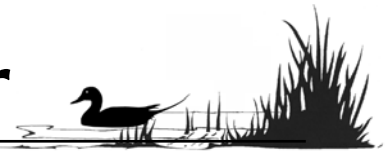


Watershed Observer



NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN CHESTNUT LAND TRUST
VOLUME 15 NO. 3, FALL 2001

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
OCTOBER 20. SEE PAGE 3.

Land Management Endowment Fund Capital Campaign Has Successful Debut

At the May meeting of the ACLT Board of Directors, the Administration/Fundraising Committee brought forward a proposal for a five-year capital campaign to substantially increase the corpus of the Land Management Endowment. The proposal was based on the very generous offer by an anonymous donor to provide a grant of \$250,000 over five years if ACLT could raise matching funds. The Board approved the proposal and a committee comprised of Ralph Dwan, Chair, Jim Greene, Mimi Lacouture and Alan Wilson was formed. Successful capital campaigns are characterized by various phases, the first of which is finding a large grantor to serve as a challenge to other funding sources. This having already been accomplished, the committee proceeded to a silent phase, which would be to raise at least 50% of the matching funds before a public appeal for support was made. A "Case Statement" was developed which describes the need and the opportunity for ACLT. It is provided herein so that all members can be aware of the steps ACLT is taking to secure our financial future. Following it you will find the current status of the campaign!

Case Statement

The Need. ACLT has reached a point in its development where it is responsible for managing the core of the Parkers Creek watershed and nearby tracts of land totaling over 2,900 acres. To meet this charge, day-to-day responsibility rests with a staff of three: Executive Director, Administrative Assistant/Volunteer Coordinator, and Land Manager. General cost increases resulting from doubling of land under management, including salaries, has brought the annual budget to just over \$200,000. Responsible management to provide security in what is becoming a semi-urban location

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CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

- OCTOBER 20 — ANNUAL MEETING
DECEMBER 16 — GREENS SALE AND HAYRIDE

SEE PAGE 5 FOR FULL CALENDAR.

The American Chestnut Land Trust joins our members in expressing our profound sympathy for those affected by the terrible atrocity inflicted upon our nation, our admiration for the many men and women serving in rescue and recovery operations and the U. S. Armed Forces, and our support of our national leaders. We pledge our continued efforts to offer the citizens of Maryland a place of quiet contemplation, reflection, and recreational diversion.



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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK ...

It is hard to believe that the year has flown by so quickly and that ACLT's Annual Meeting is almost upon us.

The Parkers Creek Celebration on June 9TH was an unconditional success thanks to many people. First, I would like to thank ACLT's partners, The Nature Conservancy (Nat Williams and Steve Bunker, in particular) and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (Mike Nelson, Deputy Secretary and Jonathan McKnight, formerly with DNR, now with the Conservation Fund). Their foresight and support of ACLT's mission has resulted in the protection in perpetuity of 1,500 beautiful acres on the north side of Parkers Creek. Next, I would like to thank ACLT's North Side Subcommittee, a subcommittee of the Land Management Committee (chaired by Jim Greene, and members Marie Bundy, Carl Fleischhauer, Ted Graham, John Little, Peg Niland and Dan Sampson) which prepared an exhaustive document that will serve as a road map for the protection and public use of the 1,500 acres on the north side of Parkers Creek for many years to come. In addition, I would like to thank our event planning committee (Joy Bartholomew, Marie Bundy, Paul Dennett, Ted Graham, and Alan Wilson) with a huge assist from Peg Niland and Dawn Rosenlund. Two other people deserve a special thank you: Dan Sampson, our ACLT Land Manager, for many, many hours of backbreaking work cutting 5.5 miles of new trails for the public to experience with welcomed assistance from his small, but hearty crew John Little, Denny Loew, Karl and Sharon Amick, Beth and Jim Cawood, Al Basil, Brian and Erin Treece, Steve Howerton, and John Santic *and* Ken Michaels, former owner of Double Oak Farm, who wholeheartedly agreed to buy everybody lunch! I hope you were one of the 220+ ACLT members, distinguished guests and friends who were able to join us.

A great deal of work has been done to lay the foundation for ACLT's obligation to manage the preserved 2,900-acre core of the Parkers Creek watershed as well as the other lands ACLT owns in the Governor's Run watershed. As you will read in our cover story, Ralph Dwan's Capital Campaign Subcommittee of the Administration and Fundraising Committee (with members Jim Greene, Mimi Lacouture and Alan Wilson) has raised \$500,000 for ACLT's Land Management Endowment Fund and the Board of Directors has adopted a plan for increasing the Fund to \$1,000,000 by the beginning of 2006. At that point in time, ACLT will be in a position to begin drawing 5% per year from the Fund's interest and appreciation to support our land management responsibilities.

