American Chestnut Land Trust, Inc.

Newsletter

Volume 12 - Number 2



Spring 1998

What's Happening

The Summer Season Arrives At Warrior's Rest

With the arrival of warmer weather, perhaps it is time to once again remind the members of the American Chestnut Land Trust about the mission of the Warrior's Rest Property. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources purchased Warrior's Rest from the estate of the late Dr. Page Jett in an effort to preserve sensitive habitat for several endangered species. Since endangered species protection money was used by the State for acquisition of the property, regulations stipulate that it not be open to the general public on an unlimited basis, but rather provide an opportunity for scientific research and education. ACLT schedules periodic canoe trips to which the public is invited (reservations are necessary) and any other persons or organizations may request access by submitting an application. Please be advised that access to the property is not open to walk-ins.

At the time of purchase, the ACLT was approached by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to serve as the property manager. With limited access to the property defined within the mission of the purchase, the Board of Directors of the ACLT decided that this would be a project that could be independent of the day to day operations of the Land Trust. We are working towards a formal lease agreement with the state.

During the first year of operations it became apparent that the demands of this additional project required more

staff time than originally thought. With the arrival of 1998, the management committee decided to move the operations of this project to the Warriors Rest Property and staff the operations with the resident managers.

In 1998, the management committee established an office on the property and secured a separate telephone line. In addition, the committee rewrote the brochure and made every effort to develop a user friendly access application. If you have any questions about the Warrior's Rest property, or would like to request an application for access, (at least two weeks in advance) please feel free to contact the committee at 410-495-8058 or write us at Warrior's Rest Sanctuary, 1920 Scientists Cliffs Road, Port Republic, MD

20676. Applications will be reviewed for their educational and scientific value. Scientific research applications will be subject to peer review and general education applications will be reviewed for their value by comparable programs thoughout the region. We look forward to hearing from you.

-Bob Pfeiffer

Archaeology Update

There has been a great deal of progress on the Parkers Creek archaeological survey. The area around the Double Oak Property has been completed. There were many exciting artifacts; both historic and prehistoric found throughout the property and on surrounding properties. The prehistoric

(Continued on page 6)



Do you know ...

- 1. How many acres of land have been preserved by the ACLT?
 - a) 720
- b) 810
- c) 425
- 2. When the first ACLT property in the Parkers Creek Watershed was preserved?
 - a) 1984
- b) 1989
- c) 1987
- 3. What is the size (in acres) of the entire Parkers Creek Watershed?
 - a) 7321
- b) 1934
- c) 5280
- 4. What is a TDR?
 - a) Trust Donor Right
- b) Ten Dollar Roll
- c) Transferable Development Right

See answers to these questions and more on page 4.



Newsletter of the American Chestnut Land Trust, Inc.

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Editors: Ellen and David Farr

The Newsletter is published quarterly by the American Chestnut Land Trust. The ACLT is dedicated to the preservation of Calvert County, Maryland's Natural and Historical Resources. To date the ACLT, which was founded in 1986, has preserved 810 acres and has accepted management of an additional 350 acres owned by the State of Maryland.

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From the President's Desk

It's remarkable! At our board meeting in May it became clear that ACLT is seriously into the construction business. First it was Ed Greene explaining the process for building next year's budget that our newly re-constructed Budget and Finance Committee will follow. Ed is the chairperson of that committee and the process is his blueprint. Now we will see if he can satisfy the requests of the committees within the constraints of projected revenue. Next came Leslie Starr's report on the locust poles standing in the field behind the parking lot like a platoon of tipsy soldiers—it was the work of John Lewis that promises to become the ACLT storage barn by June 20th, when the final "barn raising" will take place in conjunction with the annual Family Day event.

The final "construction" project was detailed by Peg Niland and Jim Greene. It involves building a management team for the north side of the Parkers Creek watershed, where The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has been acquiring land to be transferred to the state. A group of hunters under the leadership of Angelo Cimini, have been working with Peg and Jim plus Pat Murphy, Art Cochran, Joy Bartholomew, Dan Hamilton, and Ted Graham of ACLT to develop a structure and a program. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has made it clear that they expect us to take a leadership role in managing the land they acquire in the watershed. The team has already been at work removing tons of debris from the area and marking boundaries. Building human structures may be more taxing than fiscal or wooden ones. As Jim Greene says, "it a work in progress." Thanks to all who are working on these "construction" crews.

