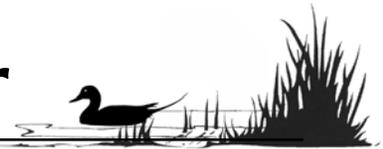


Watershed Observer



NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN CHESTNUT LAND TRUST
VOLUME 16 No. 4, FALL 2002

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Four Special Properties Preserved in Parkers Creek Watershed

For years, our members have held their breath hoping the day would come when the beautiful farm on Weems Road in Port Republic belonging to Charter Member John Axley would be counted among the preserved properties in the watershed. That day arrived this fall through an acquisition of a conservation easement with Rural Legacy funding. Very special thanks go to the Axley family, and especially Tom Axley who negotiated the terms of the easement on his father's parcel and his adjoining parcel as well. This 200-acre property connects the southernmost Goldstein parcel with the previously preserved Smith-Hance Farm. This was a complicated transaction involving The Nature Conservancy who held an interest in a small portion of the property and required the special talents of ACLT's president, Karen Edgecombe; Greg Bowen, Calvert County Rural Legacy representative; and Pam Bush, State Director of the Rural Legacy Program. An 11-acre portion of the property on the north side of Parkers Creek will have public access in the future.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

- JANUARY 25 — TOBACCO BARN AND HISTORY WALK
- FEBRUARY 8 — RUSSELL TRACT HIKE
- MARCH 29 — VOLUNTEER DAY AND WORK DAY
- APRIL 26 — EARTH DAY
- SEE PAGE 5 FOR FULL CALENDAR.



Thomas Axley, Rural Legacy Landowner receives a Certificate of Appreciation from ACLT President Karen Edgecombe and Governor Parris Glendening. The Governor, the Commissioners of Calvert County, and members of the Rural Legacy team all signed the certificates for each landowner participating in the program.



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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK ...

Visions of Paradise: Glimpses of our Landscape's Legacy, by John Warfield Simpson, a professor of landscape architecture at Ohio State University, traces the history of mankind's views about and influence on the American landscape. He starts the book by saying:

We all share a rich legacy: our landscape. It is our heritage, made visible, for it records the forces, both physical and human, that shaped it. ... This book, then, is about our landscape vision—our ability to not just be in a place for which we have little interest or understanding, but to see the landscape, to know and be captivated by it. Such knowledge enriches us in the same subtle and subconscious way as our knowing our lineage.

I liked that beginning because it recognizes not only the natural world but also the human element within it. It brought to mind ACLT's dual focus on preserving Calvert County's natural and cultural resources. The vision statement in ACLT's current five-year plan states:

We are stewards of land in Calvert County through ownership and alliances, *preserving undeveloped land and cultural heritage* through education, research, public access, and family programs.

Our dual focus is an acknowledgement that, although the majority of the lands ACLT owns and manages are presently uninhabited, that was not always the case. As Professor Simpson points out, it is important for us to understand the "forces, both physical and human" that shape our landscape in order for individuals to continue to feel a connection with the land. He concludes the book by coming back to this same theme:

While every landscape reflects its physical and sociocultural legacy somewhat, few do so significantly. In many ways, we are creating an American landscape sadly devoid of significant meaning. ... Diversity and richness are lost in the proliferation of autonomous places. The resulting homogenization diverts attention from the landscape's complete legacy ... *disconnecting people from the land.*

With access to the Chesapeake Bay, the Calvert Cliffs with their Miocene fossil deposits, Parkers Creek — "a highly complete estuary ... where a broad range of habitats lie in close association," and a history of human habitation dating back to prehistoric and colonial times, we DO have a landscape with a significant physical and sociocultural legacy to protect and to share.

In 2003, ACLT will develop a new long-range strategic plan. I have no doubt that continuing to study both the natural and human forces at work in our landscape and providing opportunities for people to know and be captivated by the land will remain our vision for the future of ACLT.