In the meantime, before this Land Management Endowment Fund becomes available to sustain the commitments we have made to The Nature Conservancy and The Department of Natural Resources to manage their lands as well as our own, budget setting has become a nail-biting experience! The Board of Directors has just approved a belt-tightening, 7 percent budget cut for the remainder of this year and proposals have been written for a number of significant grants. We ask that you give extra consideration to our fall appeal letter when it arrives in the very near future. I know you will and I thank you in advance!

—Karen Edgecombe, President

AROUND ACLT ...

Correction

In announcing our Parkers Creek Celebration in the Spring Newsletter, we inadvertently misspelled Somervell as "Somerville" when announcing the dedication of properties on the north side of Parkers Creek. Our sincere apologies to the Somervell family.

Art Exhibit 2001

Greenways & Waterways

Preserving Natural Highways

The American Chestnut Land Trust (ACLT) will be sponsoring an art exhibit "Passages - Greenways & Waterways" at the Calvert Marine Museum from October 3 through October 22, 2001. This year's art exhibit is inspired by Maryland's landmark preservation program **GreenPrint**.

The GreenPrint program is designed to preserve more than two million acres of natural areas across the state. This program will provide funding to help create a network of green hubs—large amounts of ecologically significant interior forests, wetlands, rivers and streams—and strips of land to link them, providing migration corridors or "natural highways," for plants and animals.

The artists in this year's exhibit were asked to interpret their vision of this program using the greenways and waterways of Southern Maryland as their subject matter. The work varies from found object sculpture that winds you through a pathway of fanciful birds and animals to paintings with breathtaking views of our natural waterways.

This exhibition reveals the resulting splendor when environment, preservation and creativity intertwine. An Artist's Reception will be held on Saturday, October 13 from 7:00-9:00 P.M. at the Calvert Marine Museum in Solomons, Maryland. For more information about the ACLT call the ACLT office at 410-586-1570 or visit our website at <http://acltweb.org>.

UPROOT Volunteers Needed:

The American Chestnut Land Trust's Land Management Committee is assembling a team of UPROOT volunteers (our bad acronym for *Undesirable Plant Removal Organization Of ACLT*) to monitor and remove non-native invasive plant species from ACLT

land. We need your help! As a volunteer, you will receive a short training session from the Land Manager in the identification of, and removal and control techniques for non-native invasive plants. After an initial weekend meeting, volunteers can then work at their own pace and choose a schedule that best suits them. Since many ACLT members live near the land trust, volunteer work may be done when taking a hike or dog walk in the adjoining ACLT tract. Whether you choose to work individually or in a group, your efforts will help to the control non-native vegetation in Calvert County's largest remaining natural area. Please contact Land Manager Dan Sampson at 410-586-1570 or danact@chesapeake.net for more details.

ACLT Annual Membership Meeting

The American Chestnut Land Trust's annual membership meeting will be held on **Saturday, October 20** at historic Christ Church, 1/2 mile west on Broomes Island Road, Port Republic MD. Refreshments will be served at 9:30 A.M. and the meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. Members can choose between a trail hike, a canoe trip, or a work project beginning at 2:00 P.M.

We are pleased to announce that this year's keynote speaker is Jean Hocker, the President of the Land Trust Alliance. The Land Trust Alliance is the national leader of the private land conservation movement. The LTA promotes voluntary land conservation across the country and provides resources, leadership and training to the nation's land trusts, helping them to protect important open spaces. Ms. Hocker became president of LTA in 1987, just one year after ACLT began operations. At that time there were only 600 land trusts in the country. Today, there are over 1,200 land trusts and most are members of LTA. Under her guidance, LTA has influenced key federal legislation in support of land conservation, created the definitive library and information services for land trusts, developed and promoted land trust standards and practices (which ACLT adheres to), organized the nation's largest annual land conservation gathering, and helped a broad range of people understand and work with land trusts for conservation. Ms. Hocker will step down from her position at year's end and we are honored to have her as our guest.

Parkers Creek Celebration Huge Success

It really could not have been much better! The sun was bright, the breeze was gentle, the temperature mild, the barbeque delicious and the foot-stompin' bluegrass music of Elgin Perry and his band, Trespassers Will, was nothing short of fantastic. All combined to make a huge success of the June 9TH celebration of Parkers Creek and the official opening of 5.2 miles of our new "north side" trails.

On hand were over 220 ACLT members and guests, joined by former Maryland State Senator Bernie Fowler and our current Senator, Roy Dyson. The day also marked the official opening to the public of the three newly protected properties to the north of Parkers Creek, the Goldstein property (800 acres), the Ward property (adjoining Double Oak Farm) and the Somervell/Turner property.