We are sorry to be losing Sharon Gwynn, who has served us well for eight months as part-time administrative assistant. We hope to have a replacement by mid-June. On a happier note, we congratulate Peg on the wedding of her daughter Beth on June 6th. Beth's husband is Jim Cawood who is familiar to most of us from his volunteer work at ACLT events.

-Ralph Dwan

NOTE: On May 27th, the Maryland Board of Public Works approved the state's acquisition of the Turner Family Partnership and Somervell I properties (approximately 365 acres), from The Nature Conservancy.

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Thank you for your support ...

New Members

ACLT welcomes the following new members who have joined since September 1997.

Mr. Jon Ambler

Mr. and Mrs Karl G. Amick

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Augustine

Mr. Carl Brown

Ms. Marie H. Bundy

Calvert Farmland Trust, Inc.

Ms. Laura F. Childress

Mr. and Mrs. Angelo R. Cimini

Mr. Thomas M. Crotty

Ms. Catherine De Angelis

Ms. Betsy Detwilder

Mr. and Mrs. Freeman Dodsworth

Mr. and Mrs. Dean Farver

Sarah and Nicholas Gwynn

Mr. Scott Hadley

Mr. William B. Haile

Ms. Julie Allinson Hatch

Pamela Rickel and Matt Kelly

Ms. Mary E. Kilbourne

Dr. Keith Scanlan Matlack

Mr. Alan W. Mc Donald

Mr. and Mrs. Mark Michelini

Geoffrey S. Parker

Dr. Lynn T. Redmon Ms. Penelope Rickel

Mr. Paul Rickel

Ms. JoAnn Roberts

Mr. Christopher M. Rosenlund Ms. Susan Ellsworth Shaw

Denise L. Breitburh and Mark G. Smith

Heather Harper-Troje and Eric R. Turner

Mr. David Van Kuren

Mr. and Mrs. Philip Watson

Ms. Nancy Watts

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Yuill

Mr. Joseph P. Zocchi

Special Contributors

Following ACLT's spring and fall fund raising campaigns, we always list those who have participated. Our next issue will list the contributors to the current spring appeal. However, throughout the year others make "special" contributions that often go unmentioned. The following are some of those people:

1997 Double Oak Loan Payoff

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Ambler Ms. Ruth W. Arbuckle Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Ashby

Mr. and Mrs. William Ayres

Ms. Joy Bartholomew

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Benning

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Berry

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Blackman

Dr. David Brownlee

Drs. Donald and Judith Dahmann

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Dwan

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Ellsworth

Mrs. Magda Freeman

RADM James B. Greene

Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Griffin

Mr. and Mrs. Byron Hanke

Mr. and Mrs. William Hosler

Ms. Diana Jacquot

Ms. Elizabeth Johnston

Mrs. Madelene Johnston

Ms. Lucille Jones

Mr. John Kingscott

Ms. Jane Klemer

Ms. Mimi Lacouture

Ms. Bonnie Erbe and Mr. Steve Leckar

Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Locraft

Mr. and Mrs. Gary Loew

Mr. Jack McClendon

Ms. Elizabeth Niland

The Honorable Constance Morella

Ms. Margaret Niland

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Nisonger

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Pappas

Dr. Stephen Peters

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Prince, Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. Ron Ross

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Rubino

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Showalter

Mrs. Susan Slaughter

Mr. and Mrs. George Switzer

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Tacchetti

Mr. and Mrs. John Theriault

Dr. and Mrs. Peter Vogt

Mrs. June Whitson

Dr. and Mrs. Montgomery Wood

Memorials, Youth Memberships, etc.

Dr. and Mrs. James Alison

Mrs. Ruth Arbuckle

Ms. Virginia Ayres

Mr. and Mrs. Gary Bickle

Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Bailey

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Benning

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Boesz

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel J. Boorstin

Ambassador and Thomas D. Boyatt

Ms. Betty Brickley

Col. And Mrs. L. B. Broughton

Brig. Gen (Ret) and John C. Burney

Mr. and Mrs. A. Michael Ciaburri

L. E. Investment Club

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Coffin

The Hon. Mary Ann Cohen

Ms. Erma Davis

Mr. Richard Dinning

Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Dunkle

Mr. and Mrs. Roger Dunnington, Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Dwan, Jr.

