity you choose to help with, the ease of working together is the reward. Everyone I’ve had the opportunity to join with makes the work enjoyable. Sometimes I just take a minute when we’re building the barn and greenhouse, harvesting vegetables, or clearing a trail and I am amazed at how self organized everyone is and how much we collectively accomplish in relatively short times we are at it, while, not to mention, getting all the free bottled water we can drink! Building the new timber frame barn has to be one of a number of examples of how everyone seemed to get into the flow of locating the proper beams and joists and braces, piecing them together, hoisting them in place, and setting them with wooden pegs until we could stand back and look at the marvel of the erected frame of the barn—with water bottles sitting on every cross beam at every level. Bottles and bottles as testament to the sweat of our labor—and that the whole thing was level!

KE: Tell us a little bit about yourself and your family.

EK: My work has been almost exclusively developing missions of service organizations either in health, education, or research. I’ve had experience teaching as adjunct faculty at seven colleges and universities, several health services research organizations and one publisher of health services development and management. One of my last projects was research on large-scale disas-



Ed standing in front of the barn porch he helped build. Photo by Kady Everson

ter preparedness and under what conditions to order an evacuation or to shelter in place. This experience contributes to activities every Wednesday at ACLT with Weed Whackers fighting the continuous onslaught of bamboo on the South Trail. It might be time to evacuate.

Joni is my wife and life since we met at a high school football game where I either fell in love with her at first sight, or where I was told by her opposing team’s football buddies that we were to be an “arranged marriage,” I don’t quite remember, exactly. All I do know is her team won and she won my heart that day.

We have one daughter, Elena Joy, who is completing her Master’s in Marine Science at the University of the Virgin Islands, and continuing on, this year, for her PhD in Coastal Zone Management Policy at Harte Institute, a branch of Texas A&M in Corpus Christi. Her aspirations to save the oceans make us proud, although her Facebook site reveals much more about how her love for the ocean involves exceptional dedication to all-day beach parties, snorkeling and diving on exotic coral reefs, and occasional long sails to the British Virgin Islands.

KE: It must take a lot of motivation to go visit Elena. So what are some of your favorite activities outside of the ACLT?

EK: I love designing and building anything. Participating in building the new timber frame barn at Double Oak Farm is an opportunity of a lifetime. In my other freelance forays at the Calvert Marine Museum, the Patuxent Small Craft Guild, of which I am a member, just completed construction from scratch with no plans, drawings or pictures of a Southern Maryland 16 foot wooden skiff. We are also currently restoring and refurbishing two old canoes, and building a reproduction of an 18 foot runabout like ones used in races on PAX River in the ‘50’s. That boat is planned to be part of a new display and commemorative event at the museum this Spring. I also belong to the Solomons Island Model Boat Club and am about to finish a radio controlled skipjack just in time for race season this year. By the way, did I mention I like sailing?

I also like to keep my research lab skills honed and currently assist a research faculty member at the Chesapeake Biological Lab, who is investigating the effects of climate change on

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sea level rise in the Bay. No definitive results, as yet, but preliminary findings suggest the further question, "How long can you tread water?"

KE: The membership would like a random fun fact.

EK: They say that the Mayan calendar was wrong about the world ending on 12/21/12, because they forgot to include Leap Years in their calculation of the end of time. Oh, you mean fun facts about me? I once worked on a classified project for the Navy in the North Atlantic where we bobbed around on the ocean for hours in a 13-foot Boston Whaler dropping hydrophones and trying to collect vocalizations of Northern Right Whales. It seems the Navy was having a problem keeping our submarines from being detected by the Soviets at the time because something the pinging our subs would do was prompting Right Whales to want to mate with our subs and give away their location. We never figured out what they say to each other when they wanted to fool around that might be like what our subs were "saying" to them. With the subsequent demise of the former USSR, the whole issue became "mute," so to speak, and I now can tell the story.

Oh yeah, I also like to write poetry. Haiku is most fun.

Weed Whackers on trail
Smite foe plants among us all
Whose finger is that?!?

KE: What do you find most rewarding about being a member of and volunteering with ACLT?