Capping the day were the remarks from ACLT President Karen Edgecombe and two of ACLT's

most important partners in land conservation, Nat Williams, director of the Maryland/DC Chapter of The Nature Conservancy and Mike Nelson, Deputy Secretary, Land and Water Resources, Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Both Williams and Nelson were generous in their praise of ACLT and the unique role it plays in partnership with The Nature Conservancy and the Department of Natural Resources by serving as the land stewards for the protected properties in the Parkers Creek watershed area.

Nat Williams and Mike Nelson each credited Steve Bunker's tireless and successful efforts in preserving much of the land that was being celebrated. Steve, who is now with the Government Program Office of The Nature Conservancy, negotiated the acquisition of numerous properties around Parkers Creek and was on hand that day to accept the well-deserved praise.

ACLT executive director Peg Niland accepted a \$14,224 check from Mike Minges, executive director of the Chesapeake Bay Trust to provide grant support for ACLT's efforts to implement the Parkers Creek Ecosystem Restoration Plan, a multi-site project under the direction of ACLT land manager Dan Sampson. Mike was joined at the event by his wife, Fran, and their sons, Charlie and Frank, who gave a hand to their dad as he unfurled a banner-sized check to present to Peg.

Restoration projects supported by the Chesapeake Bay Trust grant are already underway and include reforestation of a portion of the bay-front buffer area on the Goldstein property to reduce sediment and nutrient runoff into the Bay, dune restoration work at the mouth of Parkers Creek and rerouting trails around Bay Critical Area habitats on the Goldstein property. The project also includes comprehensive monitoring of invasive exotic plant species control efforts and ACLT water quality program with information posted on the ACLT website and disseminated to volunteers and school groups working on these initiatives.

Special thanks for the celebration go to Ken Michael, former owner of Double Oak Farm, and longtime hunter on the lands surrounding Double Oak. The Michael Company generously donated the barbeque and beverages for the June 9TH event, which was catered by the Rod 'n Reel of Chesapeake Beach. Tents were supplied by Celebration Tents. (ACLT also thanks them for their donation.)



Speeches and presentations were hardly the only activities! Steve Stadleman, a Department of Natural Resources forester and ACLT member, provided a display on area forests and types of trees. Sandy Roberts brought along a fossil display complete with fossil identification challenges, shark stories and fun quizzes with sharks' teeth as prizes. Terry Farman, ACLT board member and Calvert County teacher, had the Calvert Middle School honors science club with her and organized children's activities including face painting, egg hunts, and scavenger hunts. But topping it all was the live reptile and amphibian display by David Dean, along with Battle Creek Nature Center's Peggy Clark and Mitzi Poole, who had kids of all ages checking out the true wildlife of the celebration.

Dan Sampson encourages ACLT members to return to the north side properties in the late fall, winter and early spring to take advantage of the magnificent, unobstructed Chesapeake Bay views from the new Goldstein property trail. Dan worked tenaciously prior to the June 9TH event to reroute old trails and establish new ones on the north side properties with



ACLT executive director Peg Niland accepted a \$14,224 check from Mike Minges, executive director of the Chesapeake Bay Trust. [Additional photos on the Web: <http://ACLTweb.org>]

an eye to minimizing erosion and maximizing good views. Dan is now in the process of completing trail blazing along the new trail network. A new north side trail guide map and pamphlet have been produced using the ACLT

Geographic Information System (GIS). Mimi Lacouture used the trail guide map as the basic design for a large painted sign at Double Oak Farm. The trail guide pamphlet includes highlights of the area's cultural and natural history.

ACLT CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- October 3 through 22** - Art Exhibit 2001-"Passages-Greenways and Waterways", Calvert Marine Museum, Solomons, Md.
- October 6 & 7** - Patuxent River Appreciation Days-Calvert Marine Museum, Solomons, Md.
- October 13** - Artist's Reception- "Passages-Greenways and Waterways" Exhibit, from 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M., Calvert Marine Museum, Solomons, Md.
- October 20** - Annual Meeting & Canoe Trip - *(reservations required)*
- October 21** - Calvert Forest Fair - Held at Battle Creek Nature Center 12:00 - 4:00 P.M.
- October 27** - "Celebrate Preservation Day" Open House hosted by the Calvert Farmland Trust-Somervell/Sherbert farm, corner of Parkers Creek Road and Rt. 765. House tours, exhibits and presentations. 12-3:00 PM
- October 27** - Tales of a Haunted Trail-A safe trick-or-treating celebration held in Annmarie Garden. Visit our booth!
- November 2** - Moonshine, Tales, and Tunes - Double Oak Farm, adult campfire hosted by Battle Creek Nature Center. Bring friends, a picnic basket, favorite beverage, and a favorite tale or tune. Reservations required.-410-535-5327.
- November 3** - Canoe Trip *
- December 16** - Greens Sale & Hayride - An ACLT favorite! Greens for the holidays, hot cider, and a hayride to the beach.

