

Watershed Observer



NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN CHESTNUT LAND TRUST - VOLUME 30 NO. 1 WINTER 2016

CONTENTS

LAND MANAGER'S CORNER: IF YOU BUILD IT,
THEY WILL COME 1

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE 2

CALVERT COUNTY FARM FESTIVAL 3

ACLT'S 20TH ANNUAL DINNER &
AUCTION 3

THE HOLIDAY WREATH & GREENS SALE 4

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE 4

SCN ADDRESSES THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS 5

WHAT IS CALVERT'S SOCIO-ECONOMIC
SITUATION? 5

SAVING CALVERT COUNTY'S WORKING
LANDSCAPES 6

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 9

CONTRIBUTIONS AND NEW MEMBERS 10

COMING UP ON THE CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

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

MARCH

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

APRIL

2 SPRING HIKING TRAIL MAINTENANCE DAY
(9 A.M. - 12PM, PICNIC LUNCH)

SEE MORE OF THE 2016 CALENDAR ON
PAGE 9 OR ONLINE.

Visit Us Online at
<http://acltweb.org/nl>

Land Manager's Corner

"If You Build It, They Will Come"

This past October, Master Naturalist volunteers and I continued our efforts to improve wildlife habitat by installing seven wood duck nest boxes in the Parkers Creek Preserve. Five nest boxes were installed along Parkers Creek, as well as two in the swampy area by the beaver dam near the North Side Horse Swamp Trail. As the name implies, wood duck nesting boxes are large bird houses that provide a cavity for wood ducks to build nests, lay eggs, and raise their hatchlings. They are particularly fun to install with enthusiastic volunteers on a warm, sunny fall afternoon in preparation for the birds' spring breeding season.

Background on Wood Ducks

Most people are probably familiar with the plumage of the wood duck which is common in our region throughout the entire year (note photo below). Wood ducks are found in wetland areas from southern Canada to northern Mexico and are common in most of the eastern half of the US as well as the California coast. More northern birds usually migrate south during the winter while wood ducks in the southern states are often permanent residents (Audubon). Wood ducks pair up in winter and begin the breeding season in early to mid-spring. Males lose their bright colors at the end of the breeding season in late summer and don a gray plumage until next breeding season; however they can still be distinguished by their bright red eyes and bill (National Wildlife Federation).

Wood ducks traditionally build their nests in tree cavities and typically lay 9-14 eggs per brood. Nesting cavities need to be near water; however some nesting cavities can be over a mile from the water source. Since they are unable to create their own homes, wood ducks rely on areas where branches have broken off of a trunk and the exposed heartwood has rotted or, less often, they utilize cavities made by woodpeckers (Audubon).

Conservation Status

Wood ducks were very common in the beginning of the 19th century but populations declined to near extinction by the early 20th century. One major driving force of this population decline was overhunting which was exacerbated by the fact that wood duck habitat was primarily in areas near water in the eastern United States-the areas that were most densely populated by humans (Ducks Unlimited). A second reason for wood duck population decline was loss of habitat from wetland destruction and the cutting of many large trees that would have provided nesting cavities (Ducks Unlimited, Audubon).



Male wood duck in breeding plumage..
Photo credit: www.allaboutbirds.org.

Wood duck populations have increased dramatically in since the middle of the 20th century due to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 which made it

(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 958 acres, manage 1,910 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

"We always hear about the rights of democracy but the major responsibility of it is participation." Wynton Marsalis

If the stakes weren't so high, our national political scene would be quite entertaining. It has all the elements of the most outlandish reality shows. While clearly engaging some new audiences, it appears to have alienated many, many more. I don't know how many times I've heard from friends on both sides of the aisle, comments of disgust with politics in general and or the often repeated line....that if so and so wins, I am moving to Canada. It is not that I haven't entertained similar thoughts, I just dream of going south not north.

Despite the temptations, I know in my heart that cynicism and despair are destructive influences that rarely produce anything of value. I've come to appreciate that the only real antidote to this sense of alienation is engagement. Consequently, I continue to encourage all who care to listen, to remain involved in politics at the national level and work as hard as you can for the best candidate of your respective party. If possible, save the exit planning and packing for later.

I would like to also ask you to consider embracing the principle of engagement as it relates to our local politics and processes here in Calvert County. Our County Commissioners are not necessarily dealing with issues of war and peace. However, they do hold in their hands the power to profoundly shape the character of this county. Far reaching issues related to economic development, transportation and land preservation, among others, are on the horizon. These are matters that could directly touch all of our lives for many years to come.

They will be significantly informed by the Comprehensive Planning Process that is getting underway. It is not yet clear what forms of citizen participation the county will use, but most planning processes allow citizens adequate opportunities to provide constructive suggestions and express their concerns, desires and wishes. The results of the planning process will create a road map as to the direction these issues will take for the next ten years.

