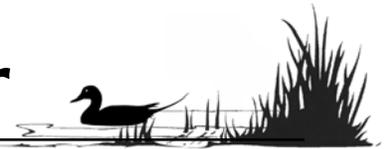


Watershed Observer



NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN CHESTNUT LAND TRUST
VOLUME 16 No. 1, WINTER 2002

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CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

MARCH 2 — VOLUNTEER DAY

APRIL 6 — CANOE TRIP

APRIL 20 — EARTH DAY

SEE PAGE 7 FOR FULL CALENDAR.

THE PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTION OF THIS NEWSLETTER WERE SUPPORTED BY A GRANT FROM THE CHESAPEAKE BAY TRUST.

Work Begins on Chesapeake Bay Trust Funded Restoration Projects

This past summer, ACLT accepted a major grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust at the Parkers Creek Celebration (see Fall 2001 *Watershed Observer*, p. 4-5). In the midst of hotdogs, hikes, and the hootenanny, ACLT was presented with a check for over \$14,000 for the restoration of degraded habitats on state protected lands managed by the American Chestnut Land Trust. The grant has allowed us to make significant progress toward several Bay-related ecological restoration goals while expanding our established base of ACLT volunteers. By utilizing volunteers from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Wildlife and Heritage Division, Calvert County Forestry, National Wildlife Federation, and the Maryland Native Plant Society, we will expand our outreach to the community and to other environmental organizations.

The following is a description of the three major site-specific projects (Trail Reroute, Reforestation, and Dune Restoration). All of these restoration projects are ongoing, providing volunteers an opportunity to work with ACLT and our partners on a variety of projects, each stressing links to the ecosystem health and ecological integrity of the Chesapeake Bay.

Trail Reroute Around Sensitive Critical Area Habitats

When ACLT assumed management of the Goldstein property in 1999, an existing trail network passed through several wetlands and sensitive areas containing State threatened and endangered plant species. We were granted funds to reroute the trails away from these sensitive areas, and, in conjunction with the Maryland Native Plant Society, turn the trail into a self-guided interpretive natural history trail.

Prior to beginning trail work this past summer, a small group of volunteers from the Maryland Native Plant Society walked the "bootleg" trail in early fall 2000 and again in spring, to identify areas of concern and to begin a survey of rare flora. Wetland areas along and adjacent to the trail were delineated and potential reroutes were located and evaluated. Initial work to reroute the trail was performed by volunteers from the National Wildlife Federation who cleared sections of the trail deemed acceptable in their current location. Subsequently, volunteers from the Double Oak Hunt Club, ACLT, and a representative from the Potomac Conservancy constructed two wooden bridges and sections of boardwalk. A third bridge was constructed in late fall by Calvert High School environmental educa-

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK ...

"If the odds are long and you keep trying, that's who you are. If the odds are long and you quit, then that's who you are. And if the odds aren't long and the outcome is a sure thing, who needs you?"

Anonymous

When ACLT was formed in 1986 to promote the preservation and improvement of natural resources in the watersheds of Parkers Creek, Governor's Run, and Battle Creek the odds of preserving 6,500 acres in these three watersheds were not only long, they were astronomical! Now, according to Peg Niland's report in the Land Acquisition Corner, approximately 6,255 acres have been preserved in the Parkers Creek and Battle Creek watersheds. Almost 300 additional acres are preserved in the Governor's Run watershed. This successful preservation story, like most success stories, is based on the hard work and dedication of many, many people of which the ACLT and its members are a very significant part.

Everything we do at the ACLT is directed towards continuing to build on what has been achieved to date. In 2001, ACLT made great strides in a number of areas that helped the organization grow stronger and, therefore, better able to achieve its mission. Ralph Dwan chaired the amazingly successful Land Management Endowment Capital Campaign that will ensure that ACLT can provide responsible stewardship of the lands we manage far into the future. ACLT continued to attract funding from foundations and corporations as well as strong support from our members to cover the necessary expenses to continue our day-to-day work.

Our membership grew by 86 individuals thanks to the tireless energy of Ginny Murphy, our volunteer membership coordinator. We celebrated our land preservation successes in the Parkers Creek watershed with over 200 guests and representatives from Maryland's Department of Natural Resources and The Nature Conservancy in June. ACLT members were entertained and informed by ACLT staff's power point presentation and by our engaging keynote speaker, Jean Hocker, President of the Land Trust Alliance at our annual meeting in October.