*Depart from Warrior's Rest and enjoy a scenic tour of Parkers Creek.
Reservations are a must.

Reservations can be made by telephone, standard mail, or email. American Chestnut Land Trust, P.O. Box 204, Port Republic, Maryland, 20676.
Phone: 410-586-1570, email: dawnaclt@chesapeake.net

Nut-bearing trees of the ACLT: A cultural and ecological overview

“In a more innocent time nutting parties were the most highly prized of children’s activities in autumn, throughout the eastern forest belt.... The charm of the nutting party, did not, of course, depend solely on the subsequent pleasure of cracking the rough shell and extracting the delicious, oily sweet kernel from its intricate walls. It derived much from the tingling autumn airs, the flaming forest leaves, the wild telegraphing calls of the crows, and the shouts and games of the other children.”

From Donald Culross Peattie, *A Natural History of Trees of Eastern and Central North America*, Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston.

ALCT is home to several edible nut bearing, or mast-producing trees, as known by foresters and wildlife officials. These species range from the relatively common mockernut hickory to the now endangered butternut. While the nuts from these trees now mostly serve as a much-needed high-energy food source for wildlife during the winter months, they were once a highly esteemed staple of the local rural economy. Not only the nuts, but also the wood of many nut trees has been, and is, highly valued. Since colonial times, both the black walnut and the butternut have been cherished for cabinetry, and, of course, walnut sideboards produce few nuts.

Perhaps the most plentiful nut found in local forests is the black walnut (Juglandaceae: *Juglans nigra*). Unlike the walnuts found in the supermarket derived from a



species endemic to Asia Minor, the native black walnut is relatively smaller, darker, and has a decidedly sweeter meat. The nut itself is covered by a tough yellow-green husk that quickly turns black after falling from the tree at the end of the growing season. If the meat is to be eaten, the husk must be removed as soon as possible as it imparts a poor taste to the meat. The best way to remove the husk is to lay the nuts on a gravel driveway and drive over them repeatedly until the husk has been torn away! The black walnut shell is much harder and thicker than the commercial variety, so opening the nut requires care; a hammer tends to shatter the entire nut and drive bits of shell into the meat. If Martha Stewart has a better idea, I’d love to hear it.... After husking, the nuts need to be dried in a cool area with good air circulation for at least two months to allow their natural flavor to reach its peak.

A close relative of the black walnut is the butternut (Juglandaceae: *Juglans cinerea*).



This species, also known as white walnut, is now threatened from a canker blight, but a specimen has

been found on ACLT property. The meat is reported to be oily and sweet, and was boiled by Native Americans to produce a butter. After extracting the oil, the nuts were then dried and eaten. The early colonists are reported to have pickled the nuts, and used the husks as a fabric dye.

A far more common nut in the region is the mockernut, or white hickory, (Juglandaceae: *Carya tomentosa*) that produces an exceptionally hard, thick shell that covers a small but sweet kernel.

Strachey’s *Historie of Travaile in Virginia Britannia* written in 1640 notes that: “...the Indians beat [the nut] into pieces with stones, and putting them, shells and all, into mortars, mingling water with them, with long wooden pestells pound them...until they make a mylke, or oily liquor, which they call *pocobincora*.” The name hickory is believed to have derived from this word.

Another common hickory in our forest is the bitternut hickory (Juglandaceae: *Carya cordiformis*); as the common name implies, this species is best left for wildlife.

Before blight decimated them, the American chestnut (Fagaceae: *Castanea dentata*), was once a dominant hardwood species in our native ecosystem, often growing to huge dimensions and in nearly pure stands in certain areas. The American Chestnut Foundation notes “...[the] chestnut was a cen-



tral part of eastern rural economies. As winter came on, attics were often stacked to the rafters with flour bags full of the glossy, dark brown nuts. Springhouses and smokehouses were hung with hams and other products from livestock that had fattened from the harvest gleanings. And what wasn't consumed was sold. Chestnut was an important cash crop for many families. As the year-end holidays approached, nuts by the railroad car-full were shipped [from Appalachia] to New York and Philadelphia and other big cities where street vendors sold them fresh-roasted." With the continued work of dedicated breeders and geneticists, blight resistant chestnut trees may once again repopulate their natural range providing nuts for both wildlife and humans alike.

While these nuts may be sampled in woods of the land trust, we ask that they not be collected in quantity. In addition to producing once sought after nuts as already noted, the wood of many, especially the walnut and hickory, was highly valued for lumber and often fuel. As a result, the reproductive potential of these species was dramatically reduced. The legacy of these actions is a landscape depauperate of these mast-bearing species. ACLT's goal of restoring our forest to a more nearly native state is dependent on the successful spread of these species that still survive from an earlier time. With your help, ACLT, and those organizations like us, can provide a glimpse into our natural and cultural past and future.

