

American Chestnut Land Trust, Inc.

Post Office Box 204
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NEWSLETTER

Volume 4 - Number 4

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New Look for the Newsletter

You will probably notice that a different paper is being used for the newsletter. Beginning with this issue, the ACLT newsletter will be printed on recycled paper.

Annual Membership Meeting

The fourth Annual Meeting of the American Chestnut Land Trust will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, October 28, 1990, in the Christ Church Parish Hall on Broomes Island Road, Port Republic, MD. We are honored this year to have as our principal speaker the Honorable Louis L. Goldstein, Comptroller of the Treasury of the State of Maryland, noted conservationist, historian, member of ACLT since 1987 and now, on Parkers Creek, one of ACLT's closest neighbors. Our schedule:

- 9:45 a.m. Sign in
- 10:00 a.m. Business Meeting
- 11:00 a.m. Program
- 12:00 Noon Picnic luncheon
- 1:00 p.m. Guided tours of the ACLT property

To make reservations for the luncheon, please return the enclosed registration form at your earliest convenience, but *before October 15*, so we may give the caterer ample notice. If you plan to attend the meeting but not stay for the lunch, please make note of that, too, so we can set up the appropriate number of tables and chairs.

The weather has been glorious for each of our last three meetings. The autumn colors have been at their peak while the air has been crisp and cool—perfect for the apple cider intermission on the church lawn or the after lunch walk in the woods with fellow members and a knowledgeable guide. Should there be rain this year, our guides will plan to meet with you in small groups to talk about what you might have seen along their section of trail and what to look for on your next sunny day's hike.

For individual or family members (two per household) and our special guests there is no charge for the luncheon. If you would like to bring a guest or children, please enclose a contribution of \$6 for each additional person. Some members have wanted to make contributions to help defray the costs of the meeting. This is strictly voluntary.

If you have a question you would like to have the Board address at this meeting, please let us know on the back of the reservation form. We will plan to work it into

the agenda.

Mary Loew, the coordinator of the Annual Meeting, will need extra hands for last minute arrangements, set-up, service and clean-up on the 27th. Please call her at 586-0529 to volunteer your help.

ACLT Board Elections

The terms of five board members expire this year, and these positions will be filled at the October Annual Meeting. The Nominating Committee considers individuals who 1.) are willing to serve on projects in addition to regular Board meetings; 2.) appreciate conservation of natural resources; and have 3.) skills in performing Board oversight responsibilities, and 4.) an understanding of ACLT's impact on our neighbors and other constituencies at large.

At the Annual Meeting, the Nominating will recommend the following slate of individuals for a three-year term:

- Carl Fleischhauer (current Board member)
- John Hollowell (new Board member)
- Aileen Hughes (current President)
- Mark Switzer (current Board Member)
- Robert Ulanowicz (current Board member)

Other nominations will be accepted from the floor at the Annual Meeting. These nominees are expected to meet the same criteria as has the proposed slate.

The ACLT Board extends its deepest appreciation and best wishes to Dan Boez, who is going off the Board with the expiration of his term this year. Dan has taken a position with United Airlines as a pilot and is Commander of the reserve transport squadron at Andrews Air Force Base which has recently been called to active duty in the Persian Gulf crisis. ACLT will miss his expertise and wise perspective. Dan has served as chairman of the all-important Land Management Committee and the Nominating Committee, as well as in other capacities. ACLT, and Dan himself, are looking forward to when he can again be active in the land trust.

Board of Directors

- Aileen R. Hughes, President
- Peter Vogt, Vice President
- Ralph H. Dwan, Jr., Secretary
- Daniel Priest, Recording Secretary
- Gary A. Loew, Treasurer
- Daniel L. Boesz
- Stephen M. Bunker
- Donald C. Dahmann
- Carl Fleischhauer
- Oliver S. Flint, Jr.
- Sue Hamilton
- Joseph Steller, Jr.
- John Mark Switzer
- Robert Ulanowicz
- Caroline E. Van Mason

The Nominating Committee for 1990 is comprised of Ralph Dwan, Ed HacsKaylo and Joe Steller (Chairman). The committee appreciates all of the interest and suggestions from the Board and ACLT members.