ACLT staff and board members were enlightened by our participation in numerous workshops with representatives of land trusts from around the country at the National Land Trust Rally in Baltimore and ACLT co-hosted a canoe trip for Rally participants at Parkers Creek with The Nature Conservancy. ACLT was honored by two awards: in April, we received the Conservationist of the Year award by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife and Heritage Division and in September, at its annual meeting, the Maryland/DC Branch of The Nature Conservancy named ACLT its Partner of the Year.

And, of course, as you will read elsewhere in this newsletter, we contributed to land preservation efforts in the Battle Creek and Parkers Creek watersheds through the Rural Legacy Program and managed preserved lands responsibly so as to enhance their natural and cultural value for the

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

public benefit and for the benefit of the Chesapeake Bay and its living resources.

IN 2002, ACLT pledges to continue to strengthen our existing partnerships and to build new ones in order to complete the preservation of the Parkers Creek, Governor's Run and Battle Creek watersheds.

– Karen Edgecombe, President

AROUND ACLT ...

The Miocene Baleen Whale Skeleton from Parkers Creek

Between May 22 and June 7, 2001, a team of paleontology enthusiasts from the Calvert Marine Museum excavated the remains of a fossil baleen whale from the second cliff south of Parkers Creek.

Early in May, fossil finder Paul Murdoch spotted the left lower jaw of a baleen whale protruding from the base of the cliff, and notified Dr. Stephen Godfrey, Curator of Paleontology at the Calvert Marine Museum. Although the jaw was missing some of its outer bony surface, it was worthy of additional attention. No more than four hours would have been required to remove this bone from the base of the cliff. However, as work began to unearth the jaw, skull and neck vertebrae were found. Needless to say, the scope of the project quickly mushroomed. Additional volunteers were called to help, and on fair-weather days over the

course of the following two weeks, Scott Werts, Bill Counterman, Paul Murdoch, Hammond Hobbs, Mike Foley, John Redick, Pam Platt, and Christy Visaggi quarried at the base of a somewhat threatening cliff south of Parkers Creek.

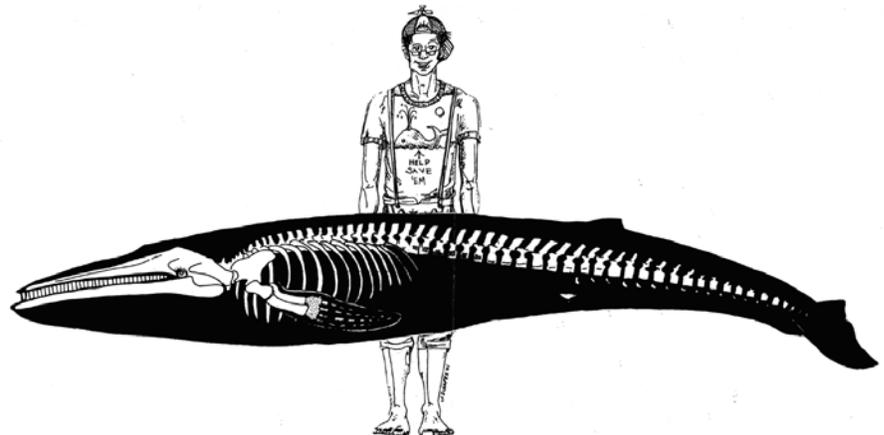
Although fossil bones are, for the most part, very hard due to their impregnation with rock-forming minerals, they are also very brittle and fracture easily. In order to transport most fossil skeletons from their site of burial to the museum, they must be wrapped, cast-like, to minimize additional breakage. This cast-like protective coat is referred to as a field jacket. It consists of numerous layers of burlap soaked in plaster-of-Paris. The Parkers Creek fossil whalebones were removed in two large field jackets, each weighing over 300 pounds. Because time constraints and weather conditions did not allow for the bones to be extracted individually, the field jacket included a large amount of the surrounding sandy silt that encased the bones. It was this water soaked sediment that accounted



Field jacket #1 being pulled from the cliff on 2x4s. Photo by Stephan Godfrey.

for most of the bulk of the jacket. The two bone-filled field jackets are now in the Museum's storage facility, where they will remain until they are completely dry. Then they will be moved to the museum where volunteers, using little more than dental picks, will carefully remove the sediments from around the bones. Eventually, they may be

Figure 1: This restoration of a whale skeleton with body silhouette is of a generic Miocene baleen whale and is included to show the approximate size of the fossil whale from Parkers Creek. Note that only the front one third of the skeleton was found.