There is no guarantee that the County will remain on the same relatively balanced path in how they manage development and help to preserve land as they have done in the past. I believe we have to remind them how important responsible growth and land preservation really are. Encourage them to promote town centers where folks can easily live, work and shop and avoid a creeping and unnecessary incursion on sensitive land and our enchanting rural landscape.

We do not have the luxury of staying above or out of the fray for any reason. It is a moment in which we must be prepared to engage. We need to find a way to participate that makes sense for each of us. Specific actions one could consider are bringing the process to your neighbor's attention, attending local hearings and meetings, contacting your representative directly, or writing op eds and letters to the editor, among others.

Key to effective engagement is staying informed. To get a broader set of Calvert County facts, the latest development on the Comprehensive Planning Process, as well as opportunities for engagement, I would recommend the Sustainable County Network website (www.sustainablecalvertnetwork.com). This is an organization ACLT has helped form. It seeks to work with all local interested parties that promote and protect the quality of life and environment in Calvert County.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

SCN Addresses the Board of County Commissioners

Calvert County was the first in the state to establish a land preservation program and it remains as one of the most successful in the nation. But has local support waned? On January 5th, the Sustainable Calvert Network (SCN) appeared before the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners to voice its strong support for continued land preservation efforts.

Thus far, the Network includes the American Chestnut Land Trust, the Calvert County Farm Bureau, Calvert Eats Local, Calvert County Historical Society, Calvert Farmland Trust, Calvert Nature Society and Calvert League of Women Voters. The organizations represent diverse goals and interests but they are united on their support for the following mission: *To share information and offer support and cooperation among Network members; to achieve a future for Calvert County that fully integrates farming, fishing, natural and cultural resources, along with economic and societal needs.* Other organizations are lining up to join as well.

A key to the future success of land preservation is funding. When the County Commissioners increased the recordation fee in 1999, it subsequently established an “account for the anticipated increase in the recordation fees *to be dedicated to agricultural preservation*” Resolution No. 46-99 (emphasis added). It honored that pledge for a decade. Even the 2014 Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan noted that “the county allocates \$1.5 million annually from the recordation tax for land preservation”. However, it stated that “recent financial stress caused by the 2007 Recession has currently reduced the County’s ability to dedicate this level of funding”. In some years since the Great Recession, little or no new county money went for land preservation even though the Recordation Fee increase was generating more than \$1.5 million.

At the meeting on January 5th, the Network thanked the Commissioners for increasing land preservation funding in FY ’15 and it urged that the Commissioners direct staff to re-institute the \$1.5 million in new county land preservation funding. These funds can also be used to match land preservation funding offered by the Southern Maryland Agricultural Commission and the state. If the county does not provide a match, then the money is directed to other counties.

A second issue discussed at the meeting warranted the same attention. Calvert County has begun the process of updating the Calvert County Comprehensive Plan and the Calvert County Zoning Ordinance. The Comprehensive Plan is the county’s chief policy document. It is used by both the county and state to determine where public



capital projects can be developed and it is the basis for all zoning maps and regulations. Needless to say, the Network is interested in the goals, objectives, and actions proposed for land use and land protection in the new Plan, and in the subsequent updates to the maps, ordinances, and budgets. The Network offered to be willing participants in the preparation of these important documents.

Greg Bowen, Executive Director

So what is Calvert's Socio-Economic Situation?

On average, Calvert County and its residents are in relatively good condition economically. According to the American Community Survey, Calvert was tied for the **second lowest poverty rate** in the state in 2013. The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that Calvert's **median household income was \$94,196 in 2014, the third highest in the state**, after Howard and Montgomery County.

Calvert has the **4th lowest property tax rate** in the state and its **income tax rate** is tied for the **7th lowest in the state** according to a Maryland Association of Counties report (2016). On the other hand, it has the **6th highest operating budget per capita**. One reason that Calvert is able to keep taxes lower, while providing higher level of services is that it has the **highest value of personal property** per capita and the **9th highest value of real property** (land) per capita of any county in the state.

More information about the county and the comprehensive planning process can be found on the Sustainable Calvert Network (www.sustainablecalvertnetwork.com).

Around ACLT

ACLT Wraps Up the Year with Fun and Friendship

The last few months of 2015 were very busy around the Parkers Creek Preserve. Nearly 500 visitors and volunteers participated in our end of year events and helped close out one of the busiest years on record for ACLT.

Pam Shilling, Outreach Coordinator

Calvert County Farm Festival – October 18

ACLT's Double Oak Farm was proud to participate in the 2015 Calvert County Farm Festival. The festival invites guests to get to know Calvert County's rural community by spending the day on five working farms. We were proud to showcase the amazing work done by our farm volunteers during this first year as an "Agriculture Supporting the Community" program.

