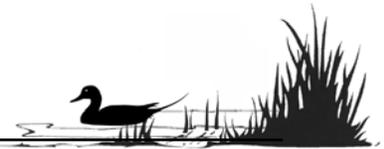


Watershed Observer



Newsletter of the American Chestnut Land Trust - Volume 20 No. 2, Spring 2006

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Saturday, June 24th, Canoe Trip

Saturday July 22nd, Canoe Trip

Saturday, October 7, Chili Cook-Off,
Silent Auction & Dance

See <http://acltweb.org> or page 8 for

It's nesting season – watch your step! (and please leash your dog)

Most people probably think that birds nest in trees, and most birds do nest in trees. But a surprising number of our summer breeding birds nest very close to the ground or right on the ground itself. Twelve bird species in our area nest almost exclusively on the ground. Most lay their eggs in shallow depressions lined with leaves, grasses and other plant material, sometimes concealed in roots or brambles and sometimes covered by leaves and loose vegetation. A few nest directly on bare ground. Seven additional species have mean nest heights less than 4 feet above the ground.

Predation is the primary cause of nest failure. Even if a loose dog or cat doesn't directly harm a bird nest or its occupants, it may leave scents in the vicinity or disturb the parent bird, either of which might lead other predators, such as raccoons, skunks, and other cats and dogs, to the site.

Some of these ground-nesting species are among those considered to be most in need of conservation by the National Audubon Society, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and other conservation organizations. Six of the ground-nesting species are FIDs, Forest Interior Dwelling species, birds which need large tracts of intact forest for successful reproduction: Whip-poor-will, once common in the area but now a rare occurrence; Black-and-white Warbler, uncommon in our area but known to breed in Calvert County; Worm-eating Warbler, an inconspicuous resident of wooded hillsides; Ovenbird, whose name is derived from the oven-shaped structure it builds to cover its nest; Louisiana Waterthrush, which nests behind roots and ferns along stream banks; and Kentucky Warbler, one of our two striking yellow and black warblers. (The other yellow warbler and black warbler, the Hooded, is also a FID, with a mean nest height of 3 feet.) The Chuck-will's-widow, though not a FID, is another woods-breeding species, which nests on the ground. It used to be common but has recently become quite scarce, with a few observations in other parts of the county or during migration.

Local ground-nesting birds in need of conservation which use brushy areas and thickets are the Northern Bobwhite, so seldom observed that it may be vanishing from the area, and American Woodcock, fewer of which have



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Eastern Towhee, courtesy
of Fran Saunders

(Continued on page 3)



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From the President's Desk ...

ACLT Welcomes a New Executive Director

One of the benefits of the "From the President's Desk" column is the opportunity to introduce the readers of the Watershed Observer to what's new at the ACLT. So it is that I am pleased to have this chance to introduce the Observer's readers to the ACLT's new Executive Director, Karen Edgecombe. Karen has been associated with ACLT for a long time, but has only been in the ED position for a few weeks. Her credentials are impressive, including knowledge of environmental law, land conservation, environmental issues in Calvert County coupled with a strong commitment to the ACLT's mission and vision.

For those of you not familiar with Karen's background, she is from Ohio, where she received her BA from Ohio State University and her law degree from the John Marshall College of law at Cleveland State University, in 1974 and 1977, respectively. For more than ten years, she was an associate and then partner with the law firm of Terris, Edgecombe, Hecker and Wayne, a public interest law firm in Washington, DC, which specialized in environmental law, historic preservation, land use and civil rights/employment discrimination. Her experience there included all of these areas; illustrative of her work was representation of environmental organizations in enforcement actions under the Clean Water Act.

From the late 1980's, she was the business manager for her husband Glenn's medical practice, was raising two daughters, and became increasingly involved in Calvert County environmental and land conservation issues. She was a member of the Calvert County Environmental Commission from 1989-1994 and served as its chair from 1992-1994 where she made material contributions to the county's efforts to preserve open space. More recently, she served as the Executive Director of the South County Conservation Trust in Anne Arundel County and as Executive Director of the Plum Point Environmental Land Trust, was a founding board member of the Calvert Farmland Trust and has been a member of the ACLT Board from 1998 until 2005. Moreover Karen was my immediate predecessor as the ACLT President from 2001 until 2003.