Field jacket #1, containing the skull, centered on a kayak and ready for a short boat ride to a waiting pickup truck. From left to right: John Redick, Mike Foley, Bill Counterman, Scott Werts, Hammond Hobbs, and Pam Platt. Photo by Stephan Godfrey.

put on display at the Calvert Marine Museum.

The remains that were excavated are from a mysticete whale, (from *Mysticeti*, derived from the Greek *mystax*, meaning "moustache," and *ketos*, meaning "whale"). Mysticete whales are also referred to as baleen or whalebone whales. Moustache whales don't really have moustaches. The term refers to the hundreds of baleen plates that hang down from the margin of the upper jaw. They trap tiny creatures as the whale filters the ocean water for food. These plates are made of keratin (similar to hair or fingernail material). Because the plates are not made of bone, they are not known to fossilize.

When this whale was alive approximately 15 million years ago,

warm subtropical waters covered southern Maryland. Rivers flowing from the Appalachians into this shallow arm of the Atlantic Ocean carried sediments that buried and preserved some of the remains of both plants and animals that are the fossils that are found in the cliffs today.

A word of warning! Digging into the cliffs is **dangerous** and is **prohibited** on all state and federal lands. On private land, permission **must** be obtained from the owners before digging. If you see a skull, bone, or unusual fossil in the cliffs, please report it to the Calvert Marine Museum. The museum appreciates getting this information and, if justified by the importance of the find, will give full credit to the finder, and make every effort to obtain the necessary permission and have trained personnel collect the specimen.

ACLT Receives First Corporate Grant for Endowment Fund

Constellation Energy Group, parent company of Baltimore Gas and Electric, has made the first corporate gift to ACLT's Land Management Endowment Fund. This \$10,000 donation shows Constellation Energy Group's commitment to long-term management of the resources of Calvert County outside of their plant site. As reported in our last newsletter, a major drive is underway to increase this fund to \$1 million, enabling ACLT to draw from its interest return for land management expenses. Constellation Energy Group promotes the efficient use of energy products

and supports community efforts that encourage environmental awareness and improvements. ACLT has received many years of support from BGE through grants for salaries, renovations to Double Oak Center, a computer and other office supplies. Our land manager and director work with the company's forester, their community volunteers, and their public affairs representatives. We are especially pleased that Constellation Energy Group has stepped forward to make the first, and significant, corporate contribution to our Endowment Fund.

Grants that Fund Programs

The ACLT has also recently been awarded a generous grant from The MARPAT Foundation designated toward salary expenses of the Executive Director to meet dual challenges. First, to continue negotiations with landowners whose properties are not yet preserved within the Parkers Creek watershed and second, to ensure responsible management of the existing and newly acquired properties utilizing ACLT's staff and 170+ volunteers. MARPAT Foundation makes grants to organizations based in or benefiting the greater Washington Metropolitan area for projects related to education, healthcare, cultural affairs, and science. The MARPAT foundation has been a long-standing supporter of ACLT mission. Its first grant was awarded in 1991 for the part-time salary of our, then, Administrative Assistant and has continued to support this position over the years as

it developed into the position of Executive Director.

We gratefully acknowledge other grants awarded to ACLT for 2001: The Nature Conservancy (\$20,000), U.S. Bank (\$35,000), Maryland Historic Trust (\$16,000), and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (\$14,225).



From Warrior's Rest...

On December 16, 2001, ACLT hosted the annual greens sale and hayride at Warrior's Rest. The weather was perfect, the turnout was great, and everyone seemed to have an enjoyable time. This year pine, spruce, magnolia, and several festive holly types were available. Bringing these lovely evergreens inside gives us an opportunity to appreciate the wonderful smells and take in the beautiful detail of the many different species.

Many thanks to those that came together to make this ACLT event another great success! Marie Bundy, Karen Lucas, Alan Wilson, Terry Farman and Joy Bartholomew were kind enough to volunteer early in the morning the day before the event to help wire the bundles of greens together. When the sales of greens soared beyond our imagination, Joy Bartholomew, assisted by Steve Howerton, Mike Howerton and friend Melissa, and Ray Saah returned to the arboretum to cut and bundle more bun-

dles. John Campbell and Katie Hanlon were extremely kind in volunteering to handle sales again this year. The wreath and centerpiece raffle were also a success. Many thanks to Alan Wilson and Steve Peters for donating the much appreciated warm mulled cider and Peg Niland for the venison chili. They too helped to make this event a success.