Mrs. Jefferson Feagin

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Fink

Ms. Paula Johnson and Mr. Carl Fleischhauer

Dr. and Mrs. Oliver Flint

Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Ford

Mrs. Magda Freeman

Ms. Pamela T. Gates

Mr. And Mrs. Gerald Groff

Ms. Gloria Hamilton

Mr. and Mrs. Royce Hans

Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Hansell Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Head

Ms. Roxana Homer

Mr. and Mrs. James Horning

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Horning

Mr. and Mrs. William Hosler

Mr. Phillip S. Hughes

Ms. Bertha W. Johnson

Mr. John Kingscot

Ms. Jane Klemer Gen. US Army Ret. William Knowlton

Ms. Mimi Lacouture

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Leckar

Mr. and Mrs. E. Allen Loew

Ms. Doris Lynch

Mr. and Mrs. William Malone

The Manning Family

Dr. Keith Matlack

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Matteson

The Hon. Constance and Anthony Morella

Mrs. A. B. Morgan

Mr. and Mrs. James Mulligan

Ms. Sonja Mulroney

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Nisonger

Mrs. Virginia O'Neill

Mrs. Jefferson Patterson Mr. and Mrs. Norman Prince

Mrs. George Rickel

Mrs. Betty Roberts

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Seymour Mr. E. L. Sprague

Mr. Robert Steiner

Mr. and Mrs. Robert D. Stuart Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Tacchetti

Mr. and Mrs. John P. Theriault Dr. Thomas B. Turner

Ms. Dorothy Van Keuren

Col. Caroline Van Mason

Mrs. Emmy Vogt

Dr. and Mrs. Peter Vogt

Vice Adm. and Mrs. Edward C. Waller Mrs. Helen Weldman

Ms. June Whitson

Mr. and Mrs. Merrill Wilcox

Ms. Nancy Wilcox Mr. and Mrs. Donald Williams

Mr. Everett Wilcox

Dr. David Wilson Dr. Stephen Peters and Mr. Alan Wilson

Mrs. Doris Howe Zitzewitz

Special thanks to Christ Church for the donation of several small cedar trees to augment the cedar row at the main entrance to ACLT.

In Only 10 Years ...

The American Chestnut Land Trust has preserved or has assisted in preserving over 2,000 acres of land in Calvert County since 1987. Hundreds of people have been involved in this process and thousands of volunteer hours have been donated to achieve this goal.

Before starting this series of articles I wasn't even sure exactly what land constituted the Parkers Creek watershed, much less the exact number of acres that have been preserved or the techniques used to achieve this preservation. Land preservation is complicated and always challenging. Peg Niland is my encyclopedia and she has supplied the information on the land and the process of acquiring this land.

The Trust was established to protect 354 acres of land along Scientists Cliffs Road—land that is mostly in the Parkers Creek watershed—to provide open space for the citizens and visitors of Calvert County. The ACLT has since purchased an additional 374 acres ranging from Western Shores to Dares Beach. Thus, in a little over 10 years, ACLT has preserved 810 acres of land at a cost of over \$2,200,000.

During the same period, private landowners have independently protected as open space more than 374 acres in the Parkers Creek and Governor's Run watersheds and the ACLT has accepted the management of 865 acres owned by the State of Maryland or The Nature Conservancy. (See map of properties opposite).

The land that is owned by the ACLT (see map) was bought through donations from the membership of the ACLT and sale of the Transfer Development Rights (TDR's) that are acquired when enrolling the land into an Agricultural Preservation District. Our last acquisition, the Commodore Tract, was funded in part by a grant passed on to us by the Board of Calvert County Commissioners from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

and the DNR's Program Open Space.

The TDR program in Calvert County is a means of preserving land areas that have the greatest potential for agricultural or forest production through voluntary establishment of Agricultural Preservation Districts. For every acre of rural land enrolled in an "Ag District," the owner derives five development rights that can be transferred elsewhere to increase by one lot the development potential of land more appropriate for development. Coupled with a similar state program, nearly 20,000 acres in the county have been protected. Ag District owners do not pay county taxes on their farmland or forest land and can sell their TDRs for approximately \$2400 each. Development is guided away from lands on which viable farming and forestry endeavors are practical. In addition, the Board of County Commissioner's Purchase and Retirement Fund (PAR) buys TDRs (10 at a time) and retires them, reducing overall county "build-out."

One of the most recent ways that the ACLT has assisted in preserving land has been in partnership with The Nature

Conservancy (TNC) and the State of Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR). This partnership has been successful in preserving Warrior's Rest (230 magnificent acres nestled at the confluence of Parkers Creek and the Chesapeake Bay) and an additional 635 acres on the north side of Parkers Creek.

The landowner who has the feeling for the land and wants to see it preserved for future generations is the true star of all of these scenarios and we are forever thankful that there are people that have this foresight and dedication to land preservation.