It continues to be a pleasure to work with Karen, first as a fellow board member and now as Executive Director. She was President when the most recent five-year plan was adopted which provides a strong vision for the future. Some of our near-term priorities are building membership, expanding the presence and impact of the ACLT in Calvert County, deciding how the Double Oak facility can best be used, taking better advantage of internet technology, and continuing to preserve land in the Parkers Creek and Governors Run watersheds. I look forward to working with Karen on these and many more issues and invite each of you to get to know her better as you think about contributions you may want to make in helping the ACLT move forward.

Ted Graham
President, ACLT

(Continued from page 1)

been observed in their late-winter courtship displays in recent years.

Three other local bird species nest on the ground but are not considered to be threatened: Black and Turkey Vultures and Wild Turkey. The vultures may also nest in abandoned buildings.

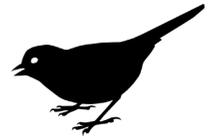
The Eastern Towhee, whose song is a cheerful “drink your teeee”, and the Field Sparrow, with a call like a dropped ping-pong ball, are species in need of conservation which nest on or just above the ground. These and the aptly named Common Yellowthroat all breed in thickets, field edges, and other brushy areas. They often start nesting at ground level early in the season and build slightly higher nests as vegetation grows, achieving mean nest heights up to 1.3 feet. Three more species in need of conservation which use the same habitat type and have mean nest heights under 4 feet are White-

eyed Vireo, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Prairie Warbler. The Prairie Warbler is on the National Audubon Society’s watch list in the “yellow” category, along with the ground-nesting Worm-eating Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, American Woodcock, and 3 other local species (Willow Flycatcher, Wood Thrush, and Prothonotary Warbler). The yellow category is less dire than “red”, to which last summer’s visiting Swainson’s Warbler belongs, but it is still cause for concern.

Though conservation of natural resources is only part of ACLT’s mission, the size and health of our protected property creates a wonderful opportunity to protect many at-risk bird species, not only for the sake of forestalling extinction but also for our own species’ continued enjoyment of these visually and aurally beautiful beings. Please be mindful of them as you (and your dog) walk the trails.

Reference: *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Maryland and the District of Columbia*, Robbins and Blom, 1996.

Leslie Starr



Around ACLT

“Silent Phase” of Capital Campaign for Land Management Endowment Fund Successfully Completed—“Public Phase” Launched

On schedule and above our goal, the ACLT has successfully concluded the silent phase of its Capital Campaign to build the Land Management Endowment Fund to \$2,000,000 which will insure that the ACLT will have the capability, far into the future, to manage all the lands for which we are responsible in the Parkers Creek and Governors Run watersheds. We surpassed the \$1,000,000 goal of the silent phase of the Capital Campaign as of December 31, 2005, with a total Fund value of \$1,037,941!

Our Capital Campaign Chair, Ralph Dwan, explained upon launching the Campaign in May 2001 that successful capital campaigns are a three-step process. First, a large grantor is secured to serve as a challenge to other funding sources. Second, a silent phase is initiated during which pledges are obtained to match the

challenge grant. Finally, once 50% of the goal has been reached, a public appeal for support is made.

The ACLT Land Management Endowment Fund

The ACLT 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. The ACLT Board of Directors has restricted expenditures from the Fund to be used solely “for the purpose of management of land owned by the American Chestnut Land Trust or land owned by the State of Maryland, the Calvert County Government or any other non-profit organization managed by the American Chestnut Land Trust.”

The Fund was designed to be flexible in that it supports the entire land management function, of which funding for the land manager position is but a subset. Expenditures from the Fund in any calendar year are limited to five percent of the principal value of the Fund thus assuring the preservation of the principal and, therefore, the means to fund our land management needs

in perpetuity.