Aside from the wonderful greens for holiday decorating, the hayrides that Dan Hamilton generously guides with the faithful John Deere tractor always seem to be well enjoyed! Many of the folks that joined us that day daringly climbed aboard the trailer and went off on several excursions to the rarely seen tenant farmer's house. Younger participants seemed to especially enjoy the element of adventure associated with these bumpy yet interesting rides around Warrior's Rest.

With the coming of spring we look forward to seeing everyone again for the many wonderful, awe inspiring canoe trips up Parkers Creek and other events that ACLT will host at Warrior's Rest. Anyone interested in participating in these events should consult the ACLT web site at acltweb.org or newsletters for event dates and times, or call ACLT at 410-586-1570 or Warrior's Rest at 410-495-8058.

Best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous 2002.

—Leigh Hamilton

Special thanks to Leigh and Dan Hamilton for their diligence in caring for Warrior's Rest Sanctuary throughout the year and assisting with organizing this annual holiday event. (Dawn Rosenlund, Volun-

VOLUNTEER DAY

March 2, 2002

Have you been looking for the right place to volunteer your time? Volunteers have always been the backbone of ACLT. What may not be so well known is that the hours given to ACLT by our various volunteers play a large role in helping ACLT secure grants. Grant makers tend to favor organizations that have heavy volunteer participation since that serves as the "passion" the membership has for an organization. That is why ACLT keeps detailed record of volunteer participation. We hope you will join us in furthering ACLT's mission by volunteering some of your valuable time. *We hope that you will take a few moments to fill out the Volunteer Survey insert found in this newsletter so we might know of your volunteer interests and return it to the ACLT office.*

Our activities include helping with trail blazing, science and cultural projects, water monitoring, canoe trips on Parkers Creek, Earth Day events, fundraisers, family programs, education projects and much more. If you would like to hear more about our volunteer possibilities, please attend ACLT Volunteer Day, Saturday, March 2, 2002 at Double Oak Farm in Prince Frederick. For more information call Dawn Rosenlund, volunteer coordinator at the ACLT office, 410-586-1570 or send an email to dawnaclt@chesapeake.net. Reservations appreciated. We look forward to seeing you there!

Forms are also available under "Participation" on the ACLT Web site, <http://acltweb.org>.

SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS

Janice Rodgers

As a descendant of the Cherokees in the Smoky Mountains, I grew up in the North Georgia mountains while often visiting and later working in Atlanta. As Atlanta grew rapidly in the seventies and eighties, it provided a concrete example of how sprawl and growth can ruin previously isolated, natural environments to the detriment of animals and plants, as well as humans who increasingly have lost their connection to the natural order. Supporting the ACLT is my small contribution to mitigating the detrimental effects of growth on a very important natural treasure, the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

The watershed is important to us as local residents but it is also important to the entire east coast. Our descendants will be living with the choices we make today for a many generations. ACLT is protecting a crucial Western Shore waterway and a large section of woodland. By monitoring, preserving and protecting the land they provide important information regarding the quality of our waterways, and preserve historical and cultural resources for the benefit of the public. These efforts facilitate charitable, educational, recreational, conservation, scientific and historical purposes.

Over the years I have enjoyed hiking the trails of the Land Trust with my dog Space and husband Chuck. In 2000, when circumstances gave me more free time, I decided to join the Water Quality Management Team as a Water

Quality Monitor. During the last year, I was responsible for mowing the Hance-Chesley cemetery, which dates from the early 18TH century, as well as working in ACLT's booths at various functions, painting signs, and providing general assistance as needed. I think that the water quality monitoring work ACLT is doing is especially important now because of Calvert County's decision to soon begin waste water treatment on land that drains into the last major natural Western Shore watershed, Parkers Creek.

Katie Hanlon

The words of the Italian poet Dante Alighieri, "Nature is the Art of God" invite contemplation and, for me, a sense of appreciation for the preserved beauty of the land held in trust by ACLT. I walk, with another Italian-born, my dog, "Luna," on the trails and bayside, delighting in the sense of joy that overtakes her. It's during these walks that I breathe in nature, become mindful of the subtleties of the seasons, awaken my senses and give my mind a rest. Let's face it, you really have to love where you live to share a 100-mile commute to/from Washington D.C. with other ACLT members four-days-a-week. For me, the commute is balanced by the opportunity to live on the Chesapeake Bay, have daily access to nature, and share all this with a community of friends and neighbors who cherish a common sense of place. I think it's the recognition of shared values that com-

pels so many spirited volunteers to work on behalf of ACLT.