Dan Sampson

Bow Hunting Season Opened September 15TH

Fall is a beautiful time of year to be outdoors, and we want hikers and hunters to be safe while enjoying the ACLT properties. Hikers need to be aware that the bow season for deer starts September 15, 2001 and lasts until the end of January 2002. During that time, hunters will let you know of their presence on the Gravatt tract by displaying a fluorescent orange sign at the parking lot, and, at Double Oak, by placing a large orange cone adjacent to the parking area. Double Oak hikers can also check the location of any hunters present on a 'sign in' map above the green sign in box on the white shed.

Please be safe by signing in when hiking, wearing bright colors, and staying on the established trail system.

Note: There is no hunting on Sunday, and Double Oak Farm is reserved for hikers on Saturdays between 10 A.M. and 3 P.M. All trails on the north side including Double Oak Farm will be closed during the two-week shotgun season that begins November 24 and ends December 8.

Workplace Giving

Workplace giving is an easy and cost effective way to support the tireless work going on across the state to ensure a safer, cleaner environment for all of us. Monies raised through workplace giving have enabled the American Chestnut Land Trust to:

- Preserve and protect Calvert County's natural and cultural heri-

tage, increase public awareness, and enjoyment of these sites.

- Engage in environmentally responsible land management, including the protection of endangered species of plants, animals, and habitats.

Environmental Fund for Maryland

The Environmental Fund for Maryland (EFM) has kicked off its campaign season to raise money for Maryland's environmental community. EFM is a federation that represents numerous environmental organizations from across the state. EFM's mission is to raise awareness and funds for its member groups by gaining participation in public and private workplace giving campaigns so that donors can support Maryland's environment through payroll deduction. We are pleased to announce that EFM will once again be participating in the Combined Federal Campaign. *Our agency code is 6603.*

If you work for a federal, state, or local government agency, are willing out a few brochures to co-workers, and hang an EFM poster on your office bulletin board, please contact Dawn Rosenlund at the ACLT office 410-586-1570, or by email at dawn@aclt.chesapeake.net.

Maryland Charity Campaign

The Maryland Charity Campaign (MCC) is underway, and lasts from September 5TH through December 15TH. The MCC allows State employees and retirees to designate contributions through payroll deduction or one-time donations to the charity of your

choice, which we hope is ACLT. Last year, the MCC raised a record amount of over \$3.8 million.

We are pleased to announce that we are once again a part of this valuable campaign, and the American Chestnut Land Trusts agency code is 1549. There is no simpler way for you to make good things happen for so many people, and to help to preserve the beauty of our local area as well.

SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS

Mary Ellen and Ken Romney

Ken and Mary Ellen bought a house in Scientists' Cliffs in 1970, shortly after their marriage, with the idea that "we can always sell it." Needless to say, they are still there and cannot imagine living anywhere else. After a short tour with the US Army as a helicopter mechanic and four years as Superintendent of Scientists' Cliffs Service Company, Ken earned an undergraduate degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Maryland and a Master's degree in Science Administration from George Washington University. Mary Ellen has a bachelor's degree in Sociology/Psychology from the University of Maryland and worked for the Calvert County Departments of Health and Social Services. Ken worked at the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant. Ken retired in January 2000 and Mary Ellen retired in July.

Ken's hobbies include wood and metal working, vehicle and

equipment repair, reading about WWII, and gardening. Mary Ellen enjoys antiques, sewing, reading, and flower gardening. Both enjoy spending time together and with their daughter Susan and her family in Albany, NY.

Ken and Mary Ellen both remember when there was only one stoplight in Calvert County—in North Beach. While there are many more stoplights now, both recognize that ACLT has been instrumental in holding off some of the urban sprawl. Since ACLT devotes most of its resources to land preservation it is very dependent on volunteer help, donations, and used equipment, Mary Ellen helps out with the office chores and Ken works on the equipment and scrounges for materials.

Dan Sampson adds:

Our old Massey-Ferguson farm tractor has been given the complete Ken Romney treatment, which results in better care and maintenance than most vintage show cars ever see—most recently receiving a rebuilt power steering system, and a gas tank patch and a leaky head gasket replacement scheduled for this winter. And there's also the yellow Gravely mowing deck, the red mowing deck, the Ford pickup, and everything else we have that can rust, cease, or splutter.... The land trust has benefited immeasurably from Ken's help both in getting things running, keeping them running, and teaching me a lot about practical mechanics in the process. Both Mary Ellen and Ken are amazing people who we value as friends, neighbors, and volunteers.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

and to provide public access through a network of trails designated to protect the environment requires supporting our staff as well as ACLT's cadre of volunteers. Prudent planning dictates that ACLT provide for the future by moving the Land Management Endowment Fund toward a goal of \$1 million by the end of 2005. This would insure that we would be there to meet these responsibilities.

