

American Chestnut Land Trust, Inc.
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NEWSLETTER

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Editors: Ellen and David Farr

Winter 1995

Annual Report 1994

When the year began, ACLT had just acquired the forty-nine-acre Wallace tract, so 1994 appeared to offer a relatively quiet period when we could focus on strengthening the committees and planning for the future in a properly organized manner. The land acquisition/preservation committee met on January 8 and made a low-key review of properties that we should monitor during the year.

This calm was not to last! February brought the ice storms that covered the trails with limbs and trunks. Estimates of the clean-up cost threatened to do similar damage to our budget. Fortunately, with the availability of a "skidder" crew, supplemented by hours of volunteer work and the financial assistance of several members plus federal aid, this financial crisis disappeared. Then, in close succession, we learned that the Kenneth Michael farm (140 acres) was to be developed unless we negotiated a purchase, and that a conservation buyer wanted our help with a pass-through bargain sale in the Hellen Creek watershed (164 acres). Without advance warning we were involved in two major projects requiring complicated negotiations with multiple parties. With the full support of the board and the hard work of the ACLT administrator, Peg Niland, both projects were brought to successful conclusion. Special recognition must also be given to the ACLT members who pledged generously to the Michael purchase, and to our attorney, John C. Prouty, for guiding us through negotiations and settlement on these projects.

Meanwhile, the usual activities went forward, such as trail maintenance and improvement, the annual five-community Earth Day clean-up and picnic in the spring, outreach at the county fair and Patuxent River Appreciation Days in the early fall, support for the area schools' science fair, newsletters and membership contacts (fifty-six new members in 1994), and our participation in the workplace-giving program as a member of the Environmental Fund for Maryland. Peg Niland could not be everywhere, so our board and members made it clear once again that ACLT depends heavily on volunteers.

New initiatives undertaken in 1994 included marketing land protection by giving talks and slide shows to landowners, community groups, county and state planners, and environmental groups. We provided a summer

internship for a college-bound senior. We also hosted tours by foot and canoe for The Nature Conservancy and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, a canoe trip for ACLT members, and we sponsored a lecture on the Chesapeake Bay by Dr. Joseph A. Mihursky.

Finally, being ever mindful that the preservation of the Parkers Creek watershed is a major goal, contacts continued with local landowners, the state, and The Nature Conservancy, and we provided six ACLT members and our one staff person to the county-appointed Parkers Creek Watershed Task Force. As another piece falls into place, ACLT has been asked to participate in planning for the future of the Jett property (Warrior's Rest) as a state heritage preserve.

—Ralph Dwan, President

Parkers Creek Watershed Task Force Update

Members of the Parkers Creek Watershed Task Force have been working independently and in monthly meetings for over a year now and have progressed from a draft plan to formulating specific visions and techniques to attain the objectives of those visions.

Under the guidance of David Brownlee, Calvert County Principal Environmental Planner, and the leadership of Philip Goldstein, President, and Bob Pfeiffer, Vice President, teams have worked together on issues facing the management of the Parkers Creek Watershed. While much work is yet to be done before submission to the State for approval, the following is a summary of our visions, goals and proposed actions to date:

Preserve Wildlife Corridors, Vistas, and Easements

Goal: Preservation of eastern two-thirds of the watershed.

Actions:

- Educate land owners about agricultural preservation and land trust programs, environmental easements, tax incentives and other advantages of preservation.

Board of Directors

Ralph H. Dwan, Jr., President
Gary Loew, Vice President
Paul L. Berry, Secretary
David Farr., Treasurer
Carl Fleischhauer
Florence W. Ford
Ed Greene
Mimi Lacouture
Ewing Miller
Robert Pfeiffer
Leslie Starr
John Mark Switzer
Caroline E. Van Mason
June Whitson
Alan Wilson

- Promote public support and involvement.
- Protection of key properties through purchase by land preservation organizations, county and state.
- Increase incentives for preservation.

Goal: Preserve Wildlife Corridors.

Actions:

- Work with BGE to develop habitat corridor plan for power line right of way.
- Identify existing wildlife corridors and have these areas recognized by the county for preservation when development occurs.

Foster Agriculture and Forest Productivity

Goal: Support non-polluting farming operations.