As an ACLT volunteer I've learned about land acquisition, sites of archeological interest, GIS mapping, water monitoring, invasive species, stewardship and land management, and how ACLT works with The Nature Conservancy, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and hunting organizations. I've learned about shark teeth and fossils from a paleontologist affiliated with ACLT, about birds, including herons and osprey and bald eagles, from avid ACLT birders, and how to make venison chili from Peg Niland. I've had opportunities to canoe and kayak on Parkers Creek, and participate in annual meetings, gatherings at Double Oak Farm and events including the Chili Cook-Off and Auction and the Holiday Greens Sale. I continue to volunteer because the people associated with ACLT—the founders and individual board members, the staff of Peg, Dan and Dawn, and other volunteers—are genuinely committed to achieving what they set out to achieve and, as importantly, they're committed to have fun doing it.

As a government contractor, my firm implements projects internationally. Most of the work we do takes time to realize results. Intellectually I know we're accomplishing something when we work with transboundary environmental issues in Central Asia and Baltic States; pollution prevention and energy efficiency work in the Caucasus, India, Southeast Asia, Russia and Ukraine; landscape approaches to biodiversity, forestry and wildlife conservation in Chile, Columbia,

Madagascar, the Russian Far East and Zambia; watershed management issues in Ethiopia; and water/wastewater projects in Jordan. It's something else entirely, to have the hands-on, immediate gratification of accomplishing something by doing outreach work for ACLT and cleaning debris off the beach at Parkers Creek. You know you've increased awareness about our local natural resources on that day at Annmarie Gardens or the Calvert Marine Museum, and you can look back on a unspoiled beach while lugging a sack of junk away and feel good about it—in that hour, in that moment. I know it's cliché, but volunteering for ACLT is my way of “thinking globally and acting locally.” I consider myself blessed with extraordinary opportunities in life to do both.

LAND ACQUISITION CORNER

Rural Legacy Program Preserves Battle Creek Watershed Properties

Over the years our members have read about ACLT's land acquisitions within the Parkers Creek (625 acres) and Governor's Run (80 acres) watersheds and about acquisitions by The Nature Conservancy and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources in the Parkers Creek watershed (1,773 acres). There is, however, a third watershed within our area of concern and included in our Charter and mission statement: the Battle Creek watershed.

The Battle Creek watershed adjoins the Parkers Creek watershed at its headwaters and flows to the Patuxent River. This 12,096-acre watershed contains prime

farm and forestland, the northern most significant stand of bald cypress trees in the United States, and several significant historic sites. The ACLT does not hold title to any land within the watershed, but its board members, volunteers, and staff have been a resource for landowners to learn of the many preservation methods available through county and state programs. Preservation tools available through Calvert County include Transferable Development Rights (TDRs), Purchase and Retirement of Development Rights (PDRs), and the Revolving Loan Fund for Open Space Acquisition. State programs include easement donations to the Maryland Environmental Trust, easement sales to the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Fund (MALPF), and the program having a major impact on the Battle Creek watershed, the *Rural Legacy Program*.

The Rural Legacy Program awards funds to successful county applicants for the purchase of land or easements. Calvert County has received three grants totaling \$5.3 million from this program and is currently submitting an application for \$1 million more to complete preservation of the Parkers Creek/Battle Creek watersheds and a new application for \$2 million to begin a second Rural Legacy Area for the Island Creek, Hellen Creek, and St. Leonard's Creek watersheds in the southern portion of the county. The Calvert County Board of Commissioners has given high priority to the Rural Legacy Program which is run by Deputy Director of

ACLT CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 2 - Volunteer Day-Become a part of ACLT's team of volunteers. There are many activities to choose from, any interest and any skill level. Stop in and check us out! Being held from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Double Oak Farm in Prince Frederick.

April 20 - **Earth Day**-Volunteer work crews will be cleaning up 4 community properties on this day. End the day with a picnic and relax among friends!

September 14 - **Chili Cook-off and Auction**-Enter your favorite recipe in the chili cook-off, make your bids at the silent auction, and enjoy the sounds of a live band. You won't want to miss this one!

October 19 - **ACLT Annual Membership Meeting** followed by a Canoe trip.

October 26 - **Tales of a Haunted Trail** - A safe trick-or-treating celebration held in Annmarie Garden.

December 14 - ACLT Greens Sale and Hayride. Greens for the holidays, hot cider, and a hayride to the beach.

ACLT sponsored Canoe Trips:

April 6, May 4, June 1, July 13, August 3, and October 5.

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

Reservations are a must. Please call the ACLT office at 410-586-1570 or e-mail to Dawn Rosenlund at dawnaclt@chesapeake.net to register.