There are 7,321 acres in the Parkers Creek watershed. So far there are over 2,000 acres that have been preserved. There is still a lot of work to be done to protect this beautiful creek which is one of the last undisturbed creeks on the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay. We always seek your support and thank you for caring.

-Mimi Lacouture

Land Preserved in the Parkers Creek and Governor's Run Watersheds

	Tota	l Acres	Acres in		
			Parkers		
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ACLT		810	625		-
Private Property		65 4	000		
Preserved		374	262		
Property Preserved by TNC and DNR		<u>865</u>	<u>865</u>	. In all to	
		2,049	1,752		

Total cost of land purchased by ACLT = \$2,200,000
Total cost of land purchased by TNC/DNR = \$4,600,000

TNC = The Nature Conservancy

DNR = Maryland Department of Natural Resources

ACLT Time Line

Land Acquisition and Preservation in the Parkers Creek Watershed

1986

December: ACLT incorporated December 4, 1986.

1987

October: Settlement on two tracts of land from the estate of Annie Gravatt.

1988

October: Final settlement on purchase of Gravatt estate. Mortgage paid in full.

1989

February: ACLT offers purchase contract on 50-acre Russell Tract.

1990

January: Settlement on Russell Tract.

1991

August: ACLT begins negotiations with Cephas Wallace for purchase of 50-acre woodland tract on north boundary of ACLT's initial holdings in the Parkers Creek Watershed.

September: Kenwood Beach acquisition recorded in County Land Records.

1993

January: Contract for ACLT purchase of Wallace property signed.

June: Wallace and Showalter properties totaling 91 contiguous forested acres approved as Agricultural Preservation Districts.

August: Settlement on acquisition of Cephas Wallace Estate at cost of \$3150 per acre.

1994

June: Michael Farm on the north side of Parkers Creek, a 140-acre site with a 32lot approved subdivision, is proposed for purchase at a cost of \$800,000.

December: Settlement on 140-acre Michael Farm (renamed Double Oak Farm).

1995

March: John Griffin, Secretary MD Dept. of Natural Resources, authorized The Nature Conservancy to begin negitiations with Somervell/Turner family for protection of 1000 acres within the northern section of the Parkers Creek watershed. ACLT's assistance is requested.

June: Attorney agrees to represent the Commodore family for its sale of 25-acre parcel to ACLT.

August: Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources purchases "Warriors Rest," the bay front/creek front home of the late Dr. Page Jett.

December: The Nature Conservancy purchases the 115-acre Ward Tract adjacent to Double Oak Farm. ACLT agrees to manage property.

1996

November: The Nature Conservancy pur-

chases a 193-acre parcel from Virginia Somervell.

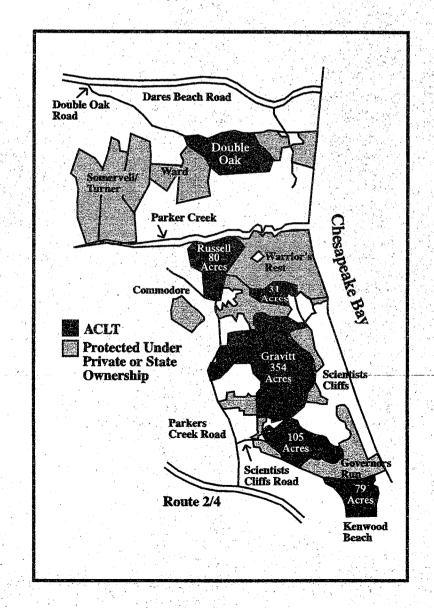
1997

May: ACLT finally goes to settlement on the Commodore tract.

October: The Nature Conservancy purchases the 182-acre Turner Family Partnership parcel.

1998

June: The Nature Conservancy purchases another 144 acres from Virginia Somervell.



(Continued from page 1)

finds included a number of beautiful projectile points and arrowheads that possibly date, as early as 9000-5000 B. P. There have also been some stone tools and debitage (stone chips) found.

The historic finds have included an inordinate amount of tobacco pipe bowls (some very ornate) and stems, bottle and window glass, oyster shells, and ceramics that include decorated earthenware and stonewares. Some of the historic artifacts date approximately to the mid part of the 19th century. There is still a great deal of work ahead and many more exciting areas to explore. If you are interested in joining me, please feel free to give me a call at (202) 822-8929.

—Molly Stephens, Archaeologist

New Directors on the ACLT Board

We are indeed fortunate to have the following new members of the ACLT Board of Directors. They are already up- and-running and are very active in the preservation efforts of ACLT.