Dozens of volunteers helped make the day a success by offering kids games, farm and garden tours and introductions to various ACLT activities. The big hit of the afternoon, however, was the discovery of a 26 pound sweet potato in a "Hugelkultur" raised garden bed in the EDGE Garden. This find was a wonderful validation of the no till, natural growing methods being applied on our farm and in the educational garden's experiments. Congratulations again to all of our farm volunteers for a great year!



ACLT's 20th Annual Dinner & Auction

2015 marked the 20th year of ACLT's largest annual fundraising event. Nearly 200 guests attended the special event where we once again hosted a chili cook-off. The plan proved to be a delicious and festive way to enjoy a meal together. Ten chefs competed for the honor of "Best Chili". Entries included the "Veggie Valedictorian", "Dreamy Butternut Squash & Turkey Chili", and "El Chili Delicioso"! The winning entry was from Robyn Truslow with her savory "Holy Mole Chili". The evening's meal was rounded out by wonderful catering from Dreamweaver.

Guests wandered through display tables considering their bids while enjoying the music of local band "Some Assembly". The auction boasted over a hundred silent auction items. In addition, ACLT long-time friend Jerry Adams took on the role of auctioneer and inspired the crowd to bid on our nine live auction items.

ACLT would like to thank everyone who donated items, helped plan for, set up, and breakdown this event! It was a lot of work that required many extra hands. Very special thanks, as well, to the following individuals and groups:

— The 2015 ACLT Auction Committee: Steve Kullen, Chair; Penny Moran, Admin Support; Marie Estabrook, auction display; Mark Smith, auction display; Connie Wiloughby & Suzanne Shelden, Centerpieces.
— The 2015 Auction Sponsors: Joe Slater and SMECO; Jeffrey Lewis, Realtor; Community Bank of the Chesapeake, and 3 wonderful Anonymous Sponsors.



Top: ACLT Volunteer, Larry Braswell, tests out the hand-crank corn mill at the Calvert County Farm Festival at ACLT.

Middle: Dream Weaver provided a beautiful buffet of food to compliment the 10 chilis created by our contestants.

Chili Chefs at ACLT's 20th Annual Dinner & Auction: Judy Kay, "Best Over All Prize Winner" Robyn Truslow, Barbara Mogel, Mary Klausner, Sue Kullen, Carrie Plymire, and Tim Dow. In the front: ACLT Coordinator Pam Shilling and Fran Armstrong. Other chefs not shown: Autumn Phillips, Jeffrey Lewis, and Amy Griffin

— Nevin Bossart, Artist and Art Therapist, and our friends from the Arc of Southern Maryland, Prince Frederick: together, they designed and created our beautiful and cheerful “Sunflower” centerpieces.

— Also our wonderful ACLT Board of Directors, our volunteer chili chefs, the health department of Calvert County, and the staff and volunteers of St. John Vianney.

The event was a tremendous success that would not have been possible without you!

The Holiday Wreath & Greens Sale

What a fun year it was for our “Holiday Wreath & Greens Sale”! The popularity of last year’s holiday events inspired ACLT staff to offer even more fun this year as we kicked off the holiday season. The traditional pre-sale wreath making events were expanded to include an additional evening workshop and increased guests at the Friday workshop and prep day.

The new Thursday evening class had 14 guests who sipped wine, enjoyed holiday music and created beautiful wreaths in cheerful company. Pam Shilling, ACLT Community Relations Coordinator gave a basic lesson on creating wreaths and watched as beautiful works were fashioned. Friday’s event proved to be a truly memorable day! With temperatures in the 60s, 35 volunteers, class attendees, and staff enjoyed the unseasonable weather as we set tables up outside and made dozens of wreaths!

The day of the sale was warm and lovely and customers were waiting in the parking lot for ACLT to begin selling! More than half of the wreaths were purchased in the first 15 minutes. Volunteers began creating wreaths on the spot to keep up with demand. What a fun way to welcome the holidays while raising funds to support our ACLT. Thanks to everyone who participated, volunteered, or purchased wreaths this holiday season!



ACLT volunteer Fran Armstrong and Calvert County’s One Room Schoolhouse volunteer, Chloe Ewalt, worked to make wreaths for ACLT’s green sale and to decorate the school house.



2016 Annual Meeting

Our 30th Anniversary

*How has ACLT helped
shape the community
and how can we be a
positive force for the future?*

March 12, 2016

9:30 - 10am *reception/check-in*

10 - 11:30am *meeting*

11:30 - 12:30pm *optional luncheon*

St. John Vianney
Family Life Center

105 Vianney Lane,
Prince Frederick, MD

Luncheon to follow - \$15/person

Please RSVP

for the meeting

and luncheon at

ACLTweb.org

by March 4, 2016

Saving Calvert County's Working Landscapes

In the last decade, farm and forestland conversion has slowed to a trickle. That is not to say that rural landscapes are safe, but it has given time for land preservation programs to work and for the local food movement to rebuild agriculture.