Karen Edgecombe, President
ACLT Board of Directors

AROUND ACLT

Governor Glendening Praises ACLT, Urges Further Action to Protect Land

Governor Parris N. Glendening gave the keynote address at the October 19TH ACLT annual meeting at the Christ Church Parish Hall, praising the land trust for its pioneering efforts to conserve land in Calvert County and calling for “a new movement” in the 21ST century “devoted to land preservation.” Governor Glendening’s talk capped one of the most successful membership meetings ever for ACLT where over 120 people gathered to hear the Governor’s remarks along with those of Calvert County’s Deputy Director of Planning and Zoning, Greg Bowen, whose presentation covered the County’s progress and future plans for protecting lands through the State of Maryland’s Rural Legacy Program.

Both Glendening and Bowen emphasized the rapid growth that Calvert County is facing, making

the case that action is needed now to balance the continued development of the County with further land conservation initiatives. ACLT President, Karen Edgecombe, presented Governor Glendening with the land trust’s 2002 Conservation Award in recognition of his administration’s efforts to promote Smart Growth in the state, a program and concept that has received national attention during Glendening’s tenure. Edgecombe also cited the Governor’s personal commitment to land conservation, a priority Glendening pledged to continue even when he leaves his top state position at the end of the year.

During his remarks, the Governor called for a national standard of preserving one acre of land for every acre that is developed and said, “once land is lost, it is lost forever”. He tied the importance of land preservation to public health, citing recent statistics on the sharp increase in children with asthma, where a contributing factor to their condition is believed to be related to increased air pollution. Noting that Calvert County was the first county in the state to reach its Rural Legacy Program goals, the Governor called for setting the County’s goals even higher in the future to help protect more high priority rural lands and



habitats.

County planning deputy director Greg Bowen took his audience on a “virtual tour,” starting on the banks of the Patuxent River and ending on the shores of the Chesapeake Bay, highlighting some of the County’s most important and unique environmental assets along the route including the Cypress Swamp at Battle Creek and the long, winding contours of Parkers Creek as it empties into the Bay. Bowen cited the areas where land has already been protected through the efforts of the Rural Legacy Program which now accounts for approximately 1500 acres of land in the County. Immediately after the meeting, ACLT members were given the opportunity to take a first hand look at many of these newly protected areas by taking a bus tour of the County’s Rural Legacy Program lands.

The meeting closed with

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the members of the American Chestnut Land Trust, Karen Edgecombe presents Governor Parris Glendening with ACLT’s annual Conservation Award.



awards being presented by Karen Edgecombe and Governor Glendening to County landowners that have participated in the Rural Legacy Program. Those receiving the awards were: Mr. Tom Axley, Mr. Bart Ewalt, Ms. Isabelle Gatewood, Mr. Philip Goldstein, Mr. and Mrs. James Grey, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Monnett, Mrs. Sharon Meyers and sons, Mr. Amos Young. Participants unable to attend were: Mr. and Mrs. James Dorsey, Mr. Douglas Ewalt, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lusby, Mr. and Mrs. David Porter, Mr. and Mrs. Chandler Robbins, Mrs. Margaret Young, Leslie and Barbara Bowen, and Dr. John Axley.

ACLT Board member, Ted Graham presented a special award to Emily Brownlee for her science project, *"Is the Grass Always Greener on the Other Side, Effects of Water Quality on SAV Distributions in Calvert County Creeks*. Her project won state and national honors and is based on submerged aquatic vegetation in Calvert County Creeks and her work to help restore the health of the Chesapeake Bay.

Karen Edgecombe also presented an award to outgoing Board member and former ACLT President, Joy Bartholomew, thanking her for her many years of service and leadership to the land trust. Karen noted that Joy expects her departure from the Board will only be a temporary one and, in the meantime, she expects to remain active in many ACLT programs and activities.

