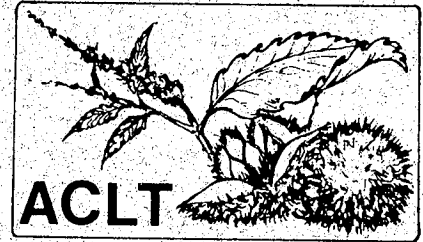


American Chestnut Land Trust, Inc.
Post Office Box 204
Port Republic, MD 20676



NEWSLETTER

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Editors: Ellen and David Farr

Fall 1993

Message From the President

You will quickly notice that this issue of the newsletter has a different focus: not the usual comments on flora and fauna, but people. While our goal is land preservation and stewardship, it can only be realized through the people involved. People like June Whitson, who has mastered the computer to keep track of our membership, and Mark Switzer, who operates the tractor when it's operational and has been out every Sunday setting boundary stakes.

Paul Berry is reporting on the people who participated in the annual membership meeting, and other people-focused articles will follow, but I want to start at the top with our outgoing president, Aileen Hughes. She was presented with an award on October 30 that highlighted the major achievements during her five years in that office, but that award only begins to tell the story of what she did for ACLT. She has been a working president, whether in front of her computer or in front of county and state officials. She did the detail work on membership records and grants, but she was always looking beyond towards involving more people, reaching out to the broader community and investigating future land acquisitions or cooperative easement arrangements. Perhaps her most lasting accomplishment was to push the ACLT Board members to fulfill their responsibilities, to dream of what could be done, and to plan how to accomplish that dream. Thank you, Aileen.

ACLT may now have a "retread" president, but I think that fact says less about leadership than about time. The members of the ACLT Board are busy people, but they give generously of their time when called upon. Their efforts are supplemented by our many member-volunteers on whom we rely for help in the office, in fund-raising, in the community, and in the woods and the Chestnut Arboretum. They

serve on committees or on an "as needed" basis. We have an outstanding administrator in Peg Niland, but we expect her to spend at least 50% of her time working on land preservation in the Parkers Creek watershed. ACLT remains

basically a volunteer organization, so call Peg (410-586-1570) to see how you can fit in.

—Ralph Dwan

Board of Directors

Ralph H. Dwan, Jr., President
Peter Vogt, Vice President
Paul Berry, Secretary
David Farr, Treasurer
Stephen M. Bunker
Carl Fleischhauer
Florence W. Ford
Ed Green
Leslie Starr
Charlene Sturbitts
John Mark Switzer
Caroline E. Van Mason
June Whitson
Margaret Young

Annual Meeting Highlights

Despite the rain, nearly 170 members and friends of ACLT attended the 1993 annual meeting at the Christ Church Parish Hall, Saturday, October 30. ACLT annual meetings typically provide information about organizational business and reporting on the larger context of land conservation. An address by Comptroller Goldstein—Port Republic neighbor, Parkers Creek land owner, and state official—was a special treat for ACLT members. His topic was *Land Conservation: A Partnership*. Ownership of property—an important incentive for early settlers—continues to be important in the American system, but today's concern with conservation presents a challenge to balance economic and environmental needs. Mr. Goldstein described Maryland's programs to save open space, to support agricultural preservation, and to encourage forestry practices, and his own involvement in conservation and in donations of land within Calvert County were listed. He commended ACLT for its conservation efforts, pledging his continued support. In answer to a question, he expressed confidence in the Mary-

land economy and the ability of the state to continue to support conservation programs.

Another highlight of the meeting was the presentation of the 1993 ACLT Conservation Award to the Board of Commissioners of Calvert County for the adoption of new regulations to require clustering of future developments on land zoned for agricultural and resource conservation. In making the presentation, Vice President Peter Vogt described the background of the zoning change and explained the significant conservation advantages to be derived from clustering. The attractive award plaque presented to Hagner Reid Mister, Chairman of the Board of Commissioners, was designed by Mitzi Poole.

ACLT members heard brief reports from two other Calvert county groups: Jim Odgers, president of the Plum Point Environmental Land Trust, reported on the progress this past year in the passage of legislation to allow Calvert County to establish a revolving fund from which qualifying tax-exempt groups could borrow at low rates. Susan Hance-Wells described the newly formed Calvert Farmland Trust and told of this group's plans to work with farmers and others in preserving agricultural land. In addition, Tom Saunders, Director of the Maryland Environmental Trust, was recognized and MET is to be thanked for its continued support of ACLT activities.