Actions:

- Support right to farm operation.
- Encourage sound forestry management.

Goal: Maintain water quality in the watershed.

Actions:

- All farms should be required to apply for Soil Conservation Plans.
- Hog farming, feeder cattle operations and poultry range houses should be strongly discouraged.

Establish Research Center

Goal: Establish ecological and archaeological research center in watershed.

Actions:

- Identify appropriate properties.
- Create plan for purchase and development of center.
- Identify potential users of center.
- Identify potential financial support.

Maintain or Improve Water Quality and Establish Monitoring

Goal: Establish citizen monitoring program.

Actions:

- Submit grant to Chesapeake Bay Trust to hire citizen monitoring coordinator on part-time basis to get monitoring program initiated.
- Through word of mouth and advertisement, get list of interested persons, i.e., Chespx.
- Provide training in stream monitoring for the volunteers (Save Our Streams Program).

Goal: Decrease impacts from developed areas on watershed.

Actions:

- Develop Stormwater Management Plan with MDE to protect undeveloped areas of Parkers Creek from developed areas.

Maintain Property Values

Goal: Provide programs that maintain property values.

Actions:

- Initiate Critical Area transfer development rights program and designate Parkers Creek Critical Area as a sending area for development rights.

Our consultants, Dewberry & Davis with Chris Athanas & Associates, were contracted to identify wetlands, conduct a Wetland Functional Analysis, identify state listed endangered species, paleontological resource possibilities, determine forest cover and forest interior dwelling habitat for birds. Until this study was completed, many of us never realized the vastness of the Parkers Creek watershed. The following are watershed area and percentage figures, which include Parkers Creek itself. [Categories are not mutually exclusive so totals exceed 100%.]

	Acres	Percent
Total Area	7321	
Wetland Area	941	13 %
Forested Area	5594	76 %
Forest Interior Dwelling Bird Forest	4455	80 %
Non-Forest Area	1468	20 %
Urban Residential Area	490	7 %

The next meeting of the Parkers Creek Watershed Task Force is March 13, 7:00 p.m., Room 102, Executive Plaza Building. While the meeting is open to the public, space is limited so please contact David Brownlee, Dept. of Planning and Zoning, at 535-2348, if you wish to attend.

Earth Day '95

April 22 – Clean Up and Picnic

April 23 – Tours

Plans are underway for the fourth annual five-community cleanup, picnic and—new this year—a *second day of tours!* After the 9 a.m. to 12 noon cleanup, we will gather at the picnic tables at Kenwood Beach for hot dogs, chips, cookies, sodas, beer and socializing. Tours of selected ACLT properties will be announced that day.

Mark your calendars now!

Other Upcoming Spring Events

April 15 – 10:00 a.m. Spring flower walk. Join Carol Flint and Sue Switzer for a walk to discover the rebirth of spring flowers. ACLT Office.

April 23 – 8:00 a.m. Andy Brown, naturalist from Battle Creek Cypress Swamp, and Sue Hamilton will help you spot and identify birds on ACLT trails. Start with an introductory talk, followed by a walk. Here's your chance to follow the experts. ACLT Office.

April 29 – 10:00 a.m. Spring Discovery Walk. You never know what you'll find or what you'll learn when walking with Peter Vogt. ACLT parking lot.

May 6 – 10:00 a.m. Beginning Tree I.D. Let John Zyla, naturalist from Battle Creek Cypress Swamp, and Sandy Roberts show you how to identify those trees you've wondered about. "Class" starts at ACLT Office.

Help Wanted

Research Assistants

March 25 – 2:30 p.m. Meet Carl Fleischhauer for an introduction to documentary historical research. Carl and Mark Switzer will discuss opportunities for volunteers to assist in researching county and state archives to trace the history of ownership and the families who have lived on the land. ACLT Office.

Laborers

March 18 – 2:00 p.m. Michael Farm ice storm clean-up. Field perimeter and trail re-opening. Bring chain saws, sickles, hand saws and muscles. Meet Peg Niland at farm.

April 1 – 8:30 a.m. Pre-Earth Day work group. Bring work gloves, boots, hand or power tool of your choice. Meet Mark Switzer at ACLT parking lot.