Planning and Zoning Greg Bowen. The Rural Legacy committee assembled by Greg Bowen includes county planners, legal staff, and land trusts including ACLT, Battle Creek Nature Education Society, and the Calvert Farmland Trust. The team participates in submittal of applications, ranking of properties, securing letters of willingness to participate from landowners, negotiations, and easement monitoring.

Most properties in the Rural Legacy Program are protected by easement but several in the Parkers Creek area will be protected by fee-simple acquisition. Easements not only protect land from future development, but they can protect viewsheds, provide public access, provide extra buffers, etc. This flexibility creates the need for a high level of negotiation between owners, the county (and its partners) and the state. Calvert County and its Land Trusts partners will hold and monitor easement restrictions in perpetuity through deed restriction. Properties will be monitored once every three years.

We have completed work on the first two Rural Legacy grants; the first one focused on the Battle Creek watershed and the second the Battle Creek/Parkers Creek watersheds. The first easement was very important in terms of size, location, and qualities. This tract, comprising over 200 acres, connected preservation areas to the south and north, forming a contiguous preserved area of over 900 acres along the Patuxent River. The property stretches from the Patuxent River to Battle Creek and has significant historic value as well. Another easement property not

only helps form a contiguous greenbelt along the Patuxent, but also affords an attractive view along Adelina Road. A third easement property adjoins The Nature Conservancy's land at the beginning of the Cypress Swamp. This 44-acre property will allow future public access to Battle Creek in addition to restricting development. This site is also the beginning of a 1,000-acre upland forest area, largely protected by the County TDR program.

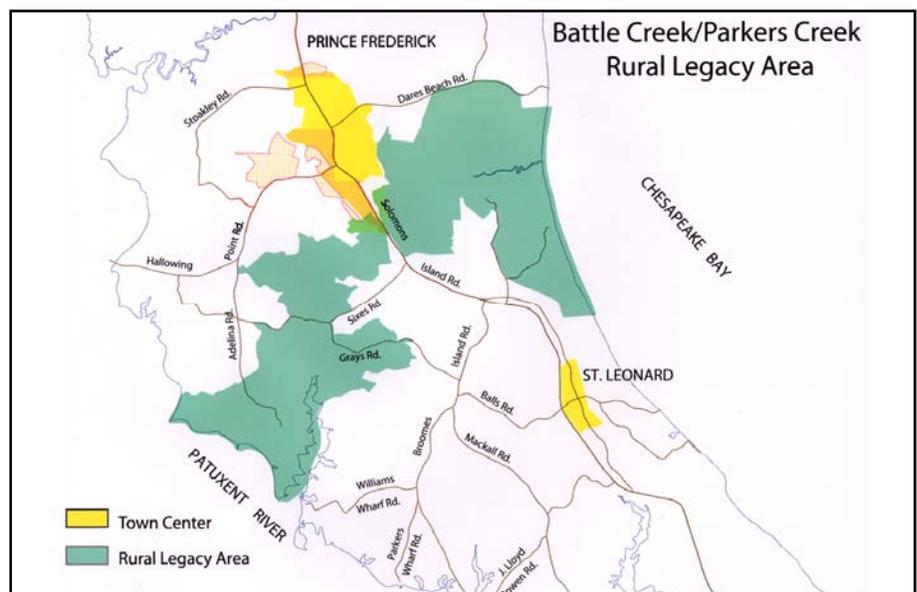
The first property preserved using monies from the second grant added another 185 acres border to the cypress swamp and provides approximately one mile of buffer along Battle Creek. The second two easements secured totaled 119 acres and connected other greenbelt properties. Funding through the second grant provided the purchase of the 206-acre Biscoe Gray property by the county and provides one-half mile of buffer along the east side of Battle Creek. The Calvert County Board of Commissioners will own the property

and it will provide public access to the creek, along with the possibility of public hunting and horseback riding. One large tract adjacent to Rt. 4 was protected by a conservation easement and two other properties sharing its boundaries are under negotiation.

The third grant of \$1.8 million is being used for negotiations for properties in both the Parkers Creek and Battle Creek watershed.

The county's long-term preservation goal is to see 8,504 acres in the Battle Creek/Parkers Creek watersheds preserved using various protection methods. Approximately 6,255 acres have been preserved, leaving 2,249 acres to preserve. By 2004, the implementation team projects that at least 80% of the goal (6,803 acres) can be met, based on the abundance of preservation tools and the willingness of property owners to participate.

—Peg Niland, Executive Director
[Contributing to this article: Greg Bowen, Deputy Director, Calvert County Department of Planning and Zoning.]