EK: Did I already mention all the free bottled water? OK, then, instead, my Mom, who volunteered a lot all of her life and always encouraged me to do the same, passed away this summer. Every time I volunteer with all of the great folks at ACLT, I am reminded of her, of her giving spirit and the generous spirit of those I get to work with. That's most rewarding to me and would have prompted her to say about those with whom she served, "When I count my blessings, I count you twice." How selfish is that!

The ACLT is extremely grateful for all that Ed does for us throughout the year - many times without having to be asked. Ed, thanks for making ACLT shine!

Kady Everson
Community Relations Coordinator

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



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Introduction Phase

An area twice the size of Rhode Island is invaded by non-indigenous weed species annually in the United States (Babbit, 1998). Estimates for the number of introduced plant species vary widely, although most of the literature suggests approximately 50,000 plant species have been introduced since the formation of the United States, with roughly 4,300 species exhibiting invasive behaviors (Pimental et al., 1999). Although our current understanding of how ecosystems function suggests that exotic introductions of flora and fauna are unwise, this is a relatively new concept. In fact, introducing new and useful species to an area was encouraged until fairly recently. In most cases, an organism has been deliberately introduced into the U.S. for food, fiber, or ornamental purposes. There have been, of course, plenty of accidental introductions. Purposeful and accidental examples include: Garlic mustard, which was originally introduced from Europe for medicinal purposes in the 1800s; the Zebra mussel, which is believed to have been transported into the Great Lakes Region as planktonic larvae in cargo-ship ballast water in the late 1980s; the Chestnut blight fungus that arrived in a shipment of infected Asian chestnut logs in 1904; and the Emerald Ash Borer that is believed to have arrived in the U.S. via infested wood packaging material in the 1990s. All of these organisms have caused enormous damage on both economic and ecological fronts.

Given the ease of travel, an organism can literally travel from one end of the globe to the other in a matter of days. However, once a new plant arrives at a destination, a number of factors must coincide to achieve successful establishment. Often times, the same invasive will be re-introduced multiple times before there is establishment. Success depends on the whether the site is suitable for the invading plant. This mostly concerns temperature and site characteristics: Is the climate similar to its native environment? How much competition is there from native flora? Is the site disturbed to a point that will be advantageous to the invader? Is there some sort of predator/grazer or pathogenic agent that will be able to keep populations in line? The bottom line is that the invader must be able to compete with native species that are already adapted to the site.

This introductory phase is often considered the most important, and is usually unsuccessful due to unfavorable conditions such as climate, drought, or lack of sufficient numbers necessary for the population to genetically maintain itself (Latore et al., 1998). The introductory phase often goes unnoticed, and is followed by a lag period in which weed populations are temporarily low. This period is discreet, with the invader increasing its numbers and utilizing its growth abilities and reproductive

capacities to slowly gain (or colonize) new acreages. Environmental factors such as water availability, nutrient resources, and sunlight are the deciding factors in whether the invading weed is successfully established or killed off. It is for this reason that fresh disturbances such as burned areas, construction sites, new road systems, and forested areas hit by insect/disease outbreaks, are ripe for invasion.

Colonization Phase

The colonization phase of invasion is characterized by rapid population expansion. This process is thought to be based more on the biological traits of the invader, and less a function of environmental factors. It is during this phase that the presence is commonly noticed and control efforts are initiated. The ability of an invasive species to colonize a site can be truly impressive. Successful traits that benefit the newcomer include the ability to grow quickly, high reproductive capacity, ability to reach reproductive maturity at a young age, efficient seed dispersal, prolific sprouting following cutting or burning, and the ability to tolerate a large range of environmental conditions. Many invasives also employ a special blend of chemical warfare, known as alleopathy, to aid the proliferation. Alleopathy is a tactic utilized by plants to manipulate soils to inhibit the growth, survival, and reproduction of competing vegetation. This is often accomplished by secretion of enzymes through the invader's root system.

In many cases, a species that can quickly set root and capitalize on disturbance will do well. For an example we will use the granddaddy invasive species of the southeast—the Paradise tree (*Ailanthus altissima*). *Ailanthus* is capable of rapid juvenile growth, with seedlings attaining growth rates of up to 1-2 meters in their first year (Miller, 1990). This species is also adept to prolific seed production, with mature female trees producing up to 300,000 seeds in a single growing season (Audubon, 2000). In addition to increased seeding, *Ailanthus* will root sprout following any disturbance at the stem, and is alleopathic. For these reasons, you might notice extensive stands of this tree along power line rights of way or road sides. Other invasives, such as Oriental bittersweet and Autumn olive produce of bright, fleshy seeds that are attractive to birds and other wildlife.