The Opportunity. ACLT has been offered a phenomenal opportunity and challenge in the form of a matching (one-to-one) grant of \$50,000 per year for the next five years (2001-2005). The Board of Directors has authorized a capital campaign to raise \$250,000 through pledges over the five years to meet this challenge.

How Does It Work? The Land Management Endowment Fund was established in 1997 by a gift of the Greene/Murphy family in memory of their parents, Mary and Jim Greene. Subsequent gifts and the allocation of receipts from the sale of transferable development rights (TDRs) have increased the fund to approximately \$175,000 including earned interest. With pledges of \$250,000 over five years and the matching \$250,000, plus assumed growth of 6% over five years, the Fund should reach \$836,000. The final step is the addition to the Fund of revenues from the sale of TDRs over the next four years, conservatively estimated at \$164,000. This will bring the Fund to the \$1 million level by the beginning of 2006. The income

earned from the fund can then be used to support that portion of the budget anticipated for land management along with the annual grant of \$20,000 pledged by The Nature Conservancy for the same purposes.

Looking Back. ACLT began fourteen years ago by recruiting charter members and negotiating the purchase of the 350-acre Gravatt properties on Scientists Cliff Road, Calvert County. With the purchase of Double Oak Farm in 1995, ACLT made a commitment, intellectually and financially, to preserve as much as possible of the Parkers Creek watershed in cooperation with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR). More property was added, until over 2,900 acres have been preserved. ACLT, acting on behalf of itself and as local agent for TNC and DNR, is now solely responsible for managing this magnificent nature preserve.

Looking Ahead. The pledge campaign undertaken by ACLT to raise the Endowment Fund to \$1 million is a start toward insuring a responsible stewardship program. We may begin now to support the future dreams of buildings restored, invasive species removed, habitats improved, and further expertise added to our staff; but ultimately a larger endowment will be required. The first step, the five-year campaign of 2001-2005, will be followed by efforts to encourage planned giving to the fund, so that it might grow to \$2 million or more. *But we must close with a*

word of caution. At each step in the current campaign, we must make certain that the Endowment Fund does not grow at the expense of annual giving, memorials, and benefit events. These form the bedrock upon which our operating budget rests.

Current Status Of The Campaign

John and Julie Campbell graciously co-hosted an event to move from the silent phase to the beginning of the public phase and share with the attendees the performance of the Satin Doll Trio that they had won at last fall's ACLT auction. As the campaign progressed, it became clear that the event would be one to celebrate our success rather than initiate a public phase. Pledges continued to come in right up to the event itself and a final tally allows us to report that we have reached our goal of \$50,000 a year for each of the next five years! Thus, \$500,000 will have been added to the Land Management Endowment by 2005!

Although we were fortunate to have reached our goal without a public phase of the campaign, the committee felt it important that we offer our membership an opportunity to participate. As noted in the case statement, we have urged donors to consider pledges to the campaign as *over and above* their normal financial support of ACLT so that the day-to-day operations of ACLT are not adversely impacted. If you wish to participate please contact one of the committee members or the office at 410-586-1570.

The Committee expresses its thanks to the very generous donors who made the Land Management Endowment Capital Campaign a resounding success. We are grateful that you made our jobs so easy and, more importantly, helped put ACLT's land management responsibilities on a more secure financial footing for the future.

Many Thanks.

Record Your Volunteer Hours

Volunteers are the American Chestnut Land Trust's most valuable resource; therefore, it is important that we have an accurate accounting of all the hours you have donated over the last year. This information is used on various reports, and when applying for grants to fund our programs. Your volunteer hours include any time donated on behalf of ACLT, whether working on a project or event, or traveling to and attending a committee meeting. Please send a note with your name, the date, the activity and number of hours to Volunteer Coordinator Dawn Rosenlund at it to: ACLT, P.O. Box 204, Port Republic, Maryland, 20676 or email them to dawnaclt@chesapeake.net.

You can also submit your volunteer hours on the Web. Visit <http://ACLTweb.org> and follow the link for "Participation." The new **Participation** page covers announcements and registration for ACLT activities and other membership services.

ACLT is very grateful for the support of our volunteers. Your many hours of time and dedication are truly appreciated!

PRESERVING LAND CORNER

A Three-Fold Preservation Success Story:

- Congratulations to the Calvert Farmland Trust for their purchase of the Somervell (Sherbert) farmhouse (circa, 1905) and 36.5+ acres located in Port Republic, including 30 acres of cleared farmland and approximately 3 acres of woodland. The Calvert Farmland Trust intends to enroll the property in an agricultural preservation district, permanently preserve it, and resell it to a conservation buyer. The asking price is \$390,000.