(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

tion students as part of a workshop on bald eagle habitat.

Although still a strenuous hike, the completed Parkers Creek Trail Loop will be far more environmentally friendly and accessible to small children and the elderly than previously. We hope that the natural history element will further serve to draw people to this beautiful part of the land trust.

At this writing, a majority of the trail reroute has been successfully completed, although two sections of boardwalk need to be further expanded to fully span wetland areas. And with the trail's location now fixed, we will begin to create signage and brochures for the interpretive natural history trail. Botanists and natural history buffs and boardwalk builders, we need your help! Look for volunteer opportunities this spring after trees begin to leaf out.

Calvert High School environmental science students doing hard labor in the construction of a boardwalk across boggy sections of the trail.



Reforestation of Coastal Buffer

One of the best ways to increase Bay water quality is to plant native tree and shrub species adjacent to wetlands and other water bodies. These forested buffers act as a water quality filter for the removal or reduction of sediment, nutrients, and toxic substances found in runoff. At the Goldstein Bay Farm, years of cliff erosion have reduced the vegetative buffer between cliff and agricultural field edge in some areas to less than 15 feet. CBT funded us to increase the width, and thereby the efficacy, the buffer.

In late spring 2001, Calvert County Forestry officials helped plant the one-acre buffer with native red osier dogwood, green ash, and pin oak. After planting, the trees had protective plastic tubes placed over them to protect the young saplings from browsing animals (deer and rodents) and speed up growth by trapping heat and moisture against the leaves. You can see the buffer planting in the field laying to the east of the northernmost barn on the Goldstein Bay Farm

With money left over from the buffer planting, we plan to reforest a four-acre tract on the Ward property with native pine and cedar. This area was a veritable rogue's gallery of established exotic invasives that was cleared in anticipation of replanting with various configurations of softwoods. The replanting pattern is



Volunteers from the Double Oak Hunt Club put the finishing touches on a new bridge on the Parkers Creek Loop Trail.

designed to help determine which combinations are best at preventing reinfestation by exotics. Volunteers will definitely be needed this spring to help plant the 3,000 seedlings!

Dune Restoration

One of the most special and ecologically unique areas at the land trust is the barrier beach at the mouth of Parkers Creek. The beach, a result of tides, wind, waves, sediment, and vegetation, separates the Bay from the extensive Parkers Creek salt marsh behind. Above the high tide line, a unique flora characterized by red cedar, the groundsel tree, hackberry, bayberry, and persimmon exists on the sandy infertile soils. Unfortunately, this native vegetation is being replaced with exotics including Japanese stiltgrass, Tree-of-Heaven, and the ubiquitous *Phragmites* (Common Reed). With

CBT funds, we have begun work to return this unique ecosystem to its native state.

Early this past summer, a group of approximately 15 volunteers from the Department of Natural Resources and ACLT dug and pulled weeds. The volunteers from DNR have been working the site for the past four years and have pledged to return in 2002 to carry on this long-term restoration project originally started by ACLT member and former DNR official, Jonathan McKnight. Additional work by ACLT staff and volunteers disposed of the weed refuse (to prevent the pulled plants from rerooting) and began to remove the larger woody invasives.

While large patches of Common reed and knotweed remain, the total area infested has been steadily reduced since the initiation of the project by DNR in 1998. While pulling weeds is not an activity that typically elicits rapturous excitement from volunteers, the work is essential and the results rewarding. Please consider helping with this important project; after all, it's a day at the beach!

The Calvert student volunteers at the end of a hard day atop a newly completed bridge.



Water Quality Monitoring

The ACLT has been performing important water quality monitoring on Parkers Creek since 1998. The program was designed to track water quality conditions and change, both intimately tied to land use/land cover. As such, Parkers Creek acts as a proxy to changes in the watershed that will likely include further development, agricultural abandonment, and additions to conserved land. The program has taken on added importance with the county's decision to place a spray irrigation wastewater treatment plant directly adjacent to the Creek.

The program measures nutrient concentrations, suspended solids, temperature, salinity, and chlorophyll *a* at three locations along the Creek (chlorophyll *a* is an indicator of the abundance of phytoplankton—see the ACLT Web site (acltweb.org) for more information). While we ACLT volunteers collect the samples and perform much of the prep work, the actual analysis is performed by an outside laboratory. However, testing costs money. Recognizing this fact, CBT has provided funds to upgrade our sampling equipment and pay a portion of the lab testing. Volunteers are, of course, always needed to help with this important program.