—Joe Steller, Chairman
Nominating Committee

Board of Directors Meeting

The next regular meeting of the ACLT Board will be Saturday, December 1, at 8:30 a.m. The Board meets at the Battle Creek Cyprus Swamp Nature Center. Members are welcome to attend.

Hance (Cedar Gate) Parcel News

Having to respond to a solicitation of bids by October 1 required us to send out a special fund-raising mailing. In the week since the letter went out we have had a good response from the membership. Let us hope our bid will be accepted by the Hances.

—Peter Vogt

Welcome to New Members

Thirty-three new members have joined ACLT since we last published the names of our newcomers. To all of them we extend the warmest of greetings and look forward to having the opportunity to become better acquainted whether it is along our trails, together in a work party or at one of our regularly scheduled Board Meetings. We hope all of our new members, those who have joined since our last Annual Meeting, will be able to attend our luncheon meeting on October 27th as *special guests*. These events are always happy occasions and a wonderful opportunity to make new friends.

Ms. Donna Barnard Ari

Mr. Ed Barbee

Mr. Glen O. Blough

Mr. & Mrs. A. W. Dischinger, Jr.

Ms. Karen H. Edgcombe

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth P. Eldridge

Lt. Col & Mrs. A.E. Fournier

Mr. & Mrs. Alan E. Fusonie

Mr. Craig Gorsuch

Ms. D. Jane Klemer

Brig. Gen Richard J. Mallion

Ms. Linda S. Matthews

Mr. & Mrs. Robert F. McQueeney

Mr. & Mrs. Morris Mitchell

Ms. Mona Monger

Ms. Sonja Mulrone

Mr. Ronald C. Nunnally

Ms. W. Michael Phipps

Pat & Sandy Snead

Mr. & Mrs. Jeremy Stone

Mr. Carl Updike

Jennifer Wagner & Robert Vessey

Mr. Robert G. Webster

Thank you, Arnold Petty

Our trails are a pleasure to walk these days. Arnold Petty, tired of waiting for a bushhogging contractor to show up, took matters in his own hands and single-handedly cleared miles of trails with his heavy duty mower. There are other major Petty contributions. In the Spring with the help of friends, he built and installed the privy and subsequently from left-over wood built and installed two benches along the trail toward the chestnut tree. He supervised the planting of the chestnuts seeds and also coordinated with John Axley the planting of 3700 loblollies in several of the cut-over areas. Among other things, Arnie is responsible for the ACLT firewood program. We don't expect Arnie to slow his pace any time soon, but there are some jobs that are too much for one man—opening the canopy and clearing the trails through the laurel groves, for instance. How about putting your

name on our roster of woodland volunteers that we can draw on when help is needed. Send a card or note today to Box 204, Port Republic, MD 20676, to sign up. As the work is seasonal, it may be some time before you receive the call for your help; it will not be because we have forgotten you. If you want to be notified when firewood will be accessible, again this year, please send your name and phone number to ACLT Firewood at the same address.

—Aileen Hughes

And Our Thanks to Another Volunteer

Julie Nisonger provided the drawing of the map with updated the trails and landmarks for the new Map and Trail Guide which was included with the July newsletter. Copies are available in the sign-in box at the ACLT parking lot.

—The Editors

Outreach Committee

In the July newsletter we announced the recipients of the two scholarships that ACLT awarded for students attending the Gifted and Talented program for school children in the State of Maryland. We were happy to receive letters from the two students we supported, Holly Reynolds of Northern Middle School and Kyleb Wild of Calvert High School. Holly has written: "I learned all about air, land and water pollution and how to prevent it. This trip gave me knowledge of my environment and a lifetime of friends. Thank you...." Kyleb says: "This camp was both mentally and physically challenging. I would recommend this course to anyone who loves nature. Thank you...." He followed this with a week at a Forest Conservancy Camp in western Maryland where Peter Vogt was an instructor.

In December our Committee will be announcing the two winners of the ACLT Scout Conservation Award.