Calvert County's land trusts played a major role in protecting farm and forestland during the residential boom in the 1980s and 1990s when thousands of acres were otherwise being converted to low density development. However, Calvert County government played the biggest role in reducing sprawl by providing great land preservation tools and imposing adequate facilities regulations to avoid overcrowding in schools and over use of roads.

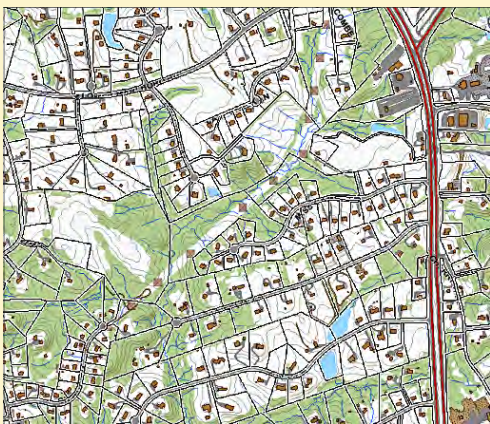
ACLT managed to protect most of the Parkers Creek watershed during that time, but its vision has been even broader. ACLT's mission includes the following statement: "We promote land conservation throughout Calvert County, Maryland". In 2014, ACLT's Board of Directors voted to join the Sustainable Calvert Network. Its mission envisions a "future for Calvert County that fully integrates farming, fishing, natural and cultural resources, along with economic and societal needs". Some might wonder whether or not this mission goes beyond the normal scope of a land trust. However, I believe that it is wholly consistent that ACLT should seek to support a wide range of efforts to conserve working landscapes, especially when one considers the past and looks to a future clouded by the impact of climate change.

How has Calvert's landscape changed?

In 1910, 120,000 acres in Calvert County were identified as farms according to the U.S. Census of agriculture. By the end of the 20th century, farmland had dwindled to 33,000 acres. Over the same period, Maryland lost three million acres of farmland. The farming industry declined for two main reasons. First, chain stores took over aggregation, distribution and sales of food, replacing mom and pop stores which typically bought from local sources. Chains

sought cheaper food in larger quantities. Maryland farms (and all those on the east coast) could not compete with larger farms out west, particularly California with its year-round growing season and irrigation.

Second, Calvert County is within easy commuting distance of Washington, D.C. The combination of federal programs such as Veterans Affairs Home Loans and the Federal Aid High-



The Changing Face of Calvert County, Calvert County Interactive maps showing subdivided land south of Lower Marlboro Road that was farm and forestland 50 years ago.



The working landscapes of Calvert County are among the most beautiful in the state.

way Act of 1956 (creating the Interstate Highway System) gave land developers the market and high speed road access to rural areas with relatively cheap farmland to develop. In a few decades, farm belts around cities that had fed the metro areas for centuries were reduced to small farm patches surrounded by subdivisions.

Preservation programs are a relatively recent public initiative, with the first county program in the country (Suffolk County, New York) beginning in 1974. Interest in land preservation arose after teamster strikes in the 1960s caused empty shelves in the grocery stores in New England. Elected officials and citizens realized that our emerging global food chain could easily be disrupted by natural or human-made events. Consumers were again reminded how precarious our food chain is on September 11, 2001. After the terrorist attacks, planes stopped flying and other transportation systems stopped moving. Elected officials and policy analysts realized consumers in places like New York City are just about 36 hours from a real food crisis.

New trends in the 21st century

The Local Food Movement has created hope for many Maryland farmers. Bypassing the middle man, farmers who sell directly to consumers capture a larger percentage of the food dollar. Direct sales of produce, fruits, jams, jellies, milk, cheeses, meats, wine and beer are growing steadily. More consumers want to know about how their food is raised and they refrain from processed food with additives. Large scale corporations and farm businesses are beginning to get the message.

Aquaculture in Maryland grew 124% between 2007 and 2012, according to the U.S. Census of Agriculture. It rose to become the 11th highest income farm product in Maryland. In Calvert, direct sales of food to consumers increased over 90% between 2007 and 2012 as new retail outlets such as Chesapeake's Bounty and Spider Hall joined with roadside stands to market a wide variety of locally produced fresh farm and seafood products.

Could Maryland farmers feed us?