Paul Dennett

ACLT Winter Hike Series 2003

Tobacco Barn and History Walk – January 25

Resident folk life historian Carl Fleischhauer will lead a walk through the Goldstein Bay Farm focusing on tobacco cultivation, related farm buildings, and regional land use history. The Bay Farm represents an intact farmstead comprising a house, three tobacco barns, stripping room, corncrib, and other outbuildings. Two of the three barns are in the process of stabilization by Amish craftsmen- come see their handiwork and learn about Calvert County's tobacco landscape. The Bay Farm also provides some of the most spectacular views of the Chesapeake from anywhere in the County.

Russell Tract Hike – February 8

If you're a long-time ACLT member, you've likely heard of the Russell tract, seen it from Parkers Creek (as bluffs to the south side of the creek), but never set foot upon it. A 1938 aerial photo of the property shows fields, scattered buildings, and a road running northwesterly from Warrior's Rest to the Russell tract terminating on a bluff overlooking the Creek. Our hike will follow this old road, now overgrown in spots and surrounded by rich forest on all sides. Careful observation and reading of the landscape tells a fascinating story of prior land use, agricultural abandonment, and ecological succession. Be forewarned, the hike is a hike in every sense of the word complete with steep ascents and scrambles over and under numerous deadfalls.

Winter Dendrology – [Date to be announced. Check the calendar on the ACLT Web site or call the office.]

Calvert County is home to approximately 75 species of trees and large shrubs. While differentiating between these species can be a daunting task, especially in winter without the aid of leaves, many species are easily identified by their bark, buds, and general form. Department of Natural Resources Forester Steve Stadelman is offering a tree identification walk for the novice and tree-savvy alike. A field guide is recommended but not essential.

All hikes leave at 9 a.m. from the ACLT Gravatt trailhead, across the street from the ACLT office on the corner of Scientists' Cliffs Road and Aspen Road. Please RSVP to the office at 410-586-1570 or register from the calendar on the ACLT Web site (<http://acltweb.org>). Ideas for future hikes are welcomed.

ACLT CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 25 - Tobacco Barn and History Walk - Walk starts at 9 a.m. and reservations are suggested. See the related article in this issue for more details about this and the February hike.

February 8 - Russell Tract Hike. Meet at 9 a.m. for this event. Reservations are suggested

March 29 - Volunteer Day and Work Day - Become part of the ACLT volunteer team. Check your February newsletter for specific times. There are lots of opportunities for any interest or skill level.

April 26 - Earth Day - Volunteer crews will be working along roadsides and on selected sites. Lots of help is needed and you will be rewarded with a picnic at the end of the day's activities. Come join us!!!

April 27 - Canoe Trip*

May 18 - Canoe Trip*

June 21 - Canoe Trip*

July 20 - Canoe Trip*

September - (dates being finalized but hold open the first two weekends!) Chili Cookoff and Auction. Enter your best recipe for the cookoff, bid at the auction, and come out and enjoy the day! We'll have more details but this promises to be a wonderful event!

September 21 - Canoe Trip*

October 11 - Pumpkin Harvest Day - A wonderful new fall event for the whole family. Pick pumpkins and enjoy the ACLT trails.

October 25 - Canoe Trip*

October 25 - Annmarie Garden - Tales for a Haunted Trail

December 13 - Greens Sale and Hayride. Greens for decorating at 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 required.** Register on the ACLT Web Site (<http://acltweb.org>) by opening the calendar and clicking on the 'register' option. You can also call the ACLT office at 410-586-1570 or email Adele Connelly at adminaclt@chesapeake.net to register. Canoe trips are physically strenuous, requiring paddling for three hours (frequently against wind and tides), and may require participants to help carry a canoe for up to one-quarter mile over sand to access the Creek. Note: Event dates may change as we get closer. Check the Web site and future newsletters or call the office to confirm times and locations.

SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS

Beth Cawood

Volunteering for the American Chestnut Land Trust has been a very enjoyable and rewarding activity for my husband, Jim, and I over the past ten years. While we have not volunteered our time nearly as extensively as many of our dedicated volunteers, we have done small things that have taught us the importance of an organization like ACLT in preserving nature's balance. Some of the more memorable experiences have been helping to blaze and maintain hiking trails around Double Oak Farm, making interesting (and hopefully palatable!) dishes for ACLT events, participating in Earth Day clean-ups and festivities, assisting in amazing archaeological digs, helping to lead canoe trips through Parkers Creek (though I'm not sure if that one counts as volunteering or just plain fun!), and pulling numerous exotic invasive things off of trees. While I think the exotic invasive things grew faster than I could pull them, I like to think that we at least made a dent.

Through ACLT, I have made many friends and met hundreds of fascinating people. I have learned invaluable lessons about the importance of working with nature and working with each other. I have had the privilege of meeting many people who are familiar with Calvert County's rich history and have shared with me first-hand knowledge of traditions, values, and ex-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)



(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

periences of which I would otherwise be completely unaware. Participating in ACLT activities has inspired me to always be conscious of how my actions impact the environment and to realize the importance of protecting our delicate ecosystems. I feel that I have gained far more than I have given through volunteering with ACLT.

Many people are timid about volunteering because they feel that they may not have enough time or skills to volunteer at a level that they consider ideal. As someone who has contributed only a very small part to a wonderful organization, I hope that such constraints will not deter others from giving whatever time and help that they can. Every little bit helps. It has truly been a pleasure volunteering for ACLT and I hope to do it for many years yet to come.



Volunteers stand in front of the Percy Howard barn, across the road from Scientists' Cliffs Gate C. The barn, built in the early part of the century, was part of a small tobacco farm purchased by the Gravatt family and later sold to the American Chestnut Land Trust. Unlike many other barns on ACLT land, this structure was built quickly using materials at hand. Volunteers are working to preserve this example of our now increasingly rare vernacular architecture. From left to right: Carl Fleischhauer, Ken Romney, Dan Sampson, Meredith Westington, Marie Bundy, Curt Drumm, and Art Cochran.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

On Parkers Creek Road, the 32-acre working farm of Margaret Young was also protected by a conservation easement through the Rural Legacy program. The Young property adjoins the ACLT's original property known as the Gravatt tract. Margaret Young served as an ACLT board member. Two other properties were purchased by the County using Rural Legacy funds. The 66-acre Goldstein Property is the final parcel connecting protected property from the Bay to Route 4. This property is located on Rt. 4 and Route 765 (Main Street) in Prince Frederick. Previous proposed uses for this property included an office building and retail sales center. We offer a

special thanks to Philip Goldstein and his sisters, Margaret and Louisa, for their participation. The other property purchased in fee simple was the Dorsey Property. Formerly owned by Ethel and Clinton Dorsey, this property is located behind Wentworth Nursery and T & T Lumber on Route 4 and connects with the Goldstein property. The Calvert County Commissioners now own the property, formerly zoned rural commercial, and ACLT contributed funds beyond what was available through rural legacy to make the deal work.

Landowners of properties protected by a conservation easement retain ownership of the property but its use is restricted. The following is typical language found in the

Rural Legacy easement: *"The Purpose of this Conservation Easement is to conserve and preserve the significant conservation values and the natural, forestry, environmental, scenic, cultural, rural, woodland and wetland characteristics of the Property, maintain viable resource-based land use and proper management of wooded areas of the Property, and, to the extent hereinafter provided, prevent the use or development of the Property for any purpose or in any manner that would conflict with the maintenance of the Property in its open-space condition. This easement runs in perpetuity."*

Dan Sampson
Land Manager, ACLT

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT ...

Parkers Creek Mud Spurs Contribution

The American Chestnut Land Trust was the recent recipient of a unique and generous gift from Elsie Carper, a long-time vacationer and now full-time resident of Calvert County. Ms. Carper, a former editor of the Washington Post, has long been interested in environmental issues and supported many related local and national charitable organizations. To supplement her giving, Ms. Carper and several of her friends donate to each other's chosen charities for birthdays reasoning that at some point gifts become gratuitous, making targeted charitable giving an ideal way to honor a close friend.