The benefits of preservation of the Somervell property are described by Peter Vogt, ACLT and CFT member:

“Victorian-style houses can now be seen in many Calvert subdivisions, but the Somervell house is the ‘real McCoy.’ The supply of historic houses is very limited and can only shrink further. Calvert County now has over 25,000 housing units; of these, only 713 pre-date 1925 and only 183 pre-date 1900. These numbers actually understate the rarity of the Somervell house because so many old Calvert houses have been remodeled beyond recognition. Many other old farmhouses have been stripped of their farmland acreage, but the Somervell house has both the ‘cup’ (the house) and the ‘saucer’ (the associated farmland).

“But the Somervell house is not just a rare farmhouse. It is part of an island-like tableau of historic buildings, forming what is left of the crossroads village called Port Republic. This little remainder of Calvert’s rural heritage—roughly bounded by the Estabrook house,

Christ Episcopal Church and the One Room Schoolhouse, the Beniah Bowen store, and the Somervell house—have remained almost unchanged over many decades. The Federal style (early 19th century) Dorsey Gray house, now called Destiny’s Blessing, dominates the Port Republic tableau, directly across Maryland Route 765 from the Somervell farm.

“The Somervell house is especially unique because it served as the Port Republic Post Office from its construction (1905) until October 1972, when the Port Republic post office moved to its present location. The Somervell post office was tended first by Alex Somervell (1905-1923), then by his wife Nannie (1923-1941), and finally by the Somervells’ daughter, Eloise was the longest-serving postmaster (1941-1972) in Port Republic history.”

The American Chestnut Land Trust commends CFT for their efforts to preserve prime farmland in Calvert County and is especially pleased to congratulate them on a project that combines agricultural preservation, historic preservation, and preservation in the Parkers Creek watershed! We strongly urge readers of ACLT’s *Watershed Observer* to notify anyone they know who might be interested in purchasing this historic home and acreage. Potential interested conservation buyers should contact CFT at 410-535-0432 or send an e-mail to CFT@Chesapeake.net.

- Calvert County has achieved great success in protecting properties through Maryland’s Rural Legacy program. The Rural Legacy Committee consists of representa-

tives of Calvert County, Battle Creek Nature Education Society, Calvert Farmland Trust and ACLT. The committee members contact property owners in the Battle Creek and Parkers Creek watersheds to determine whether they might be interested in preserving their farms and woodlands, rank each property that has expressed interest in participating in the program based on a point system, and then proceed in rank order to offer property owners the opportunity to either sell their property outright or sell a conservation easement. Through this program, 483 acres within the Battle Creek watershed now are protected by conservation easements. Recently, a conservation easement has been purchased on a 104-acre parcel in the Parkers Creek watershed and the Committee is actively working toward purchasing two additional parcels in the Parkers Creek watershed totaling 85 acres. Special thanks goes to Greg Bowen, Deputy Director of Planning and Zoning, for leadership and hard work in making this program such a success.

- The Nature Conservancy has gifted a very important 3-acre parcel to ACLT, making Double Oak Farm “whole” again. An access roadway was previously deeded to a neighboring landowner that ran through the southern portion of Double Oak Farm. TNC acquired this parcel when it purchased the Goldstein property and was able to deed it back ACLT as a gift.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT ...

Spring Appeal

Our sincere appreciation to the following members who generously contributed to our Spring Appeal in 2001 (updated August 1):

Ms. Margaret Addis
Ms. Frances A. Anderson
Mr. & Mrs. Roger A. Anderson
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Apple
Ms. Joy Bartholomew
& Dr. William B. Haile
Mr. & Mrs. Stanley O. Benning
Mr. & Mrs. Paul L. Berry
Mr. & Mrs. Frank R. Caldwell, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Allen W. Dischinger, Jr.
LCDR & Mrs. Freeman Dodsworth
Dr. & Mrs. William Dorsey
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph H. Dwan, Jr.
Dr. & Mrs. Glenn R. Edgecombe
Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Ellsworth
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen J. Farrell
Ms. Marjean M. Farver
Ms. Christine J. Ferrandino
Mr. & Mrs. Philip A. Fleming
Senator & Mrs. Bernie Fowler
Mr. D. Duncan Frazer
Ms. Amelia Fry & Mr. Rex Davis
Ms. Margaret C. Gilbert
Dr. Edward U. Graham
Mr. & Mrs. Edward P. Greene
Ms. Margo C. Groff
Ms. Dorothy Guy
Dr. Edward HacsKaylo
Ms. Anne D. Hanke
Mr. & Mrs. James C. Hollowell
Mr. & Mrs. Conrad L. Hoska
Mr. & Mrs. David Huether
Mr. & Mrs. Phillip S. Hughes
Mr. & Mrs. Taysir Jaouni
Ms. Paula Johnson
& Mr. Carl Fleischhauer
Mr. & Dr. William D. Johnston, III
Ms. June King
Mr. & Mrs. Steven Kullen
Mr. David R. Lewis
Mr. & Mrs. John H. Lewis
Mr. & Mrs. Walter J. Lippold
Ms. JoAnne Longhill
& Mr. James W. Borrell, Jr.
Amb. Patricia Gates Lynch
Rev. Jack E. McClendon
Mr. Don Mighell
Mr. & Mrs. Morris Mitchell
Ms. Pamela-Jeanne Moran
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Nicodemus
Ms. Margaret L. Niland