The question seems almost preposterous today, since about 95% of the food we eat comes from chain stores. However, it was not so many decades ago that Maryland farmers supplied nearly all of the food Marylanders consumed. A 2015 study from the Johns Hopkins University's Center for Livable Future entitled "Maryland Grown" has begun to answer that question by looking into what food is produced in Maryland and what its 6 million residents may be consuming. It concluded that:

- Maryland farmers produce more than enough chicken, lima beans, and watermelon to meet Maryland consumer demands.
- Maryland farmers produce 67% of the spinach demand, 57% of the sweet corn demand, 46% of the egg demand, 28% of the milk demand, and 26% of the beef demands.
- Potatoes are the most popular vegetable and Maryland farmers meet 9% of that demand.
- Tomatoes are the 9th most popular food product on Maryland farms yet we produce only 2.14% of the population's demand.
- Maryland farmers produce about 2.8 billion pounds of corn for grain, a lot of which is used for livestock feed, seed, and industrial uses.

Of course, watermelons and lima beans are only produced for a few months and demand for these products (and other perishable products) is year-round. In the early to mid-20th century, consumers' diets were more attuned to the growing season. Now consumers expect watermelons in January. However, milk and meats are produced year-round. Grains can be stored and many greens (and even tomatoes) can be grown year-round in high tunnels or greenhouses. Price is a factor, but 70% of U.S. residents say that they would pay at least 5% more for locally sourced food according to a 2013 survey by AT Kearney, a research firm.

Working Landscapes Needed for the Future

In the 20th Century, California emerged as the nation's fruit and vegetable basket. By the end of the century, it was the nation's leader in dairy and meat products. Years of drought in the West have raised the question of how



Chesapeake's Bounty in North Beach has a wide variety of locally sourced food even in January.

long we might be able to rely on California for these products. Climate predictions from the U.S. Department of Agriculture warn of warmer and drier conditions for much of California through the end of the 21st century. Global unrest raises questions of food security and food sovereignty. Working landscapes are an ecological asset. They may also play a more important role in our food security.

That is one reason why Double Oak Farm is an important venture. Our farm is one of a few in Calvert that is raising a wide variety of vegetables almost year-round, with use of a high tunnel and season-appropriate varieties. In addition, to proving it can be done, we are using sustainable, no-till farming practices, organic fertilizers and biological pest management. Over the next year, we hope to extend to a farmer the opportunity to begin farming on one of the properties that we manage, using the same sustainable farming practices.

Greg Bowen, Executive Director



(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

“illegal for anyone to take, possess, transport, sell, or purchase ...any migratory bird, or the parts, nests, or eggs of such a bird except under the terms of a valid permit issued pursuant to Federal regulations” (US Fish and Wildlife Service). The advent of artificial nesting structures, thought to be designed by biologists Gil Gigstead and Milford Smith at Chautauqua National Wildlife Refuge in central Illinois, has also helped augment wood duck populations. Since the first known artificial nesting structures were erected in 1937 by the U.S. Biological Survey (now the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service), organizations and individuals have installed thousands of boxes in appropriate habitat all across the United States (Ducks Unlimited).

Building Wood Duck Boxes

Parkers Creek and swampy areas in the surrounding woodlands are prime habitat for wood duck nesting cavities. Volunteers led the effort to build and install 7 of these boxes at the Parkers Creek Preserve and they have plans to do at least 3 more. There are many sources with instructions on how to build wood duck boxes and each is a little different, but all recommend a box that is roughly 12” x 12” and 24” high and a roof that extends to cover the access hole in the front of the box. A 3” high x 4” wide oval entrance hole should be drilled in the front of the house about 14” from the base of the house.

Some have experimented with building wood duck boxes out of plastic, but it has been found that these overheat when placed in sunny locations. Rough cut wood is best because it is easier for young wood ducks to grip with their claws to climb out of the nest box. ACLT volunteers ensured an easy departure for the wood duck hatchlings by installing wire mesh beneath the hole on the inside of the box to serve as a “ladder”.

The final step is to assemble a predator guard, which is usually cut out of sheet metal and secured around the post on which the wood duck box will be mounted. There are templates that can be used to cut the sheet metal in a way that it fits perfectly around a 4”x4” post. It is imperative to make sure there are no gaps between the predator guard and the post the box is mounted on to ensure that the guard is effective in excluding predators, namely snakes and raccoons. The guard should be 3’ in diameter and wood duck boxes should not be installed near any existing tall vegetation or overhanging branches that snakes and raccoons could use to bypass the guard.

Installing Wood Duck Boxes

After our boxes were built, we kayaked Parkers Creek and selected 5 locations where each box would be installed. On a second trip we loaded up the constructed boxes, metal posts to mount them on, and the necessary tools for assembly into canoes and kayaks, put on chest waders found at the local thrift store, and set out on the creek to install our nest boxes.

As it turns out, the storms during the first weekend of October last year moved a sandbar into the mouth of the creek and sealed off the creek from the Bay for almost an entire month. This



Above: Volunteers Bob Field and Penny Moran assist Autumn with placing wood duck boxes on posts along Parkers Creek.