The Fund is currently invested in a diversified portfolio of mutual funds managed by the ACLT Budget & Finance Committee, guided by an ACLT Investment Policy. As the Fund grows, however, the committee has begun to investigate the services of a professional asset manager.

The Public Phase of the Capital Campaign Begins

To reach the final \$2,000,000 goal, the Capital Campaign committee plans to concentrate its efforts on planned giving. *A planned gift is a tax-exempt donation of any amount given for any purpose—operations, capital expansion, or endowment—whether current or deferred. It is carefully considered in light of estate and financial plans and completed with the assistance of the organization’s consultants and the donor’s advisors.*

As former ACLT Board Member, Ed Greene, succinctly put it in an earlier newsletter,

“Without *your* dedication, ACLT could not have achieved the impressive results we have experienced....We hope that we can count on your continued support to further our goals. To some it may be a source of satisfaction to provide advance direction, either in the form of a bequest in your will or a trust, to ensure that, by your thoughtful planning, you will continue to support ACLT causes after you are gone.”

Over 90% of endowment assets of non-profits are derived from planned giving. This is probably due to the fact that almost all foundations refuse to give grants in order to build endowment funds, regardless of how meritorious the purpose.

The ACLT has been working with the planned giving department of Mercantile Bank & Trust. They have provided us with the names of several consultants who can assist you, or you can use an advisor of your own choosing.

The ACLT was recently notified by Jim Greene that he and his wife Susan had decided to make a planned gift to ACLT. We hope his article, “Plan a Gift to ACLT”, found on page 10, plants a seed in your own mind about ways that you can help the ACLT plan for the long-term management of the lands we so lovingly protect.

Karen Edgecombe
Executive Director

Land Management Endowment Contributors

The ACLT would like to thank the following supporters who have generously and faithfully contributed to the Land Management Endowment for the past five consecutive years (2000-2005):

Ms. Joy Bartholomew & Dr. Bill Haile
Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Benning
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Berry
Dr. Christine & Col. Daniel Boesz
Mr. & Mrs. James T. Cavanaugh, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Dennett
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Dwan, Jr.
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Ms. Susan D. Slaughter
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Stathis
Col. Caroline Van Mason, USA (Ret)
Mr. Alan Wilson
& Dr. Stephen M. Peters



Volunteer Spotlight – Richard & Guenever Aldrich

“They know how to do everything!” Liz Stoffel, ACLT’s Land Manager exclaims.

It’s true. Guenever and Richard are young, talented, and resourceful, and a stellar married volunteer team to boot. From the ACLT staff vantage point, they have a wealth of knowledge and skills. To begin, Richard is the Lead Cost Analyst for the Program Executive Office Soldier at Fort Belvoir in Virginia. Guenever works for The Mitre Corporation, a non-profit “think tank” in Washington, D.C.

Calvert County claimed them as citizens about three years ago and shortly thereafter they purchased an older house in Huntingtown that they have been bringing back to life with major construction projects ever since. In their “free” time they have thrown themselves head first into ACLT volunteer projects, starting directly after Hurricane Isabel hit our area in September of 2003. “Peter and Randi Vogt first told us about the ACLT and told us to ‘get involved or else!’ We were forced into volunteering!” explained Guenever, laughing.

I first had the pleasure of meeting Richard and Guenever at the 2004 Annual Meeting, just a few weeks after I started to work at the ACLT. They were eager to continue to volunteer and made a point to come up to me and offer their services for upcoming projects. In the meantime, I’ve enlisted them for a multitude of projects on ACLT properties, most being fairly involved.

What are their favorite volunteer activities? For Richard it is doing anything outdoors and “not having to work on our house.” He par-

ticularly enjoys barn maintenance and salvage. Guenever is crazy for mowing. “I could spend all day on a riding mower!” I think her enthusiasm for mowing has benefited the ACLT in more ways than one. Last year Richard came across two used commercial zero-turn mowers that a local landscaper was selling. He kept one for Guenever (it was her Christmas present) and donated the other to the ACLT, as well as their Sears riding mower. The zero-turn mower cuts mowing time by three quarters for most projects. “We had a personal interest in an ACLT zero-turn mower, since we are part of the volunteer mowing crew,” laughs Richard.