Karen H. Edgecombe

Karen Edgecombe is a lawyer who has resided in Calvert County for over 10 years. She lives in Dunkirk and was the winner of the 1994 Conservation Award from the ACLT. She is a founding member and on the Board of Directors of the Calvert Farmland Trust in addition to having served as Executive Director of the South County Conservation Trust. She served on the Calvert County Environmental Commission and for many years was the General Counsel and Executive Director of the Plum Point Environmental Land Trust. Karen was a partner in the law firm of Terris, Edgecombe, Hecker and Wayne, a national law firm involved in the areas of historic preservation, land use and the environment.

Among her many accomplishments

as a very busy community activist,
Karen is the business manager of her
husband's (Dr. Glenn Edgecombe) family medical practice. She is a cum laude
undergraduate of Ohio State University,
and also a cum laude graduate of
Cleveland State University College of
Law, where she was editor of the Law
Review.

Jo Ann N. Kushner

Jo Ann has been a resident of Dunkirk for over 17 years and is highly involved in community activities in Calvert County. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Calvert Hospice and has been committee Chair of Hospice Cup, Inc. In addition to serving on the PTA, Jo Ann was Vice President, a member and officer of the Board of Education of Calvert County.

Jo Ann's professional experience include serving as Director of Planning for the University of Maryland Medical System, as Director of Sponsored Activity for the University of Maryland Cancer Center, and as an administrator at the University of Maryland Cancer Center.

Jo Ann is a graduate of Northeastern University and the Johns Hopkins School of Pubic Health and Hygiene. She is married to Dr. Mark Kushner, MD.

Dr. James G. Sanders

Jim Sanders is a well known scientist and an administrator who lives in Lusby. He has been the Director and Curator of The Academy of Natural Sciences, Estuarine Research Center in St. Leonard since 1981. He was a professor at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental and Estuarine Studies at the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory on Solomons Island. He completed two years of Postdoctoral work at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts. Dr. Sanders has received too many awards and appointments to commissions to mention here, but a few of them that apply to the ACLT are:

Chesapeake Bay Commission; Treasurer of the Estuarine Research Foundation; Science Advisory Board, Maryland Department of Natural Resources; Board of Trustees, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration; Trustee and Institutional Principal, Chesapeake Research Consortium; and member of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee, Chesapeake Bay Program.

Jim is an undergraduate of Duke University and received his Masters and Doctorate degrees in Marine Sciences from the University of North Carolina.

-Alan Wilson

Calvert County's Comprehensive Plan and Rezoning

With the adoption of the Comprehensive Plan, the debate now moves on to consider zoning options during Phase I that are consistent with the plan. I am working from the handouts and my notes from a recent presentation on the comprehensive rezoning process by Greg Bowen of the county's Department of Planning and Zoning. He started on a very positive note. The previous comprehensive plan set the goal of preserving 20,000 acres of farm and forestland. With over 19,000 acres currently enrolled in agriculture preservation districts, the vision statement of the new plan sets a "benchmark" of preserving 40,000 acres. That led to a lively discussion with some 30 participants on Sunday, May 17th at Chestnut Cabin. To reach that goal, there must be a reduction in the maximum "build-out" possible and that means zoning changes as well as existing zoning, the number of dwelling units could expand from 23,000 today to somewhere between 44,000 and 65,000 units in 2030.

Since ACLT has been in the business of preserving farm and forestland in the county for 12 years, we must support changes and initiatives that will (continued from p. 6)
secure the preservation of
40,000 acres (or more). A
number of zoning options are
being considered, such as
changing zoning in rural Districts to one house per 10
acres or 20 acres and/or revising the "grandfather" provision. One participant argued
for protecting the farmers'
principal asset—their land
value. Mr. Bowen responded

by pointing out that there was evidence of a market for 20-acre parcels of farmland. Other options would increase the requirements for purchasing TDRs to create lots in Transfer Zones and in Town Centers. It is important to improve the marketability of TDRs both for farmers and for land trusts that focus on forests. We certainly would support the expansion of the county's Purchase and Retire (PAR) fund.

The rezoning process will continue into the fall with a public forum during the summer and a public hearing in August/September. We urge all local ACLT members to become informed and involved. As more information becomes available, we will try to pass it along. A fiscal impact analysis relating to the costs and revenues associated with future development scenarios should be available in June. The county insists on following the values of Equity, Fairness, Responsiveness and Fiscal Responsibility among others in this process. That requires broad citizen participation.