Below: All smiles having finished and only lost 2 tools in the water!

means that while we did reconnaissance trips and worked on installing the boxes along Parkers Creek the water level rose about 4 feet above its normal level. As the water level rose it provided a surreal kayaking experience when gliding over the top of marsh grasses to areas that were usually inaccessible by boat. Spiders and snails clung to the very top of the tallest grasses as these were the only places left above water. As we reached each of the pre-selected installation sites and climbed out of our kayaks, we quickly became even larger above-water havens, fending off spiders (yes, even some land managers and Master Naturalists are less than excited about an army of spiders crawling up their waders) while driving in posts and attaching the boxes.

Each box was installed with the front facing the water and facing south when possible to further protect the nest from wind and inclement weather. A few inches of wood shavings were spread on the bottom of each box for the female

wood duck to use to cover her eggs. The hole of each box was at least a few feet above, what was at that time, the surface of the water. After the water in the creek broke through the sandbar, the water level dropped back to “normal” levels and the boxes that were installed in areas with 3 feet of water now stand in relatively dry marsh grass. This should not be a problem because, as previously mentioned, wood ducks will nest in cavities up to a mile away from a water source.

Boxes will be monitored in an attempt to gather data on the number of hatchlings produced in our nesting boxes. Data collected by the Maryland Wood Duck Initiative shows that approximately 7,000 wood ducks were hatched in boxes on public land in Maryland alone last year. Our 2016 data from our boxes on Parkers Creek will hopefully add to next year’s total.

The wood duck boxes installed at the Parkers Creek Preserve is another way ACLT is addressing pressing environmental issues that are facing our region. Whether its pollinator gardens, sustainable farming, bluebird boxes, rain gardens, or wood duck boxes, ACLT strives to help to preserve biodiversity and do its part to aid in the recovery of just a few of the species who need it most.

Autumn Phillips
Land Manager

Resources:

Audubon Guide to North American Birds. Wood Duck.

<https://www.audubon.org/field-guide/bird/wood-duck>.

Cornell Lab of Ornithology All About Birds. https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Wood_Duck/lifehistory.

Ducks Unlimited. <http://www.ducks.org/conservation/waterfowl-biology/wood-duck-boxes>.

Maryland Wood Duck Initiative. <http://www.dnr.maryland.gov/MWDI/>.

National Wildlife Federation. <https://www.nwf.org/Wildlife/Wildlife-Library/Birds/Wood-Duck.aspx>.

US Fish and Wildlife Service. Migratory Bird Treaty Act. <http://www.fws.gov/birds/policies-and-regulations/laws-legislations/migratory-bird-treaty-act.php>.

American Chestnut Land Trust 2016 Calendar of Events

February

20 Winter Hike at Double Oak Farm (1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.)

March

12 Annual Membership Meeting (9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)

April

2 Spring Hiking Trail Maintenance Day (9 a.m. - 12 p.m., picnic lunch)

3 Water Quality Monitoring Training (9 a.m. - 1 p.m.)

16 Canoe Guide Training (9 a.m. - 1 p.m.) (Sunday Rain Date)

23 Earth Day 5K Trail Run

24 Earth Day Clean Up

May

1 Spring Guided Family Hike (9 a.m. - 11 a.m.)

22 Family Day Open House at Double Oak (1 p.m. - 4 p.m.)

28 SUNRISE Guided Canoe Trip (6 a.m. - 9 a.m.) (Sunday Rain Date)

June

4 Guided Canoe Trip (1 p.m. - 4 p.m.) (Sunday Rain Date)

5 Mountain Laurel Hike (12:30 - 2:30 p.m.) (tentative- depending on bloom)

12 2nd Sunday Farmers Market (1 p.m. - 4 p.m.)

25 SUNSET Guided Canoe Trip (6p.m. - 9 p.m.)

July

2 Guided Canoe Trip (12 p.m. - 3 p.m.) (Sunday Rain Date)

10 2nd Sunday Farmers Market (1 p.m. - 4 p.m.)

August

6 SUNSET Canoe Trip (5 p.m. - 8 p.m.) (Sunday Rain Date)

14 2nd Sunday Farmers Market (1 p.m. - 4 p.m.)