In the spring of 2005 I asked the Aldrich’s if they might be interested in mowing the Arboretum at Warrior’s Rest. Six full days later they had the first round of mowing completed, and had unveiled a host of other issues that needed to be addressed.

“Vines had grown up the trunks and into the trees. In order to cut the mowing time down from six days to a more manageable one day, and to get in and really remove the vines, we needed some lower branches to be pruned,” explained Guenever. “I love mowing, but that first Arboretum mowing experience left me cut, bruised and with a horrible case of poison ivy covering most of my body!”

On any given weekend you can also find them both working with the volunteer Barn Maintenance Crew at the Percy-Howard Barn, working with the Arboretum volunteers on their scheduled semi-annual maintenance, removing fallen trees on trail maintenance days, maneuvering heavy machinery on

well-filling project sites, and most recently cleaning up debris, hauling scrap metal and unloading bags of garbage on Earth Day. They seem to be able to make time for the ACLT whenever called upon, are enthusiastic about participating in seemingly any project, and always show up with tools.

Volunteering is in their blood, so to speak. Richard grew up in a conservation-minded family and volunteerism was an integral part of the mindset. Guenever’s family was likewise focused on volunteerism and encouraged her to get involved in those causes and organizations that inspired her. They are carrying on the volunteerism torch in their own family today. In addition to their work with the ACLT, Guenever is both secretary and newsletter editor for the Calvert County Historic District Commission (HDC) and Richard is their unofficial photographer.

For those of you who don’t already know the Aldrich duo, they are easily recognizable as they are almost always together with their little pug puppy, Ada Mae. If you see them, introduce yourself, they most likely have tools or knowledge to share. We appreciate their continued time, effort, and thought in the name of saving barns, mowing grass, maintaining trails, and cleaning up ACLT lands. And we thank them for continually coming back for more, even after they’ve been left “cut, bruised and with a horrible case of poison ivy.”

Seaona DeGennaro
Community Relations Coordinator

Earth Day 2006

Thunder and lightening storms were predicted all week preceding the ACLT's scheduled annual Earth Day on April 22nd. Staff had project sites lined up, dumpsters delivered, food purchased, and volunteers assembled. We in no way wanted to cancel the day's work sites, unless lightening and thunder arrived. The Friday before Earth Day, it was decided to change the location of the picnic from Scientists Cliffs South Beach to Double Oak Farm which could provide cover from the rain. Friday night we hoped that the weather would be much less severe than predicted, and lucky for us our prayers were answered.

Though the 65 plus volunteers were greeted with drizzle and rain on Saturday, April 22nd, they showed up in rain slickers, boots and hats and were promptly dispersed to different project sites from Double Oak and No Name Roads in Prince Frederick, to the end of Parkers Creek Road, Gravatt West and Percy-Howard Barn in Port Republic. Scientists Cliffs Road was speckled with individuals doing roadside pick-up and volunteer ACLT trucks traversed roads picking up full garbage bags and delivering water and empty trash bags to volunteers.

With six different project sites covered, volunteers were able to remove 100 cubic yards (7.5 tons) of trash ranging from old carpeting, drywall, mattress box springs, tires, and household debris. The 100 cubic yards of trash translated into two 40 cubic yard dumpsters and one 20 cubic yard dumpster being filled to the top at three sites.

The ACLT holds this annual event, not only to remove the debris that collects on our otherwise pristine properties, but to commemorate a day dedicated to taking care of our



ACLT President Ted Graham works in the ravines off of Double Oak Road with other volunteers. Photo by Bruce Armstrong

earth. Since a few of the project sites are revisited year after year, the ACLT asks all those who drive by, hike on, utilize, and enjoy ACLT properties to help us in being the eyes and ears of the land. If you see someone dumping debris, we appreciate you letting us know and getting a car make, model, and license plate number if possible. The goal of our Earth Day event is to educate the community, at large, on the impact of dumping and littering. Both not only affect our view-shed, but also increase health risks to our families by contaminating water resources and increasing habitat for disease-carrying mosquitoes.