April 15 – 8:30 a.m. Pre-Earth Day work group. Bring work gloves, boots, hand or power tool of your choice. ACLT parking lot

Painters/Porters/Posthole Diggers

April 15 – 10:00 a.m. Join Leslie Starr in trail marking. Setting posts, cutting and painting signs. ACLT parking lot.

Migratory Bird Count Assistant

May 13 – 7:30 a.m. Help count, take notes and assist Sue Hamilton in the annual Migratory Bird Count. Two hours to all day. Need not commit for full day or be a knowledgeable birder. ACLT parking lot.

Presentation Coordinator

Assist President, Vice President, and Administrator with development of slide presentations. Ability to outline standard presentations for general information, fund raising, specific properties, etc. Graphics capability a plus. Contact office or Gary Loew. Evening: 410-586-0529. Day: 202-272-0299.

What's Happening?

Volunteerism that just never stops! It's been a busy fall for our volunteers with outreach, fundraising, land management, and preservation activities as mentioned in Ralph Dwan's annual report. To list a few special efforts of some of our busy volunteers:

- **Mark and Jay Switzer, Leslie Starr, Joe Turner, John Lewis, Dick Simpkins, and Doug, Stanley and Chuck Douglas** completed a 1.5 mile hiking loop on the east tract by clearing two new sections of trail.
- **Leslie Starr** reorganized the trail system markings and identification, re-blazed the trails and redesigned the soon-to-be published map and trail guide.
- **John Lewis** removed a truckload of tires from the woods.
- **Art Cochran, Mark and Jay Switzer, Dick Simpkins and Doug Douglas** started the difficult job of setting boundary markers on the east tract.
- **Margaret Young, June Whitson, Flo Ford, Peter Vogt, Mary and Ralph Dwan and Peg Niland** manned the booths at the county fair and PRAD.
- **Judy Bibb and Patti Hollowell** loaned us their real estate appraisal talents with the house on the Michael property.
- **June Whitson** continues to handle all the computer updates for membership, sends out renewal reminders, and writes all the thank you's. She and **Alan Wilson** brainstorm on membership and outreach activities
- **Paul Berry** continues to represent ACLT on the Southern Maryland Heritage Coalition and works in the office a half day each week.
- **Carl Fleischhauer** has coordinated our video tape interviews and contract negotiations.
- **Bob Pfeiffer and Dan Hamilton** have both taken time from work to meet with representatives of the Dept. of Natural Resources to plan the management of the Jett Property. Bob continues to be our public speaker whenever our voice needs to be heard.
- **Ewing Miller** has replaced **Peg Niland** as a board member of the Environmental Fund of Maryland.
- **Bill Hosler** unraveled the mystery of the electrical wiring at the Michael house in his spare time.
- **John Hollowell** has provided increased security measures for our office and **Skip Ford** installed our new fax phone line.

- Our attorney, **John Prouty**, has donated a tremendous amount of his time getting us through the Michael farm acquisition and our first pass-through purchase, the Skoor property to a conservation buyer.
- An anonymous person(s) cut back and removed the bamboo at the office damaged by last year's ice storm
Thank you!

Our hats are off to all these people and those who just come by to lend a hand from time to time. Your efforts are truly appreciated.

Financial Summary for 1994
Submitted by David Farr, Treasurer

EXPENSES FOR 1994

Administration/Fundraising

Accounting	1,700.00 (0.9%)
Bank Charges	281.07 (0.2%)
Equipment Repair	74.95 (0.0%)
Fundraising	25.60 (0.0%)
Insurance	2,462.00 (1.3%)
Misc	1,226.73 (0.7%)
Occupancy	2,182.59 (1.2%)
Postage/Shipping	95.05 (0.1%)
Salary/Benefits	6,391.09 (3.4%)
Supplies	1,212.25 (0.7%)
Telephone	1,343.14 (0.7%)
Administration/Fundraising subtotal	16,994.47 (9.2%)

Land Acquisition/Preservation

Appraisals/Surveys	4,265.00 (2.3%)
Committee Materials	290.99 (0.2%)
Land Purchase	120,137.70(64.8%)
Salary/Benefits	19,632.24(10.6%)
Taxes	124.87 (0.1%)
Land Acquisition/Preservation	144,450.80(77.9%)