September

16 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

24 Guided Canoe Trip (9 a.m. - 12 p.m.) (Sunday Rain Date)

October

8 Patuxent River Appreciation Days (10 a.m. - 5 p.m.)

15 Guided Canoe Trip (1 p.m. - 4 p.m.) (Sunday Rain Date)

16 Calvert County Farm Festival/Member Appreciation Day

22 Fall Hiking Trail Maintenance Day (9 a.m. - 12 p.m., picnic lunch)

30 Fall Guided Hike at Double Oak (1 p.m. - 4 p.m.)

November

12 21st Annual Auction & Dinner

December

1, 2 Wreath-Making Workshops

3 Holiday Wreath & Greens Sale at ACLT South Side Barn (11 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.)

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

The County Commissioners need to hear our voice, and I believe that they will welcome input in the planning process. They need to hear what is important to you as the County faces the challenge of growth and development over the next ten years. There are definitely conflicting views on how this should take place. Some could produce a very unattractive and permanent result.

We must seize the moment and be prepared to share with them how much we value the rural and environmental assets that ACLT has worked so hard to promote and protect. All of our participation is critical!

Please contact the ACLT staff for further information as to how you can participate in this effort.

Sincerely, Pat Griffin
pgriffin@griffinhome.com



Parkers Creek after the 2016 Blizzard.
Photo by Autumn Phillips.

Thank you for your support ...

New Members

ACLT would like to welcome the following new members since the Fall 2015 newsletter:

Ms. Julie Allinson
Mr. Charles Anderson
Mr. Craig Barrett
Ms. Alicia Briegel
Mr. Timothy Dow
Mr. Andrew Erwin
Mr. Matt Gambrill
Ms. Martha Grahame
Mr. & Mrs. John Keller
Ms. Linda Lampera
Ms. Kelly Myers & Mr. Steve Marley
Mr. Mark Osbun
Ms. Sierra Schenk
Mr. John Sullens
Ms. Olga Sylvia
Ms. Robyn Truslow
Mr. & Mrs. Chuck Whittington

Sustaining Membership

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

Ms. Kathleen McGahey
Mr. Dominic Raino
Ms. Mary Parish & Mr. Sherman Suter

Gift Memberships

Thank you to the following who gave a gift membership since the last newsletter:

Mr. Craig Barrett
Ms. Joy Bartholomew &
Mr. Mark Edmondson
Col. Daniel Boesz, USAF (Ret.)
Mr. & Mrs. Glynn Frank
Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Griffin
Ms. Maureen Hudson
Ms. Autumn Phillips
Mrs. Carol Teich &
Mrs. Emily vanZee, Walden III Heritage

In Memory of Contributions

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

In memory of **Mr. & Mrs. Paul Berry** who were Sustaining Members and dedicated supporters; Paul served as Treasurer on the ACLT Board of Directors for many years:
Ms. Marsha Berry

In memory of **Dr. Christine Boesz** who was a Charter Member, a longtime supporter and dedicated volunteer:
Ms. Patricia Peak

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 served on the Board of Directors as Secretary, Treasurer, and again as President and on numerous committees throughout the years:
Ms. Kathleen McGahey

In memory of **Clarence and Gennett-Hendley-Graham:**
Ms. Shirl Elaine Hendley &
Mr. Clarence Verdum

In memory of **Mrs. Ursula Dwan Jaeger** who was a Charter Member, a longtime friend and dedicated supporter:
Col. Daniel Boesz, USAF (Ret.)
Ms. Catherine Snyder

In memory of **Mrs. Sara Endorf Osbun:**
Mr. & Mrs. Glynn Frank

In memory of **Ms. Susan Slaughter** who was the sister of Ralph Dwan, a Charter Member and longtime supporter:
Anonymous

In memory of **Mrs. Montana June Whitson**, who was a Charter Member, a past Board member, ACLT's first Membership Coordinator, and a dedicated supporter:
Col. Daniel Boesz, USAF (Ret.)
Ms. Norma E. Opgrand

In Honor of Contributions

In honor of **Mr. Greg Bowen**, who is a Sustaining Member and ACLT's Executive Director. Greg was a former member of the Board of Directors and has been a longtime volunteer and dedicated supporter:
Emily & Greg Bowen and Nick Mudd

Auction Donations

ACLT would like to thank those who made monetary contributions in support of our annual fundraiser:
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Aldrich
Col. Daniel Boesz
Mr. James Borell, Jr. &
Ms. Jo Anne Longhill
Ms. Grace Mary Brady
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Cloak & Family
Ms. Catherine Thompson
Ms. Natalie Cotton
Dr. Kathy Ellwood & Mr. Mike Ellwood
Dr. & Mrs. David F. Farr
Ms. Paula Johnson &
Mr. Carl Fleischhauer
Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Griffin
Ms. BL Johnston & Dr. Robert Keisling
Mr. & Mrs. Steven T. Kullen
Mr. and Mrs. John W. Little
Mr. & Mrs. Gary A. Loew
Ms. Pamela-Jeanne Moran
Ms. Cheryl Place
Mr. & Mrs. Craig Shelden & Family
Mr. & Mrs. William Tearman
Mr. and Mrs. Guy Tomassoni
Dr. & Mrs. Peter R. Vogt