We are honored to take care of each ACLT property, but certainly hope that someday we will be out of the trash-collecting business. We would prefer to spend our time and that of our dedicated volunteers on other projects that enhance the lands and waterways of the Parkers Creek and Governors Run watersheds.

Seaona DeGennaro
& Liz Stoffel



ACLT Community Relations Coordinator, Seaona DeGennaro, and ACLT Land Manager, Liz Stoffel, in a race to roll old tires onto the Earth Day tire trailer. Photo by Bruce Armstrong



Earth Day, left to right: 1.) Volunteer Ed Haack working at Gravatt West dumpsite. 2.) Double Oak Hunt Club member and ACLT volunteer, Leon Myers working in the ravines off of Double Oak Road.. 3.) Boy Scout Ronnie Carvalho and ACLT member/volunteer Norman Prince work together at the Gravatt West dumpsite. 4.) Double Oak Hunt Club member and ACLT volunteer, Steve Stanford working in the ravines off of Double Oak Road. Photos by Bruce Armstrong.

Land Manager's Corner

Marshes and Wetlands and Mosquitoes... Oh, My!

Para-phrasing Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz* when she said, "Lions and Tigers and Bears... Oh My!" exemplifies a common fear about having wet, mucky places that grow disease-carrying mosquitoes.

It is true that mosquitoes carry diseases such as West Nile, Malaria, and certain types of Encephalitis and it is true that they grow in wet, mucky places and these diseases can be serious, even fatal. However, healthy salt marshes and wetlands with balanced ecosystems should not be feared as mosquito breeding grounds, but should be valued for providing a great number of functions that make life better for us and for other wildlife as well.

Historically, major disease outbreaks came about when colonists started to drain or alter marshes and wetlands. Salt marshes and wetlands in forests (especially those created by beaver) were naturally open areas that had fewer trees to be cleared and had rich soil deposits which, once drained, made excellent land for tillage. The colonists, after constructing ditches, could use these areas for crop production and grazing lands. This was much easier than girdling hundreds of trees in an upland forest, waiting for them to die, and then burning the area to make cropland.

Salt marsh hay (*Spartina patens*) was harvested for a number of reasons because it didn't require cultivation and is resistant to rot. It was used for animal bedding, fodder, and for construction. Associated with Salt marsh

hay was also thick layers of peat, which could be used in gardens, in home building, and dried as fuel to heat homes. Salt marsh hay is still harvested in some places today and is used for erosion control bales for construction and in some drywell and septic system designs. <http://www.savebarnegatbay.org/herbarium/smarshhay.shtml> If we look at older, aerial photographs of the salt marsh on Parkers Creek, there are signs of both grazing areas (fence posts) and tillage.

Historical alterations to marshes and wetlands disturbed the natural ecology of these important areas. These ecosystems filter water, reduce toxic heavy metals and absorb nutrients, create habitat for an abundance of wildlife, and act as natural flood control areas. People have asked whether the beaver dam that has flooded the south side's Swamp Trail will bring more mosquitoes. Well-functioning marshes and wetlands (without ditches and drain fields) filter large quantities of water and act as natural flood control areas and actually produce less stagnant pools for mosquitoes to breed in than manmade storm water control ponds. A well-functioning wetland, in providing habitat areas for insect-eating wildlife (such as birds, amphibians and spiders), will also reduce the number of mosquitoes.

Current practices that reduce marsh and wetland functions can include upland construction, changes in the hydrology of an area and, even, overuse of natural areas for recreational purposes. Upland construction

increases impervious surfaces (paved roads and rooftops) that produce large amounts of surface-water sheet flow, which carry toxic materials, oils, and an overabundance of soil particles and nutrients. These materials flushed at a high rate of speed, into delicately balanced ecosystems, can overwhelm and choke a naturally functioning system. Changes in hydrology can be caused by physically re-routing water upstream through culverts, piping, and drain tiles; or can be caused by overuse of a ground water source that feeds the wetland (too many wells). Overuse of natural areas for recreational purposes poses a special problem for the ACLT.

