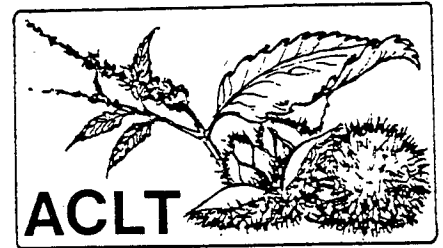


American Chestnut Land Trust, Inc.

Post Office Box 204
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NEWSLETTER

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September 30, 1987

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Message from the President

By the time you receive this newsletter we will have settled on our purchase of the Gravatt/Miles property and the focus of our efforts will shift from acquisition to enjoyment. But enjoyment means responsible management, so I ask you to review the Rules and Regulations that are printed in this newsletter and retain your copy for future reference. It is an abbreviated version of the Rules and Regulations adopted by the ACLT Board for the beginning of land trust management.

One item needs comment, since Bow Season for the hunting of deer has already started. The ACLT property will be posted and no hunting or trapping is allowed except by written permission. Some on the Board wanted to eliminate any hunting for the first year. Although that position was not adopted, efforts will be made to limit access for hunting. Please report to a board member any evidence that someone may be hunting without permission and use caution in walking the trails, especially during Deer Season (firearms) which runs from November 28 to December 5.

We hope to see you at the annual meeting on October 24 and the slide lecture on October 11 by Philip Rutter of the American Chestnut Foundation.

Treasurer's Report 9/28/87

The current status of our accounts listed below shows, for the first time, that we have sufficient funds in the bank to go to settlement. We have \$327,021 in our accounts. Combined with the \$85,000 down payment, the total is \$412,021. We will require approximately \$405,500 to settle, not including some legal fees which can be paid somewhat later. Getting there has been more exciting than your average weekly TV program. At our last ACLT Board meeting on Saturday, September 26, we were approximately \$3,000 short of what we needed to go to settlement on October 1st. We didn't know that at the time, however, because we didn't have a final figure for the settlement costs. Today, John Jones called with the settlement costs, approximately \$5,400. We were, indeed, about \$3,000 short. This evening, Elaine Cochran informed me that she had deposited an additional \$9,770 today. As you can see, every dollar contributed has counted. I will have a detailed report for the October 24th Annual Meeting.

First Annual ACLT Membership Meeting

This is your opportunity to participate, to learn and to state your views, to elect directors, and to meet your fellow members.

Date: October 24, 1987 at 10:00 a.m.

Place: Christ Church Hall on Broomes Island Rd.

A lunch will be served after the meeting followed by a tour of this new Calvert County nature preserve. It is important for the ACLT Board to know the approximate number attending, so please return the enclosed registration form by no later than October 12.

Board of Directors

- Ralph H. Dwan, Jr., President
- Peter Vogt, Vice President
- Elaine V. Cochran, Secretary
- Gary A. Loew, Treasurer
- Frank R. Caldwell, Jr.
- Austin F. Canfield, Jr.
- Donald C. Dahmann
- Oliver S. Flint, Jr.
- Edward Hacskaylo
- John H. Jones
- Don Kollmorgen
- Daniel Priest
- Norman E. Prince
- Joseph Steller, Jr.
- John Mark Switzer
- Caroline E. Van Mason

Chestnut Expert to Speak

Dr. Philip A. Rutter, president of the American Chestnut Foundation, will present a lecture at the Scientists Cliffs Community House on Sunday, October 11, at 4:00 p.m. The Foundation, headquartered in Minnesota, is dedicated to the restoration of the American Chestnut tree. Dr. Rutter founded the Badgersett Research Farm, where he now lives. Currently more than 2,500 hybrid chestnuts are being evaluated at Badgersett. Another of his research efforts is the goal of creating viable alternative crops for areas with high soil erosion.

Directions: From Rt. 4, east on Parkers Creek Road 1/2 mile to Scientists Cliffs Road. Right on Scientists Cliffs Road. Enter at "Gate A." Straight ahead to Community House.

Land Use Rules

At its Sept. 26th meeting, the Board approved the "Rules and Regulations" proposed by the Land Use Committee. An abbreviated version follows.

Rules and Regulations—Abbreviated Version (if in doubt refer to complete rules)

1. Access to ACLT property limited to a) ACLT members and accompanying guests; b) small (less than 5 persons) public groups upon registration at main gate; and c) larger groups for educational field trips upon prior written permission from ACLT.
2. No fires or explosive or flammable materials on property.
3. No consumption of alcohol or other drugs on property. No one under the influence of alcohol or other drugs permitted.
4. No trailbikes, snowmobiles, or other motorized off-road vehicles.
5. Jeeps or other 4-wheel drive vehicles prohibited except as authorized for trail clearing, forestry, agriculture, or patrol.
6. Ordinary autos or buses not permitted except in designated parking area.
7. No dumping or littering.
8. No hunting or trapping except by written permission.
9. No collecting or removal of anything, including firewood, except as authorized by the ACLT in writing.
10. Keep dogs under your control.
11. Property closed from sundown to sunrise. No camping.
12. Stay away from dumps and structures, abandoned or not, except as designated.
13. Park in designated area only. Scientists Cliffs is a private community.
14. Use sign-up sheet at main gate.
15. Stay on trails and minimize noise.
16. Report violations to ACLT or police.
17. All persons visiting ACLT property do so at their own risk.