Ms. Carper's great niece, Emily Hoffman, brought the ACLT to Elsie's attention after having participated in this summer's submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) planting on Parkers Creek. Emily, now a seventh grader at Plum Point Middle School, was a student last year in Terry Farman's science class who both grew and subsequently planted the SAV. The planting event gave Emily and her mother an introduction to Parkers Creek, and a close-up and personal with its mud and its muck. [Note: I saw Emily emerge from the Creek missing a shoe and totally covered in mud; this didn't seem to faze her- she went on to tell me that she was (still) interested in studying marine science!]

Based on her experience, Emily felt the Land Trust was deserving of help, and requested her great aunt ask her friends to donate to ACLT in Elsie's name. Her request was honored and we are honored that Emily felt us, as stewards of Parkers Creek, worthy beneficiaries. We thank Elsie, her friends, and Emily for making this propitious contribution possible. During the upcoming holiday season, please

consider honoring a friend or relative in this auspicious manner knowing that your gift in effect, gives twice.

Dan Sampson

New Members Since Summer 2002 Newsletter

Mr. Charles E. Alderman
Mr. Frank Beckham
Ms. Lizabeth Beighley
Mr. & Mrs. Chad Boggs
Mr. Steven Bork
Mr. & Mrs. Nat Bundy, Jr.
Mr. William Burroughs, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Perry Carsley
Mr. Charles Davidson
Ms. Bette Dixon
Mr. & Mrs. Alan Ford
LTC William Gallagher
Mr. Eddie Grierson
Miss Emily Hoffman
Mr. Jamie Houchens
Dr. Elizabeth Jordan
& Dr. Barbara Starrett
Mr. Randy Lewis
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Mansfield
Ms. Rosanna M. Mason
& Ms. Deborah Sheftz
Mr. & Mrs. Walt Munnikhuyzen
Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Murphy
Mr. Mark Myers
LTC Richard E. Nauen
Mr. John Strong Parke
& Ms. Brett Warrenn
Mr. J. Douglas Parran
The Eric Pfeiffer Family
Mr. & Mrs. Warren Prince
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Snyder
Mr. John H. Smith
Mr. Donald Steiner
Mr. Ronnie Stewart
Dr. Kenneth Tenore
Ms. Margaret Toner
Mr. & Mrs. David Uherek

Memorials

A very special thank you goes out to the following for gifts in memory of Celica Clark:

Dr. Marie Bundy
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Dwan, Jr.

Dr. & Mrs. Richard Farman
Ms. Anne Hanke
Mr. & Mrs. Walter Lippold
Ms. Mary Lowe
Ms. Margaret L. Niland
Col. Caroline Van Mason

New Sustaining Members

Mr. & Mrs. Paul McElligott

General Contributions and Designated Gifts

General Contribution:

Col. Kenneth W. Patrum

Gift Memberships:

Mr. Charles Alderman
Ms. Joy Bartholomew
Dr. Marie Bundy
RADM James Greene
Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Griffin
Ms. Margaret L. Niland
Mr. & Mrs. Charles E. Rodgers, Jr.
Ms. Avis Strong Parke

Honorary Gifts:

A very special thank you goes out to the following friends of Ms. Elsie Carper who have donated in her honor, in recognition of work done for ACLT by her grandniece, Ms. Emily Hoffman.

Ms. Jean M. White
Ms. Margery Byers
Ms. Ardith Horne
Ms. Susanna B. McBee
Ms. Helen Dewar

Contributions to the Barn Restoration Project:

Lelia Blackwell & John Watson

We would also like to thank Ms. Anne Hanke who donated in honor of Dr. Peter Vogt who she wanted to recognize as a "Good Neighbor."

Correction:

Our last newsletter listed Martha and John R. Horton as new members. They have actually been members since 1990! We belatedly welcome Mr. & Mrs. John R. Horton also of Solomons Island.

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.
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