On ACLT managed lands we have rules that try to protect the delicately balanced ecology of our forests, wetlands, and marshes. Active recreation such as bike riding is limited to only one trail which is watched closely for signs of erosion. Recent ATV activity, which is strictly forbidden on all ACLT managed lands, could cause major disturbances to our streams and wetlands.

The wetlands and marshes around Parkers Creek provide us with an abundance of unique plants and animals, clean water that flows into the bay, spectacular scenery, a place to exercise and contemplate, an outdoor classroom and laboratory, and a hope for a better future, without floods or threat of mosquito-borne disease.

Liz Stoffel
Land Manager



ACLT Calendar of Events – 2006

Saturday, June 10, 11 am – 3 pm – *Family Day at Double Oak Farm* - An afternoon of children's activities, food & outdoor fun to celebrate our 20th Anniversary of preserving the natural and cultural resources of Calvert County.

Saturday, September 9, 9 am – 12 noon – *Arboretum Work Day* - Join the *Arboretum Volunteer Crew* at the bucolic Warrior's Rest as they prune and maintain these historic trees.

Saturday, October 7 – 11th *Annual Chili Cook-Off, Silent Auction & Dance* - Enter your best chili recipe, bid at the auction, catch up with other ACLT members and enjoy the evening!

Saturday, October 21, 9 am – 12 noon – *Barn Work Day* – Interested in historic tobacco barns? Join us as we repair one of ACLT's old tobacco barns. Volunteers with carpentry skills needed.

Saturday, October 28, 11 am – 4 pm - *Tales for a Haunted Trail at Annmarie Garden* - Put on your Halloween costumes and bring the whole family for a walk through the garden trail lined with fun booths and loads of free candy. We are looking for volunteers interested in manning our booth, handing out candy and catching the Halloween spirit!

Saturday, November 10, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm – *Volunteer Appreciation Dinner* – The ACLT staff hosts this incredible evening with delicious food and handmade items to honor and thank our dedicated and faithful volunteers.

Saturday, December 9, 11 am – 1 pm - *Greens Sale and Beach Hayride* – Fresh cut evergreens for holiday decorations, drink hot cider and take a hayride to the beach. A wonderful chance to meet and reconnect with people right before the holiday season!

Canoe Trips*:

- Saturday, June 24th – Summer Canoe Trip (1 pm – 4 pm)
- Saturday, July 22nd – Summer Canoe Trip (12 noon – 3 pm)
- Saturday, August 19th – Summer Canoe Trip (11 am – 2 pm)
- Saturday, September 9th – Harvest Moon Canoe Trip (5 pm – 8 pm)
- Saturday, September 23rd – Sunset Canoe Trip (3 pm – 6 pm)
- Saturday, October 14th – Autumn Canoe Trip (9 am – 12 noon)

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

Reservations are required. Please call the ACLT office at 410-586-1570 or e-mail us at info@acltweb.org 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. Check our website at <http://acltweb.org> and future newsletters or call the office to confirm dates, times and locations.

What do well functioning wetlands, marshes and ACLT Earth Day volunteers have in common?

They all reduce breeding areas for mosquitoes.

A fairly, new invasive species to the United States is the Asian Tiger mosquito. These mosquitoes, bite all day long, hang low to the ground, are voraciously aggressive (following people inside) and they can carry disease. They do not breed in wetlands or marshes; but they do breed in bamboo shoots, holes in trees and manmade objects such as tires, gutters, birdbaths, planters, etc. A single bottle cap can hold seven larvae according to Calvert County Mosquito Control.

Every piece of manmade trash that is picked-up by ACLT volunteers reduces the breeding areas for these tiny pests. Thank you, to all the ACLT volunteers and community volunteers who worked through the pouring rain on Earth Day!