Auction Sponsors

ACLT would like to thank those who sponsored our annual fundraiser:
SMECO, Mr. Joe Slater
Mr. Jeffrey Lewis, Realtor
Community Bank of the Chesapeake,
Ms. Catherine Thompson

Harrod Property Donations

ACLT would like to thank those who continue to support our purchase of the Harrod property:
Dr. and Mrs. Walter R. Boynton
Ms. Kathy Daniel

Fall Appeal

The Board of Directors and staff wish to thank the following for their contributions to the 2015 Fall Appeal:
Mr. Donn Ahearn &
Ms. Christina VanPelt
Mr. Louis Amtmann
Mr. & Mrs. William Arms
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Balinski
Dr. Charles Bennett &
Ms. Gail Hoerauf-Bennett
Mr. & Mrs. Stanley O. Benning
Ms. Marsha Berry
Col. Daniel Boesz

Mr. & Mrs. Greg Bowen
Mr. Robert J. Boxwell
Ms. Mary Ann Boyle
Mr. & Mrs. Sean Buckley
Mr. & Mrs. James Burke
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur E. Cochran
Mr. & Mrs. Doug Cochrane
Mr. & Mrs. Robert D. Dallen
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Davidson
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Dennett
Ms. Ethel Dutky & Mr. Alvin Wilson
Mrs. Ralph H. Dwan, Jr.
Dr. & Mrs. Glenn R. Edgcombe
Ms. Joy Bartholomew &
Mr. Mark Edmondson
Dr. Kathy Ellwood & Mr. Mike Ellwood
Dr. & Mrs. David F. Farr
Ms. Paula Johnson &
Mr. Carl Fleischhauer
Dr. & Mrs. Oliver Flint, Jr
Mr. & Mrs. Glynn H. Frank
Dr. & Mrs. Maurice Fried
Mr. Prasad Gerard & Ms. Ann Oliva
Mr. William Glascock
Ms. Martha Grahame
Mr. Jeffrey Greene
Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Griffin
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Helmrich
Mr. & Mrs. George Helz
Mr. & Mrs. John Hofmann
Mr. & Mrs. James C. Hollowell
Mr. & Mrs. Conrad Hoska
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Howerton
Mr. Robert A. Jaeger
Ms. BL Johnston & Dr. Robert Keisling
Mr. Philip King and Ms. Cindy van Dijk
Mr. John G. Koelbel
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Koenig
Dr. & Mrs. Mark Kushner
Mr. & Mrs. Curt Larsen
Ms. Sandra Lauffer
Mr. Max Lederer
Mr. Greg and Ms. Linda Locraft
Ms. Elaine Ward Loomis
Mr. & Mrs. John M. Lucas
Mr. & Mrs. Ron C. Magnussen
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Manning
Mr. Charlie McBride &
Ms. Margaret DeBell
Mrs. John P. McGahey
Ms. Pamela-Jeanne Moran
Mr. Mark Nisonger &
Mrs. Elaine Remmers
Mr. & Mrs. Edwin A. Noell
Ms. Cheryl Place
Dr. & Mrs. Austin Platt
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Prien
Mr. Glen O. Pyles
Ms. Lisa Racioppi
Mr. Dominic B. Raino
Mr. John Roberts & Ms. Karen Horton

Mr. Paul Turco &
Mrs. Helen Rubino-Turco
Dr. & Mrs. James G. Sanders
Ms. Pamela Schmale
Mr. Charles Z. Serpan, Jr.
Mrs. Mary-Stuart Sierra
Ms. Denise Breitburg & Mr. Mark Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Peter N. Stathis
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph D. Steller, Jr.
Mr. Bart Stichman & Ms. Patricia Davis
Mr. Kevin Stoetzel
Ms. Elaine Strong
Ms. Mary Parish & Mr. Sherman Suter
Mr. & Mrs. William Tearman
Mr. & Mrs. John Thorp
Ms. Leslie Starr & Mr. Joseph Turner
Mr. Jack Upton
Vanguard Charitable
Ms. Emily Hanke vanZee &
Ms. Carol Hanke Teich
Mr. & Mrs. Linden H. Welch
Ms. V. Moss & Mr. Flawn Williams III
Mr. & Mrs. James E. Williams
Mr. & Mrs. David Williamson
Ms. Theresa York
Ms. Roberta Safer & Mr. Klaus Zwilsky

Farm Program

ACLT would like to offer its sincerest thanks to the following people who are supporting our Double Oak Farm "ASC" Program:
Ms. Marsha Berry
Dr. Kathy Ellwood & Mr. Mike Ellwood
RADM & Mrs. James B. Greene, Jr.
USN (Ret.)
Mr. R. T. West

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Post Office Box 2363
Prince Frederick, MD 20678

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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.