Several ACLT board members and committee chairs reported on the activities of their committees. Of particular importance, of course, was the purchase of the forty-nine acres from the Cephas Wallace estate, involving also the additional work of identifying boundaries and of placing the property in the Agricultural Preservation Program. Efforts to reach land owners in the Parkers Creek watershed, particularly to the north of the creek, showed promise for future preservation of several large tracts. The Outreach and Membership committees reported on activities to keep the community informed of ACLT's programs and to increase the number of members.

Although the trust's finances were reported as sound, the ACLT office will continue to seek grants from foundations and governmental sources. Administrator Peg Niland has been active with the Environmental Fund for Maryland, in which ACLT is a founding member, in its program to obtain donations through annual giving campaigns held by federal, state, and local governments, and in private businesses.

There were several special awards: Joseph and Ruth Showalter, for their cooperation in the delineation of boundaries with the Wallace property and for placing their adjoining land into the Agricultural Preservation Program; the Scientists' Cliffs Association for making the cabin available to the ACLT for use as an office; Robert Ulanowicz for his service on the ACLT Board of Directors; and Aileen Hughes for her service on the ACLT Board of Directors and her exceptional leadership as president for the past five years.

Five members were elected to the Board of Directors for three-year terms. Incumbent members returned to the board were Paul Berry, Carl Fleischhauer, and Mark Switzer. New to the board were Leslie Starr and Ed Greene.

At a brief meeting of the Board of Directors following the adjournment of the annual meeting, the following officers were elected for the coming year: Ralph Dwan, president; Peter Vogt, vice president; David Farr, treasurer; and Paul Berry, secretary.

From the Retiring President

On Saturday morning just before I turned over the gavel to the new officers of the Land Trust, I was given a beautiful award by the Board and Members of the American Chestnut Land Trust in appreciation of my years of service as President of the organization. Not only do I want to thank all of you for the beautiful and elegant award, but for affording me the opportunity to work with you over the past six years in this most rewarding enterprise. Together we have saved in perpetuity more than one square mile of forest land just south of Parkers Creek. Our success so far has been attributable, I believe, to our having shared a vision and been able to work together as a team, remembering to focus on what we could do with what resources we had where we were. To drive along the wooded country road north from Scientists' Cliffs' Gate A knowing that through the cooperation of ACLT and Scientists' Cliffs community this land will remain as forest land in perpetuity is both rewarding and inspiring. Under the leadership of Ralph Dwan, the new ACLT President, we all have the promise that the land trust's successful conservation effort will continue with the help of others well into the future and even beyond our own immediate boundaries. It has been an honor to serve you. Thank you.

Honor Roll

It takes many hours, many hands, many kindnesses to make our efforts so effective. *Many thanks to our "honor roll" members:*

Mailings:

Newsletters:

Magda and Bob Freeman

Membership Campaign:

Joyce McDonald, Carolyn McHugh, Helen Moore, June Whitson, Doris Zitzewitz, Flo Ford

Siding on Tenant House:

Art Cochran

Housekeeping, Equipment, Cabin and Yard Maintenance:

Flo Ford, Skip Ford, Leslie Starr and Joe Turner (donation of microwave), Sam Hughes and John Hollowell (snake and mouse patrol)

Gardening:

Joanne and Michael Hildebrand

Trails:

Mark Switzer, David Dziergowski, Dick Simpkins, Bob Drury, Land Management Committee

Arboretum:

Sandy Roberts, Ralph Dwan, Dave Chessler, Land Management Committee

Membership:

June Whitson (hours of data entry)

Try Some Chestnut Creme Coffee

The delicious aroma of roasting chestnuts that wafted through the Parish Hall at the Annual Meeting on October 30th emanated from a special brew of coffee we ordered as a taster's treat from the Illinois Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation. We learned of the brew from Clark Ashby, one of our Illinois Charter members, who is also a supporter of the Illinois ACF Chapter. Thank you, Clark Ashby. It seemed appropriate to promote this gourmet coffee while we were introducing our own new elegant coffee mugs to our membership. For those people who raved about the coffee and wanted to know how to order more:

Make your check payable to: Illinois Chapter, ACF and send to Tony Lesniak, 8A Dundee Quarter #305, Palatine, Ill. 60074. 6 oz. @ \$4.25 or 10 oz. @ \$6.25 plus postage of \$2 (16 oz. or less), \$3 (17-32 oz.) \$4 (33-48 oz.).