Naturalization Phase

The naturalization phase has occurred when the invading weed successfully establishes sufficient, self-perpetuating populations. By this point, rapid expansion has lessened and the population is stable, being widespread throughout a region and integrated into the residual flora community (Radosevich, 2007). Once the invasion has graduated to the colonization phase, the populations are extremely difficult to contain and control. By

the time naturalization has occurred, the invading species may be so established in the native system that eliminating it would be a monumental task. Project managers must carefully weigh cost and benefit situations to determine if eradication attempts are worthwhile. In some cases, control or restoration of impacted regions may be limited to specific high value areas that receive constant monitoring and maintenance.

The business of contending with IAS is not only labor intensive and time consuming, but also extremely expensive. The best method for controlling these invaders is to prevent their introduction altogether or to monitor and extinguish populations as early as possible. Control and containment is accomplished in three manners: mechanical treatments (cutting/burning/pulling); chemical treatments (herbicides); and biological control. Often times an integration of all approaches will be utilized (Integrated Weed Management—IWM) to keep a target species below an acceptable damage threshold. The best thing we can do as stewards is to remain knowledgeable and employ effective management. When it comes to combating invasives, often times it will be reasonable to pick our battles—controlling and eliminating the problem species when possible; simply drawing a line in the sand and containing the problem in other situations.

Steven Gaines
Land Manager

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(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

how we manage it and the governing practices we rely on as an organization. We have also worked hard to increase our membership and better serve the larger Calvert County community. We have attempted to do this, among other ways, by optimizing the use of our trails, the creation of our CSA, and through our advocacy work within the county, as we did in our efforts regarding Pepco's proposed MAPP project.

In the months ahead, we will be collecting and organizing ourselves to formally assess the progress we have made toward the strategic goals we proposed in 2009. We will also be reevaluating the goals themselves to determine which will need to be adjusted, eliminated or created anew.

I am writing today, first to alert you to the planning exercise we have been using and the important role it has played in ACLT's choices and activities. More importantly, I am inviting you to join us in the preparation of this exercise. If you are interested, please send me and/or Karen Edgecombe your thoughts and observations as to whether we have hit the strategic markers I've touched upon above for this last period. Looking forward, we would also welcome your guidance regarding broad new directions we might want to consider for the next five years. Your input will be greatly appreciated by the Board and of real value to this entire endeavor. Thank you,

Pat Griffin, President
(Pgriffin@griffinhome.com)

Thank you for your support ...

New Members

ACLT would like to welcome the following new members since the Fall 2012 newsletter:

Ms. Terry Bagwell
Chesapeake Garden Club
Ms. Kaitlyn Grenier & Family
Mr. & Mrs. Keith M. Hoffman
Mr. & Mrs. Sean McFadden
Mr. Robert McGillicuddy
Ms. Cathlene Shackelford
Ms. Katelin Welles

Gift Memberships

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

Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Griffin
Ms. B. L. Johnston
Ms. Kathleen McGillicuddy
Ms. Crawford Feagin Stone
Mrs. Carol Teich & Mrs. Emily vanZee,
Walden III Heritage

Memorial Contributions

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

A Christmas gift in honor of Mr. Thomas Axley, who is a Charter Member, and in memory of **Dr. & Mrs. John Axley** who were Charter Members and longtime supporters:
Ms. Jobe Axley

In memory of **Mr. Howard Hammack** who was the father of Karen Edgecombe and a longtime supporter of the ACLT:
Gerrit & Kady Everson
Capt. & Mrs. Patrick Murphy, USN (Ret.)