—Elaine Cochran, Chairman
Outreach Committee

On Membership

We have learned from recent telephone calls by the Membership Committee that not everyone understands that active Regular membership (other than the \$2500 Charter or Sustaining Lifetime) in the ACLT is contingent upon payment of minimum *annual* dues of \$25 for an individual or family membership. Ideally this is paid on the anniversary date of the original membership, but technically it may be paid anytime during each calendar year. To conform to our Bylaws, we are expected to move members whose dues have fallen more than 12 months behind to the inactive rolls and discontinue the mailing of the newsletter. Before we put anyone on inactive status, we make every effort through letter or phone call to learn why a membership has been allowed to lapse. We are most reluctant to sever connections with any of our members at any time, but it is of *legal* significance that our membership statistics conform to reality. We trust, too, that our members realize that \$25 per membership at our present level of enrollment does not provide enough revenue to cover our operating costs let alone up front money for surveys, title search and appraisals for new land acquisition or preservation. For this we must count on contributions over and above the basic \$25. Voting at

the Annual Meeting is contingent upon an up-to-date membership. The date in the right-hand corner of the mailing label on this newsletter is the *last date* on which a contribution was recorded. If it is prior to October 1, 1989, it is time to renew. If this is the case, a membership coupon and return envelope is enclosed for your convenience. Please respond today.

—Aileen Hughes

Dogwood Diseases

Many of you have probably read or heard about a disease that is killing dogwoods in our area. Since I've been asked about this disease, I thought it might be worthwhile to review the current knowledge about some of the common diseases of dogwoods.

About 50 species of dogwoods (*Cornus*) are found in North America, Europe, and Asia. Dogwoods come in a variety of sizes from the prostrate *Cornus canadensis* which is found in boreal zones or at high elevations as far south as West Virginia, to the striking, moderate-sized trees that form such a conspicuous part of the onset of spring. While we all associate dogwoods with showy flowers only a minority of species produce the large conspicuous flowers. In the eastern US there are two species that have showy flowers, *Cornus florida* ("flowering dogwood") and *Cornus kousa* ("Japanese dogwood"). The flowering dogwood produces flowers before the leaves come out and is the most common form in our area. The flowers of the Japanese dogwood come out after the leaves have appeared. The flowering dogwood is native to this area, whereas the Japanese dogwood has been introduced. In western North America there is another species (*Cornus nuttallii*) that is quite similar to our flowering dogwood.

Several fungi attack the leaves of dogwoods. The first sign of their presence is the formation of small, more or less round purplish spots on the leaves. The spots will enlarge to form a central brown area surrounded by a purple margin. The spots may coalesce, and in severe infections much of the leaf will be covered with spots and there may be premature defoliation. While these "leaf spot" diseases disfigure the leaves, they rarely cause death of the trees. However, in the early 1970's a new, more serious disease of the flowering dogwood was described from New York. Since then that disease has spread throughout the eastern US.

This new disease has become known as "dogwood anthracnose" and is caused by the fungus *Discula*. It starts like the leaf spots described above, but in addition, large irregular brown blotches form on the leaves. What makes this new disease so destructive is its ability to spread from the leaves to twigs and eventually to the trunk. The first symptoms are the leaf spots and leaf blotches. This is followed by the dieback of the twigs. As the disease continues trunk sprouts may appear. These are new branches that develop along the trunk where you would generally not expect to find new branches. The appearance of trunk sprouts indicates an advanced infection and the probable death of the tree within a year or two. I have been told that a tree can die within three years after the leaf spots first appear.

Dogwood anthracnose disease appears to represent a serious threat to the existence of the flowering dogwood, *Cornus florida*. Apparently it is quit hard to find mature

flowering dogwoods in New York State. Catoctin Mountain National Park in Maryland has lost many of its dogwoods. Dogwoods in the ACLT have the disease. As mentioned above, the disease is found throughout the eastern US. However the density of infection varies from area to area, probably reflecting the erratic movement of the fungus rather than the presence of resistant trees.

A recent publication from the US Forest Service says that control of the disease is difficult. They go on to say that "dogwood trees that are adjacent to natural stands of dogwoods may be more susceptible. Prune any dead wood in the tree before it reaches the main trunk. Destroy the pruned wood to eliminate any sources of fungus from the area. Water during droughts, protect the root zone with a mulch and fertilize according to soil analysis. Avoid fertilizers with a high nitrogen content on trees with anthracnose. Do not transplant dogwoods into urban areas from trees dug in the woods. You may be transporting the disease into an area where it did not previously occur. Contact your Cooperative Extension Service for fungicide disease control recommendations."