Remember, this is rather expensive gourmet coffee but the proceeds go to support the Illinois Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation. If there is a demand among our own members, we

could arrange to stock it for you here and have some of the proceeds help support our own ACLT. Please let us know if you have an interest in this. Leave a message at the office, 410-586-1570.

Hefty, Handsome ACLT Coffee Mugs

Our new 9-oz. cream-colored coffee mugs with a brown ACLT logo sold like hot cakes at the Annual Meeting on Saturday, October 30th. They are color-coordinated with ACLT's popular laminated placemats that are turning out to be "life-long lasting." The 9-oz. mugs are \$7.00 each or \$25 for a set of four. The placements are \$3.50 each, or \$12 for a set of four. Maryland sales tax is included in the price. Remember, all proceeds go to support ACLT. Cups and placemats make wonderful hostess or holiday gifts. Call the office, 586-1570, or write P.O. Box 204, Port Republic, MD 20676, to place your order.

Margaret L. "Peg" Niland: A Profile

Margaret L. "Peg" Niland became a member of the ACLT Staff as a part-time Administrative Assistant in September 1991. The Land Trust's five-year plan, earlier reviewed by the membership and adopted by the Board in March of that year was leading us toward the expansion of our geographic area of conservation interest to include the still undeveloped land in the entire Parkers Creek watershed, not just the forests to the south of the creek itself that we could afford to own in fee simple. We knew the County was experiencing pressures of growth. Forest and farmlands were fast disappearing. With only a volunteer Board of Directors, there was no way the Land Trust could on its own preserve any significant amount of undeveloped land remaining to the north of the Creek to protect its drainage into the Bay. To support our volunteer effort, ACLT would need at the very least someone who could set up and manage an office, increase membership and search for funds. We could not then conceive of finding someone who would already "know the territory," know the landowners, who would be familiar with County zoning regulations and the visions of State growth management proposals, Critical Areas restrictions and could work well with people, but Peg had all of those qualifications and more. We first came to know her between 1987 and 1991 when she was Project Manager for Alliance Property Corporation of Arnold, Maryland, for the development of a 1000-acre, 500-unit subdivision known as Parker's Ridge in Prince Fred-

erick. At the time, although concerned to see so many acres of residential development between Parkers Creek and Dares Beach Road, ACLT Board members were sufficiently impressed with Alliance Corporation's uncommon efforts to protect the environmentally-sensitive slopes, streams and woodland areas of Parker's Ridge that we testified publicly before the County Commissioners on the merits of their site plan. Unfortunately for Alliance, this was the time the recession hit hard, scandal threw shadows over the Savings and Loan industry, and banks overnight cut back on loans to the building industry. The Parker's Ridge development closed down, and their contract agreements with landowners were terminated. The "window of opportunity" was open to us once again.

Encouraged with a 1991 grant from the Marpat Foundation, followed by a 1992 grant from the World Wildlife Fund, and several from the Janice Hollmann Environmental Fund of the Maryland Environmental Trust, ACLT this past year increased Peg's hours to 3/4 time, gave her the title of Parkers Creek Project Director and expanded her responsibilities. ACLT loaned her to the County Office of Planning and Zoning from March through October of this year to fill in for their Rural Planner who was on temporary leave. Among her last assignments there were the finalization and presentation of the Huntingtown Master Plan to the County Commissioners and the Project Coordinator of the Anmarie Sculpture Garden in Solomons prior to its dedication in September. We were very glad to have her return full-time to the ACLT Parkers Creek Project.

Peg has an interesting and diverse educational background, starting with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theology from Niagara Christian College in Niagara Falls, Canada. Preparing her to follow a career in the building industry were courses in Carpentry, Home Improvement, Electrical and Plumbing at Prince George's Community College and Drafting at the Maryland Institute of Art in Baltimore. She has served as member and/or president of several Councils of the Home Builders Association of Maryland.