In memory of **Mr. Ralph Dwan** who was a Charter Member and one of the founders of the ACLT. Ralph served as ACLT's first President, and over the years served on the board as Secretary, Treasurer, and again as President, along with serving on numerous committees throughout the years:
Mrs. Nancy McK. Smith
Anonymous Donor

In memory of **Mrs. Virginia O'Neill** who was a Charter Member and longtime supporter and **Ms. Elaine Cochran Dunkle** who was a Charter Member and longtime supporter:
Mrs. Nancy McK. Smith

In memory of **Mr. George Mliniaric** who was a hunter and longtime supporter:
Mr. & Mrs. Steven Stanford

In memory of **Mr. Bob Bibb** who was a Charter Member:
Mr. Robert Pfeiffer & Ms. Shirley Mihursky

In Honor of Contributions

With grateful appreciation to **Joy Bartholomew**, who is a Sustaining Member, a longtime supporter and past president of the Board of Directors:
Ms. Susan R. Helmrich

In honor of **Mr. & Mrs. Paul Berry** who are Sustaining Members and longtime supporters, Board Member and Treasurer (Paul):
Ms. Marsha Berry

In honor of **Col. Caroline Van Mason**, who is a Charter Member, a member of the Board of Directors and longtime supporter, **Mr. & Mrs. Paul Dennett**, who are Charter Members, past member of the Board of Directors (Paul) and longtime supporters, and **Ms. Harriet Yaffe & Mr. Jerry Adams**, who are Sustaining Members & longtime supporters, past board member (Harriet); also in honor of friends; **Dr. & Mrs Robert Rudin**, **Mr. & Mrs Christopher Lanning**, **Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Imooss**:
Dr. Christine & Col Dan Boesz

In honor of **Mr. Jerry Adams & Ms. Harriet Yaffe**, **Dr. Stephen Peters** and **Mr. Alan Wilson**, who are Sustaining Members and longtime supporters:
Mr. & Mrs. Randy Estabrook

Sustaining Membership

Congratulations to the following member who has reached the level of Sustaining Membership:

Ms. Margaret Dunkle

General Contributions and Designated Gifts:

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

Mr. Dennis Loew
Ms. Emily Hanke van Zee

Through America's Charities:

Mrs. Dorothy Howe

Land Acquisition Fund

Mr. and Mrs. Conrad L. Hoska

Land Management Endowment Fund

Mr. & Mrs. Samuel M. Ellsworth

Dr. & Mrs. David F. Farr

Fall Appeal

The Staff and the Board of Directors wish to thank the following for their contributions to the 2012 Fall Appeal:

Mr. & Mrs. William Arms

Mr. & Mrs. Don Baier

Mr. & Mrs. Steven Baier-Anderson

Mr. & Mrs. John Bailey

Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Bailey

Mrs. Anne Baker

Ms. Gail M. Hoerauf-Bennett & Dr.

Charles Bennett

Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Benning

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Ms. Lelia Blackwell & Mr. John Watson

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Mr. John Roberts & Ms. Karen Horton

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Mrs. Rhoda Switzer

Mrs. Carol Hanke Teich & Mrs. Emily

Hanke vanZee, Walden III Heritage

Col. Caroline VanMason, USA (Ret)

Ms. Christina Van Pelt &

Mr. Donn Ahearn

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Mr. Don H. Kollmorgen

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Ms. Jeanne Young

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Yuill

Mr. & Mrs. Albert W. Zahniser

Mr. Klaus Zwilsky & Ms. Roberta Safer

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Zwissler

American Chestnut Land Trust Calendar of Events

February–August 2013

February

- 23 Winter Hike at Double Oak Farm (1:30 - 3:30 p.m.)
- 23 Vine Vindicator Work Day (9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)

March

- 9 **Annual Membership Meeting** (9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)
- 23 Hiking Trail Maintenance Day (9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)
- 24 Water Quality Monitoring Training (9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.)
- 24 Barn Work Day (8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)

April

- 20 **Earth Day** (8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)
- 28 Spring Guided Hike on Warrior's Rest (9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.)

May

- 4 Canoe Guide Training (8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.)
- 11 Guided Canoe Trip (3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.) (*Sunday Rain Date*)
- 19 Vine Vindicator Work Day (9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)

June

- 8 Parkers Creek to Flag Ponds Paddle (7:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)
- 22 Guided Canoe Trip (12:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.) (*Sunday Rain Date*)

July

- 20 Guided Canoe Trip (11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.) (*Sunday Rain Date*)

August

- 3 Guided Canoe Trip (11:30 - 2:30 p.m.) (*Sunday Rain Date*)
- 24 Walk Along the Bay Membership Event.



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

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Name _____ e-mail _____

Address _____

Phone _____ I (we) learned about ACLT from _____

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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.