Land Management

Equipment O & M	2,501.68 (1.3%)
Forestry Management	1,824.20 (1.0%)
Salary/Benefits	5,888.81 (3.2%)
Land Management subtotal	10,214.69 (5.5%)

Outreach/Member Service

Dues	920.00 (0.5%)
Meetings/Training	1,005.81 (0.5%)
Outreach	1,377.67 (0.7%)
Postage/Supplies	999.37 (0.5%)
Printing/Publication	1,521.54 (0.8%)
Salary/Benefits	7,853.33 (4.2%)
Outreach/Member Service subtotal	13,677.72 (7.4%)

Total 185,337.68

INCOME FOR 1994

Contributions	96,054.14 (51.0%)
Grants/Restricted	51,857.00 (27.7%)
Grants/Unrestricted	500.00 (0.3%)
Interest Earned	2,817.96 (1.5%)
Membership Dues	8,345.50 (4.5%)
Misc	1,906.28 (1.0%)
TDR's	25,636.00 (13.7%)
Total	187,269.38

ACLT received a number of grants to cover various costs incurred in 1994. Two grants totaling \$30,000 were provided by the First Trust of St. Paul Charitable Trust to cover salary and land purchase. The Maryland Environmental Trust provided \$4,000 for administrative costs. \$1,357 was provided by the Federal Emergency Management Funds to cover some of the costs associated with the severe ice storm of last winter, and the Baltimore Gas and Electricity Company provided \$2,500 for the production of a video on the Parkers Creek watershed. A grant of \$10,000 was received from MARPAT to cover administrative costs for 1995.

The major expense was purchase of the Michael property. Other than this, actual expenses were in line with anticipated expenses

1994 Wraps Up Three-Year Fund Drive

Three years ago, under the direction of former president Aileen Hughes, ACLT embarked on a three-year fund drive. We went to some of our charter members and asked that they look at what had been accomplished by their original contributions and consider another substantial gift to keep the momentum going. These unsung heroes remodeled the cabin that became our office, picked up the slack in administrative expenses not covered by grants, provided the funds for the settlement costs of the Michael property purchase and helped with the purchase of the Wallace property. Some of these supporters have already contributed to the Michael property, while others have made pledges toward loan repayment. The following 22 contributors gave over \$70,000!

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Berry	Dr. & Mrs. Oliver Flint	Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Nisonger	Mr. & Mrs. Mark Switzer
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Drury	Dr. & Mrs. Maurice Fried	Mr. Franklin W. Nutter	Mr. & Mrs. John Theriault
Mrs. Mary Dwan	Mr. & Mrs. Phillip Hughes	Mr. & Mrs. Norman Prince	Mr. Robert Ulanowicz
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Dwan	Mrs. Pat Lynch	Ms. Sandy Roberts	Col. Caroline Van Mason
Paula Johnson &	Mr. William Lynch	Hon. Irene Scott	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Vogt
Carl Fleischhauer	Mr. Ewing Miller	Ms. Charlene Sturbitts	Mr. & Mrs. John Young

MICHAEL PROPERTY CONTRIBUTORS

Many of our members have worked hard and long in acquiring the Michael property. The following is a list of those who contributed toward our goal of raising \$100,000 prior to settlement. The actual figure raised was \$98,025. The balance of our deposit and settlement costs were covered by previous gifts earmarked for land acquisition. *In addition, \$41,100 in pledges by these and other members, have been made toward repayment of acquisition loans over the next five years.* Quite an accomplishment in only six months!

Up to \$499.00

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Ambler
Mr. & Mrs. John Boyd
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Cochran
Mr. & Mrs. Allen Dischinger, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Freeman
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Head
Mr. & Mrs. Jim King
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Manning
Mr. Donald Mighell
Mrs. Martha Pfeiffer
Mr. Glen O. Pyles
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Rubino
Mr. James Switzer
Mrs. Opal D. Weida
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Young

Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Brannigan
Ms. Carla Campbell
Penelope Firth & David Knapp
Mr. & Mrs. Maurice Dunkle
Mr. Craig Gorsuch
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Hildebrand
Mr. John Kingscott
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Matteson
Mr. Sewell T. Moore
Mr. & Mrs. Prentiss Porter
Mr. Milton Robertson
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Tollerton
Mr. & Mrs. John Theriault
Mr. & Mrs. Dwight Williams