Liz Stoffel
Land Manager

Making a difference on Earth Day:

Mike and Ginger Walls, Double Oak Hunt Club members and ACLT volunteers, work together to unload debris from their truck into one of the 40 cubic yard dumpsters. Photo by Bruce Armstrong



Solutions for a Better Tomorrow

Computer Recycling

Recently the ACLT staff decided to do some spring cleaning and recycle all of the retired computers, monitors and other electronic equipment we had mounting in storage. Realizing that landfill space is at a minimum, the rate of electronic waste generated each year is massive (150,000 tons in Maryland alone), and that electronic equipment contains high levels of toxic metals such as mercury, lead and arsenic, we looked around for an environmentally friendly way to recycle or reuse the equipment. After a few days we discovered that one of the ACLT's members was affiliated with Subtractions, LLC, a Maryland electronic recycling company that "first *reuses* as many components of the computer as possible; secondly *refurbishes and remarkets* as many components as possible and lastly, *recycles* all components, including all peripherals, in a safe and recognized EPA approved method." When all was said and done, the ACLT was able to recycle seven towers including hard, DVD and CD drives, five monitors, one scanner, eight keyboards, three desk printers, four mice, and two sets of speakers all free of charge.

For more information on Subtractions, LLC, visit www.Subtractions.net or for more information on recycling everything from computers to batteries, to asphalt shingles, bricks and concrete visit <http://www.mdrecycle.org>. It feels good to know that you're doing your individual part to keep excess out of our limited landfills, keeping toxic metals out of water sources, helping to preserve natural resources, and being resourceful in reducing, reusing, and recycling whatever you can.

Seaona DeGennaro
Community Relations Coordinator

Plan a Gift to ACLT

In past articles in this newsletter, then board member Ewing Miller and others have discussed a number of planned giving avenues available to lend support to the ACLT. These articles attracted my interest so I thought I would explore Ewing's advice further and see where it led. I was pleasantly surprised at what I found! As a reminder, the term "planned giving" simply refers to directing the disposition of the assets of your estate so they go where you want them to go vice as dictated by the operation of existing law. Planned giving can be as simple as leaving a specific bequest in your will or take a somewhat more complex form such as a trust which can provide you with significant current tax benefits.

By way of background, I am 64, a retired naval officer, a faculty member at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California and on the Board of the ACLT. My wife Susan and I have long been contributors to the ACLT and my mother was among the early supporters. Susan and I first met in the ACLT watershed and enjoyed many happy days in our youth exploring the lands and fishing the waters that now comprise many of ACLT's properties. There is no doubt that the course of our lives was greatly influenced by our happy memories of these times. We believe strongly in the mission of ACLT to protect and preserve the properties under ACLT management so that future generations will be afforded the opportunity to use and love the land as we did. Susan is an artist and has captured many images of ACLT properties with her camera including a photographic installation held at the Solomon's Marine Museum a few years back as part of an ACLT sponsored exhibit of Parkers Creek related art. That installation now resides at the corporate headquarters of Adobe Systems Inc. in California so the Parkers Creek watershed even has Western exposure! We are pleased to have been able to help the ACLT over the years with financial support and wanted to commit to that support continuing for the long term. With that in mind, we

found the gifting mechanism of the Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT) well suited to our situation. Here's how it works.

Ewing Miller's previous article outlined the potential benefits of a CRT as follows:

1. a substantial charitable gift to ACLT
2. increased hassle-free income
3. a significant current income tax deduction
4. avoidance of tax on the sale of appreciated assets
5. removal of the appreciated assets from exposure to estate tax.