-Ralph Dawn

There are a few spots open for bow hunters for the 1998–1999 season. Please contact the ACLT office if interested.

Land Management Activities

Bamboo Battle Begun

On the Sunday morning of Memorial Day weekend ten stalwart volunteers began attacking the bamboo stand on the east side of Gravatt Lane. *Phyllostachys nuda* obviously thrives in this climate, as anyone who has encountered it can see. The original stand on the west side of the trail

was planted by Scientists' Cliffs founder Flippo Gravatt to hide the community dump. In keeping with our desire to minimize the spread of exotic invasive plant species it was decided to attempt to eradicate the fast-growing bamboo which had spread to the other side of the trail.

The crew, which may have been over-qualified but was by no means over the hill, spent close to forty manhours cutting an unexpectedly large number of culms, many of which were in the 2" diameter range and soared over 40'. One of the culms set aside for study may in fact have been a species record at 2.5" across and 45' tall. Pruning saws and small bowsaws were the weapons of choice, and one of the hardest parts was trying to figure out where to put all the cuttings. Having participated in all aspects of this project, including taking photographs and passing out refreshments, I believe that dragging the heavy bamboo and stacking it in massive piles along the trail was the most demanding and least gratifying chore, but one that was necessary to gauge our progress and permit future maintenance. At least 75% of this stand was cut that day and the crew volunteered to resume battle on a later date. one that we hoped would not be considerably hotter.

Trail Treatments Terrific

Despite prolonged rains which made it difficult to mow, land management volunteers have done a great job keeping the trails trimmed. At the May 10 com-

mittee meeting, moving responsibilities were assigned through July. Anyone who wants to help with mowing is welcome, as there is opportunity to team up with someone to mow between now and then or take a shift later in the summer. To mow all the Port Republic trails takes around 10 hours, which is presently being done over the course of two weekends. Teaming up to mow is the best situation, because one person can go ahead to clear the trail of turtles and other obstacles as well as being supportive of their colleague and/or taking turns with the equipment. Requests for training on the Gravely walk-behind may be directed to the office or to the land management co-chairs Leslie Starr and Art Cochran, as can any and all other offers of help.

Some of the smaller trails need occasional treatment from a push mower or string trimmer, such as the Matteson Trail. Another simple chore is lopping vegetation that is encroaching on, and sometimes obscuring, the trails. Dave Farr will be overseeing the Swamp Trail boardwalk, while the cemetery and the cedar row at the main parking lot are under the care of Carl Fleischhauer. The committee will be monitoring the trails this summer to determine whether the uses to which they are being put can be maintained without an undesirable degree of deterioration. A bridge at the Gravatt Stream Crossing is on the list of improvements for this year, as is a boardwalk through the "Great Dismal" section of the Easter Trail.

Working on land management projects is a gratifying and fun thing to do. Gratification comes as a result of seeing the immediate results of your work, and it's an awfully good excuse to spend time outdoors.

-Leslie Starr

Earth Day 1998

Over sixty hardy and enthusiastic volunteers participated in the 1998 Earth Day clean-up and picnic on Saturday, April 18th, a cool and cloudy day with some sun. Everyone did a tremendous job, including a very energetic group of Girl Scouts. The end of Parkers Creek Road presented a very difficult challenge, and we filled two 40 cubic yard dumpsters with "goodies" from that area and other roadside locations along ACLT land. There also materialized the "Mount Everest" of tires, which was picked up later. The north end of ACLT (Ward property, Double Oak Road and other offroads) yielded another 40 cubic yard container and Governors Run filled a 20 cubic yard dumpster. Many, many thanks to Dan Williams from the County government for all of his help in organizing this effort. Vince Keyser provided gloves, hats, vests, and trash bags. Thanks, Vince! And thanks to all the wonderful volunteers helping in the important activity.

Local communities then all pitched in to help organize and enjoy a picnic, following the clean-up, on the beach at Scientists



Molly Stephens and Angelo Cimini haul away tires and furniture.

Cliffs. Thanks to the SCA association, in particular Flo Ford and all of her assistants, for a very successful picnic. The Kullens from Governors Run provided all the beverages and Elaine Cratty from Kenwood Beach brought all those fabulous desserts.

Thanks to Tina Boesz, Mac Fried, Jack Andrews, Alan Wilson and Zelda Michelini, and everyone else for all the help with the picnic.

-Alan Wilson

American Chestnut Land Trust, Inc. Post Office Box 204 Port Republic, MD 20676

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