"Plant a Living Legacy" Award Received

In an effort to encourage interest in arboreta and other lasting beautification projects, the Bicentennial Commission is giving special recognition to projects honoring the bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution in a way that is in keeping with the spirit of permanence of the Constitution. Board member Peter Vogt submitted an application on behalf of the ACLT in which an area of about 10 acres would be set aside and designated as "Constitution Grove." The area would be maintained as a lasting memorial to the U.S. Constitution. This project is especially appropriate since settlement on the ACLT property is scheduled for October 1, just two weeks after the Bicentennial. The ACLT proposal was accepted by the Bicentennial Commission and we have received a certificate of recognition.

Land Use Committee Uses Task Force Approach

The Land Use Committee is now divided into three task forces:

Historic Preservation—Carl Fleischauer, Art Cochran, Mark Switzer

Wildlife Preservation and Trails—Don Dahmann, Oliver Flint, Ed HacsKaylo, Mac Fried

Forestry Management—Peter Vogt, John Axley, Bob Pfeiffer, Aileen Hughes, Joe Nisonger (SCA liaison)

The Historic Preservation Task Force is identifying historic sites such as ancient roadways, ruins, traces of foundations, and the old graveyard and is setting up archives related to the history of the land. It plans to enlist

the help of GW University American Studies students in research projects for the documentation of historic sites and structures using oral history as well as archival records. At the same time, the committee is exploring the means to enable traditional agricultural use of the land to continue. A program for the Calvert County Historical Society on our discoveries and progress is scheduled for September.

The Wildlife Preservation and Trail task force has identified 5-7 miles of old roads and foot trails throughout the property, many of them suitable for circuit walks or hikes. This group will meet with the State Biologist and the forester to consider areas that should be left undisturbed. Ed Hacskaylo will coordinate research on the possibility of reintroducing the chestnut. Several younger chestnut trees in addition to the large, well-known dying one, have been found on the property. Trained ornithologists will conduct an inventory of both year-round and migrating species, nesting sites and use of the property by birds.

The Forestry Management group will work directly with the Forester, Dave Chessler, to assure that the goals of the ACLT for preservation of open space, education, aesthetic enjoyment of natural areas by Land Trust members and the general public are being met, while at the same time assuring that our obligation to carry out forestry management is being satisfied. The committee is confident that the Forester and his department share our goals.

—Aileen Hughes

Progress report on cultural resources

Carl Fleischhauer, Mark Switzer, and Art Cochran—the cultural resources group within the Land Use Committee—have begun identifying and evaluating a number of sites on the trust land. They have been assisted by Peter Vogt and the staff of the Maryland Historical Trust. For descriptive purposes, the group has assigned "working names" to the sites—they warn that these names may be changed as new information emerges. The sites include the following:

1. The Chesley-Hance historic site, near the sharp bend in the road between Scientists Cliffs Gates C and D. This site includes a family cemetery and the ruins of a small number of structures. The former house at the site dates from the early nineteenth century or before. The graves, one of which marks an 1812 burial, contain the remains of members of the Hance and Chesley families.

2. The Octavius Bowen-Percy Howard historic site, a few hundred yards west of the tobacco fields opposite Gate A. This site includes a story-and-a-half frame house, a tobacco barn, and a section of old road. Orlando Ridout V of the Maryland Historic Trust said the house probably dates from the late nineteenth or early twentieth century, but that it contains a number of unique features typical of eighteenth century dwellings, evincing the conservatism of vernacular builders.

3. The Edward Carr historic site, near the tobacco fields. This consists of the ruins of a small house once occupied by Carr, a black landowner, and the ruins of one or two small outbuildings.

4. The John B. Gray-Percy Howard historic site, opposite Gate C. This site contains the ruins of small number of structures, the working barn described in item 6 below, and one standing outbuilding with intriguing hints of a very early date of construction.

5. The Old Bayside Road historic site, the remaining segments of the old road that was replaced by the Scientists Cliffs Road during the 1930s. The deep, narrow cuts that mark Bayside Road's route bespeak rudimentary but extensive farm traffic over a very long period.

6. The Woodrow Wallace cultural conservation site. This site comprises the various locations Mr. Wallace uses to grow and cure tobacco, including a bed to start new plants, the main growing fields opposite Gate A, and the curing and stripping site in the barn on the high ground opposite Gate C.

Continuing research into the Trust's cultural resources will lead to the development of a preservation plan and the creation of published reports. Mark will continue his analysis of courthouse and other documents; Peter is analyzing geological evidence, old maps, and old photographs; Carl plans to conduct some oral historical research; and the group will seek to have an archaeological survey carried out. The group is interested in knowing of other members who may be able to contribute to this work.

—Carl Fleischhauer