The eastern and western flowering dogwoods are the only species of dogwood that are susceptible. The Japanese dogwood appears to be quite resistant to the anthracnose disease and I have seen disease-free specimens of this tree in close proximity to diseased flowering dogwoods.

In summary, dogwood anthracnose is a destructive disease of the flowering dogwood. There is no fully effective cure. The final impact of the disease on the dogwood population remains to be seen, but current knowledge suggests little reason for optimism. I hope 30 years from now I don't have to tell people what a beautiful sight it was to see the dogwoods in the spring.

The bulletin mentioned above, "Growing and Maintaining Healthy Dogwoods," is available from the USDA Forest Service, Southern Region, 1720 Peachtree Rd. NW, Atlanta, GA 30367-9102.

—David Farr (301)937-8160

New Membership Committee Organized

Except for professional legal services, CPA taxes and audit, surveys and appraisals, ACLT continues to be an all-volunteer grass roots effort. We raise our own funds, keep our own financial records, rely on our own judgment on how best we can communicate to our members the annual dues and contribution requirements for our Operating Fund, and look for ways to add new members to our rolls. This year, extended the privilege of using the mailing list of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, we added to our membership 32 families representing 47 individuals living throughout Calvert County from Chesapeake Beach south to Solomons. To help with on-going member follow-up, Board Member Caroline Van Mason recruited a team of long-time ACLT members to make telephone calls to help us understand why some memberships have been allowed to lapse or why some ACLT neighbors chose never to join in the first place. Not every call has produced a new membership or renewal, but in every instance, we found that people were willing to share their views, were not resentful of the calls and gave us better sense of what support we might anticipate from some of our members and friends. Although this personal approach takes a good deal of time and effort on the

part of a few (asking people for money is not a favored pastime for most of us) we think it preferable to going "professional" to raise our funds. To all members of Caroline's team, Roger Fuson, Frances Feagan, Magda Freeman, Nedd Fried, Anne Moore (Membership Chair), Norman Prince, Sr., Hope Theriault, and Ernest Umberger, our sincerest thanks.

Chestnut Tree Planting Update

This past spring we planted 103 American Chestnut seeds. The seed were enclosed in the tall pink tubes (tubex) in the cut-over area near the tobacco field. We currently have 62 chestnut seedlings from about 12 inches to 53 inches in height. The tubes will remain in place and serve as the principal support for the seedlings for five to seven years. The tubes will also protect the tender seedlings from the deer. By the time the tubes biodegrade the chestnut trees should be large enough to be free standing and tall enough to avoid serious damage by the deer.

Much to our dismay we discovered the tubes were serving as a fatal trap for bluebirds. At the time the discovery was made, fourteen bluebirds had been trapped with thirteen dead. The remaining bird appeared to be in good health and flew away when it was released. The tubes were immediately covered with a screen. There have been no birds trapped since the tubes were covered. The tubes are checked regularly to make certain no further tragedies of this nature occur.

—Arnie Petty

Long-range Planning Committee

At the January 1990 Board meeting, Dan Priest proposed the formation of a long-range planning committee for ACLT. The purpose of this committee would be to develop realistic goals and identify the means of achieving them. The idea was accepted by the Board, and current committee members are Gary Loew, Dan Priest (Chair), Joe Steller, and Mark Switzer.

Gary Loew has drafted a five-year plan based on the committee's deliberations. In it, ACLT'S objectives are stated as:

- To promote for the benefit of the general public the preservation and improvement of natural resources principally in, but not limited to, that section of Calvert County, Maryland, containing the watersheds of Parker's Creek, Governor's Run and Battle Creek.
- Promoting the study of and education regarding such natural resources.
- To use all ACLT properties and earnings for the public benefit and for charitable, educational, recreational, conservation, scientific, cultural and historic purposes.

The plan itself focuses on seven major areas: management practices, land preservation, land management, outreach, membership, public affairs and fund raising.

The committee will report on the proposed plan at the Annual Membership Meeting on October 27 and there will an opportunity for member response.

—Dan Priest

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