Members of our Water Quality Monitoring team take samples from three locations in Parkers Creek. Tests are performed every other week on a rotating basis and must be performed

regardless of the weather. These intrepid volunteers hike long distances through heat, chiggers, mosquitoes, and briars of summer and cold, snowy, slippery, or muddy conditions in winter – then they prepare the lab samples in an outdoor shed. Other members of the Water Quality Monitoring team are: Diane and John Smith, Ted Graham, Pat and Ginny Murphy, Nancy and Len Baer, Mickey and John Reed, Jill and John Menassa, Erin and Peter Woodrow, Art Cochran, and Marie Bundy.

Each of these land-based projects has a direct influence on the water quality and hence the ecological health of the Chesapeake. With an ever-expanding urban and suburban population added to the already 15 plus million living within the watershed, careful stewardship of our remaining natural areas is all the more important. Recognizing this charge, the Chesapeake Bay Trust has provided invaluable assistance to organizations such as ACLT to provide environmental outreach and stewardship. ACLT and our volunteers thank CBT wholeheartedly for the generous contribution toward our common goals of ecological restoration, volunteerism, community outreach, and education. *Remember, funding for Chesapeake Bay Trust grants come from the purchase of Chesapeake Bay license plates.*

—Dan Sampson
ACLT Land Manager

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT ...

Fall Appeal - A Tremendous Success!

Concerned with the change in our national's economy, a decrease in gifts after the events of September 11, and our inability to cultivate several new sources of foundation funding, we turned to our membership once again with a very strong request for the Fall Appeal. Needing to make this our biggest fall campaign in our history, we asked four special benefactors to leverage your gifts by providing a 50% match to every donation. Our goal was to raise \$20,000 from our membership, with a \$10,000 match. We are happy to report that the campaign was a great success and want to thank everyone who participated. As of the newsletter press deadline, we were just about to reach our goal of \$30,000!

We thank the following people for your generous support:

Mr. & Mrs. Roger Anderson
Mr. & Mrs. William Arms
Ms. Joy Bartholomew & Dr. William Haile
Dr. & Mrs. Robert Bartlett
Dr. & Mrs. Charles Bennett
Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Benning
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Berry
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Blackman
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Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Cochran
Dr.'s Judith & Donald Dahmann
Ms. Amelia Davis & Mr. Rex Fry
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Dennett
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Mr. & Mrs. Allen W. Dischinger, Jr.
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Rev. Jack McClendon
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Hon. Constance A. & Anthony Morella
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Ms. Margaret L. Niland
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Nisonger
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Dr. Stephen Peters
Dr. & Mrs. Austin Platt
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Ms. Susan Slaughter
Ms. Leslie Starr & Mr. Joseph Turner
Mr. Robert Steiner
Mr. & Mrs. Jeremy Stone
Ms. Charlene Sturbitts
Ms. Candace Sullivan & Mr. Jule Sugarman
Mr. Sherman J. Suter
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Swinton
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Mr. & Mrs. Henry Trentman
Mr. & Mrs. John Turner

Mr. Ernest J. Umberger
Ms. Mary Walker
Mr. Wilmer J. Waller
Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Warner
Mr. & Mrs. James M. Warnock
Mr. James E. Williams
Mr. Alan Wilson
Dr. & Mrs. D. Montgomery Wood
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Zahnizer
Mrs. Anne Zehner

New Members Since Fall 2001 Newsletter

Ms. Elizabeth Cuthill
Mr. Serge Ducharme
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Ewalt
Ms. Frances D. French
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Gandolf
Ms. Monika Gorzelanska & Mr. Jonathan Chappell
Mr. Jeffrey Greene
Ms. Elaine Koogler & Mr. Jim Garm
Honorable & Mrs. Warren Krug
Mr. Edward R. Landa
Mr. & Mrs. Doug Ripley
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Roscoe
Ms. Kathryn Schneider Smith
Mr. Ted Spicknall
Mr. Sherman J. Suter
Mr. William A. Wright

New Corporate Membership

Ms. Lisa Paterson of Paterson Preferred Properties

Reached Sustaining Membership Status

Mr. James W. Fallon

Memorials

A very special thank you goes out to Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Dwan, Mr. & Mrs. Craig Drumheller, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Fuller, Mr. & Mrs. William Hosler, Ms. Joyce McDonald and Mr. Robert Tigner for donating to ACLT in memory of Mr. Daniel Priest.

Honorary Gifts

A special thank you goes out to Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Povich for their donation to ACLT in honor of Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Dwan.

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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