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph W. Nisonger
Mr. & Mrs. Franklin W. Nutter
Mr. Glen O. Pyles
Ms. Betty Lynn Roberts
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Romney
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph W. Showalter
Ms. Susan Slaughter
Ms. Rosalind Springsteen
Mr. & Mrs. Peter N. Stathis
Mr. Robert Steiner
Ms. Charlene A. Sturbitts
Ms. Candace Sullivan & Mr. Jule Sugarman
Mr. & Mrs. Louis D. Tacchetti
Mr. & Mrs. John P. Theriault
Mr. & Mrs. Philip Watson
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Weems
Ms. Doris B. Howe Zitzewitz

Special Event Gifts

(Contributions made for special events, outreach, membership gifts, land management and land preservation projects and tax refund gifts)
Kenneth Michael
The Nature Conservancy
The Dean Long Family
Leslie Starr and Joe Turner
Carl Fleischhauer and Paul Johnson
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sampson
Mr. Daniel Sampson
Mr. and Mrs. Howard English
Col. Caroline Van Mason
Mrs. Karen Edgecombe
Mrs. Margaret Niland
Mr. Ted Graham
Mr. and Mrs. Samuel M. Ellsworth
RADM James B. Greene, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Jaeger
Mr. and Mrs. John Schubert
Ms. Susan D. Slaughter
Col. & Mrs. Daniel Boesz
Mr. and Mrs. James T. Cavanaugh, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Philip Fleming
Mr. Richard Halberstein
Mr. Alan Wilson
Mr. Stephen Peters
Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Benning
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Berry
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Griffin
Ms. Mimi Lacouture
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Dennett
Mr. and Mrs. George Rickel
Ms. Joy Bartholomew and Mr. Bill Haile
Mr. and Mrs. George Rickel
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Stathis

New Members Since Last Newsletter (Spring 2001)

New members since Spring 2001 newsletter:

Ms. Margaret M. Addis
Mr. & Mrs. David Bowyer
Ms. Marion Burkhalter & Mr. Tom De Coster
Ms. Andrea Clarke
Mr. Jon Dean
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Dindino
Mr. Timothy Fewster
Mr. Robert Flickinger
Mr. Jeffrey Friedhoffer
Mr. Christopher Fowle
Ms. Kendra Fowle
Mr. & Mrs. Stuart Giles
Ms. Sarah Gordon
Mr. William A. Hunter
Ms. Dale Johnson & Mr. Gary Flenner
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis Larsen
Mr. Ronald Lavender, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Dean Long
Col. Kenneth W. Patrum
Mr. & Mrs. David Peterson
Mr. Donald Phillips
Ms. Nancy Rosnow & Mr. Richard Baldwin
Mr. Raymond Saah
Mr. Bryan Tenney
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Thompson
Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Tobin
Mr. Dale Trott
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Zanhiser

Memorials

A very special thank you goes out to Mr. William Hunter who donated to ACLT in memory of *Mr. Byron Hanke*.

Members Who Reached Sustaining Membership Status:

Mrs. Ethel Cahill
Dr. & Mrs. Glenn Edgecombe
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Greene
Mr. & Dr. William Johnson III
Ms. Margaret L. Niland
Col. Kenneth W. Patrum

Come Join Us!

Detach and Mail to: The American Chestnut Land Trust, Inc., P.O. Box 204, Port Republic, MD 20676

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ I (we) learned about ACLT from _____

_____ Land Saver - \$35.00

_____ Land Protector - \$60.00

_____ Land Conservator - \$150.00

_____ Habitat Protector - \$500.00

_____ Trustee of Land - \$1000.00

_____ Sustaining (Lifetime) - \$2500.00

_____ Corporate - \$150.00

_____ Youth Gift Memberships - *To encourage youth involvement with the environment, memberships will be given to eligible youth in the community. Contact ACLT office for further information.*

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 204, Port Republic, MD 20676 or call (410) 586-1570. 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 204
Port Republic, MD 20676**

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