Ms. Pamela S. Bartlett
Mr. David Chessler
Mr. & Mrs. Rex Davis
Patrice Barnes & Fred Ferris
Mrs. Betty Harford
Ms. Pat Kerbe
Mr. David R. Lewis
Mr. Jack McClendon
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Pappas
Mr. & Mrs. Dwight J. Porter
Mr. and Mrs. Ron Ross
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Stathis
Mr. Buck Waller
Ms. Flawn Williams

\$500.00 - \$999.00

Mr. and Mrs. Wallace L. Ashby
Mr. & Mrs. Philip Fleming
Ms. Elizabeth L. Johnston
Ms. Sandy Roberts
Leslie Starr & Joe Turner

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Ellwood
Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Ford
Ms. Jane Klemer
Ms. Susan C. Simon
Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Warner

Mr. & Mrs. Lewis Firth
Mr. & Mrs. Maurice Fried
Mr. John O'Neil
Mr. & Mrs. Louis Tacchetti

\$1,000 and Over

Ms. Ruth W. Arbuckle
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Boesz
Diana Jost & Paul Dennett
Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Ellsworth
Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Griffin
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Jaeger
Ms. Mimi Lacouture
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Manning
Mr. & Mrs. Norman Prince
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Showalter
Col. Caroline Van Mason
Mrs. June Whitson

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Berry
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Clewlow
Mrs. Mary Dwan
Ms. Bonnie Erbe
Mr. & Mrs. C. G. Harrell
Mrs. Madelene A. Johnston
Mr. & Mrs. Allan Loew
Mr. & Mrs. William McDonald
Mr. & Mrs. Leland Schubert
Mr. & Mrs. Laurence Slaughter
Mrs. Emmy Vogt
First Trust of St. Paul

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Blackman
Mr. & Mrs. John C. deWilde
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Dwan, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. David F. Farr
Mr. & Mrs. William Hosler
Mrs. Lucile A. Jones
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Loew
Donna Ari & Ewing Miller
Mr. & Mrs. John Schubert
Mr. & Mrs. George Switzer
Dr. & Mrs. Peter Vogt

Arboretum Needs Assistance

The ACLT chestnut arboretum, located about 500 feet southwest of the main entrance on the site of the 1989 Virginia pine harvest, needs more attention than it has been getting. As of early summer, 1994, approximately 55 hybrid American Chestnut trees were alive and well, and a survey in early December found that several of the trees had produced nuts. That is the good news. The bad news is that the arboretum is sorely in need of maintenance. It is horticulturally necessary to keep the "drip line" area around each tree clear; it would be desirable to have the entire tract cleared annually to prevent the growth of other trees. Because stumps weren't removed after the logging operation, such clearing is impossible by mechanical means and impractically labor-intensive by manual means.

By having this chestnut arboretum, the ACLT pays homage to its namesake, American Chestnut, adds credence to its designation as a tree farm, and maintains a link with other conservation/research organizations such as the American Chestnut Foundation. Anyone who is willing and able to donate time to this project should contact the office. Help could be physical, such as clearing brush or doing inventory, or mental, as in devising a practical solution to the problem of stump removal in order to facilitate future maintenance. All efforts will be greatly appreciated.

—Leslie Starr

Membership

"Membership" implies many things: fellowship, inclusion, community, sharing, benefit and responsibility. Membership in ACLT can be both vital and vitalizing. It means, among other things:

- preserving green corridors of woodlands
- keeping farming a viable option in Calvert County
- protecting a wildlife habitat for creatures that are getting squeezed out but have no vote
- supporting a place where one can follow miles of trail in meditative quiet or walk with family and friends
- joining a leader to learn about birds, or wildflowers, or mushrooms—or a dozen other wonderful things
- canoeing on a beautiful creek you are helping to protect from pollution
- spending a few brisk hours helping to keep trails well marked and clear
- acting in a responsible way to help preserve the natural beauty with which Calvert County has been endowed, and learning about our responsibility in helping to protect the watersheds of the Chesapeake.

ACLT belongs to you. Learn about it. Keep it healthy!

—June Whitson



Printed on recycled paper.

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