We were able to take advantage of all these benefits. We established a version of the CRT called a Charitable Remainder Unitrust (CRUT), which pays an annual income to us for life on a selected fixed percent (nominally 5-6%) of the asset value by transferring highly appreciated and low income producing stock assets to the CRUT. The assets in the CRUT were then sold, with no capital gains tax, and reinvested in higher income producing assets. In a very simple process and short time frame, the CRUT was set up with the advice and assistance of a local attorney at nominal cost and we retained the role as trustee of the CRUT. We also found ourselves in a situation with significant "windfall" income this year and were looking for offsetting tax deductions. The CRUT did this as well—and substantially. For example, a \$100,000 gift can generate up to approximately a \$48,000 tax deduction in the year of giving. This number can vary greatly depending on a number of variables such as age of the donor, percent payout selected, term of the trust, number of lives included (own or spouse also). Your attorney/financial advisor will have software that can run the numbers for you for any situation in an instant. It is important to know that a CRUT, once put in place, is irrevocable but it can be set up to enable change to the beneficiaries selected. Once the donor(s) are deceased, the assets of the CRUT pass to the beneficiaries.

For Susan and me, the CRUT proved to be a very effective financial planning tool and we were able to assure our long-term commitment to the goals of the ACLT. As with any estate/financial planning decision, consult with your attorney or financial advisor to see if a CRUT might work for you as well. For more information, contact Executive Director Karen Edgecombe at the ACLT office.

James B. Greene,
ACLT Board Member



ACLT Board Member Jim Greene and his wife, Susan Hyde-Greene

Thank you for your support ...

New Members

The ACLT would like to welcome the following new members who have joined since the Winter 2006 Newsletter:

Mr. Roy Malmrose
Ms. Kathryn Miller
Mr. Kevin Smith
Ms. Amelia Von Gohren
Ms. Diana F. Wood

Memorial Contributions

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

Donation made in memory of Charles Manning, ACLT Charter Member and person chiefly responsible for naming the "American Chestnut Land Trust":

Amb. Patricia Lynch Ewell
& Mr. Julian Ewell

General Contributions and Designated Gifts

General Donations

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Baldo
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Dennett
Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Fowler
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Griffin
Ms. Laurie Kauffman
Ms. Margaret L. Niland
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Nisonger
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Straka

Honorary Gifts

Contributions made in honor of the marriage of Ethel Dutky and Alvin Wilson:

Ms. Alisa DeGeorge
Mr. & Mrs. John Lucas
Mr. Steve Wilson
Mr. & Mrs. Dwight Wolkow

Donation for Land Acquisition:

The Elsie Carper Charitable Foundation

Donations made through the Mary-

land Charity Campaign

Ms. Elaine L. Bailey
Ms. Elizabeth K. Vanden-Heuvel

Donations made through the Environmental Fund for Maryland Federation

Mr. Richard Ahern
Mr. Robert Boyd
Mr. Thomas Brown
Mr. David Campbell
Ms. Sandra Draham & Mr. Kevin Boissonneault
Mr. Mark Gorsak
Ms. Margery Hoffman
Ms. Jessica Holmberg
Mr. Bruce Hudson
Ms. Elizabeth Johnston
Ms. Mollie King
Mr. Gary Loew
Amb. Constance Morella
Ms. Jeannette Petersen
Ms. Charlene Sturbitts
Mr. Dale Trott
Mr. Patrick Verdin
Mr. Peter Woodside

New Addition to the ACLT Plant List

The ACLT Web site has a list of plants found in the ACLT area that was compiled in 1986 (see <http://acltweb.org> and look under Natural Resources).

The original list did not include the oneflowered broomrape (*Orobanche uniflora*) and it is easy to understand why. This is a parasitic plant that lacks chlorophyll. The stalk with a single flower is 3–10 inches tall and is pale lavender to whitish in color.

David Farr spotted this one while stretched out on an ACLT trail photographing another wildflower.

Happy hunting!



Haiku

by Jane Klemer,
ACLT member & supporter

Stepping Out

*Egret wears long black stockings
Like a can-can girl
At the Moulin Rouge.*

Music to My Ears

*Wood thrush,
Purest of all birdsongs
Principal flautist of the forest.*

Once Upon a Time – Old Barn

*Then, a well-stocked larder
Now, a wounded soldier
With an empty sleeve.*

Come Join Us!

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

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 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**

**NONPROFIT
ORGAN
PERMIT NO
15
PORT REPUBLIC
MD**

**Family Day
At Double Oak Farm on
June 10th**