Peg's daughter, Elizabeth, a graduate of St. Mary's College of Maryland, is in her first year of law school at the University of Maryland—Baltimore. Daughter Diana is a freshman at the University of Evansville, Indiana, where she has received an academic scholarship and plays NCAA soccer.

Land Management Committee 1993 Annual Report

The Land Management Committee is composed of 12 subcommittees, each of which has its own mission and agenda. The committee had its 1993 spring meeting on May 8 with 32 members present and a 32-item agenda. This is the forum for the primary review and approval steps for routine and minor projects. A consensus or compromise was found on most items, but a few were tabled or returned to subcommittee.

Some of the completed projects include:

- Clearing around the tobacco barn to provide adequate air flow for proper curing of the tobacco.
- Road straightening and downed tree removal at the graveyard.
- Island tree removal and field edge straightening at the main field.
- Removal of old metal gate posts at main parking lot.
- Removal of hump in road at entrance to main parking lot.
- Drainage improvements and road leveling near house and barn site.
- Clean and clear under growth in Chestnut grove near privy.
- Clean and clear undergrowth around American Chestnut.
- Clear logs and debris from part of the Chestnut Arboretum.
- Routine and major trails maintenance, especially the Laurel Walk.
- Set boundary posts on the south half of the new Wallace property.

I would like to apologize for the poor condition of the trails this summer. The ACLT tractor spent several months in the repair shop at a time when it was needed for mowing trails. Its back on the job now and you can expect more regular mowing from now on.

The Land Management Committee is a committee of doers and we need more doers. If you want to see something accomplished in the woods, this is the group to join. We meet at the SCA restored barn every Sunday morning during the fall at 8:30 a.m. for 3 to 4 hours. Our next major project is the re-erection of the historic corn crib which will go next to the restored house. With one full square mile of land to maintain, it takes many hands and many hours.

The Land Management subcommittees and their chairs are:

- Cultural Resources (Carl Fleischhauer)
- Land Maintenance (John Hollowell)
- Chestnut Development (Sandy Roberts)
- Forestry Management (John Axley)
- Wildlife and Nature (Sue Hamilton)
- Trails and Maintenance ()
- Graveyard Restoration (Sue Switzer)
- Graveyard Reactivation (John Jones)
- Mapping and Surveying (Art Cochran)
- Kenwood Tract (Ted Post)
- Emergency Management (Mark Switzer)
- Hunting (Dick Simkins)

—Mark Switzer

The Young Marines

On October 30th at 11:45 a.m., a Marine Corps bus pulled up to the main entrance to discharge 22 Young Marines and their adult leaders for a weekend camp out. They were met by outgoing ACLT Board member, Bob Ulanowicz. Since the day was cold and rainy, the first order of business was to set up their tents on the trail near the outhouse and get a fire started. Extra lunch bags were brought to the site from the ACLT annual meeting.

The purpose of the visit was to combine the camping experience with an afternoon work detail in the Chestnut Arboretum under the supervision of Joe Showalter. Armed only with gloves and borrowed pruning shears, they cleared brush and branches between the rows of hybrid chestnut seedlings. The weather conditions could not have been worse with heavy rain and winds, but they kept at it until their adult leader decided it was time to head back to the bonfire and a change of clothes. On Sunday morning, Peter Vogt led the group to South Beach to introduce them to the natural wonders of the beach and the cliffs.

Who are the Young Marines? They are boys and girls between the ages of 8 and 18 organized into units under the direction of active or retired Marines. It is a national organization sponsored by the Marine Corps League, a veterans group. Units from the National Capitol area use a standard training manual to instill values of discipline, honesty, service, self-esteem and love of country and family. Young Marines wear fatigues, participate in drills, and love to go camping, where they can learn new skills in a different environment. Their

leader on this trip was Jim Parker, the newly elected national commander.

—Ralph Dwan

Introducing New Board Members

Ed Green was born in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1935 and received his initial college education at the University of Florida where he received a BS(Math) in 1957 and a MS(Physics) in 1959. Since 1959, Ed has been employed by NASA in the Washington area except for five years in private industry and another five years with the Department of Defense. He has worked extensively on the design and analysis of spacecraft communications systems. He received a MSEE degree from the University of Maryland in 1981. He is currently Information Systems Manager within the Office of Space Communications where he manages the NASA data systems standards program and coordinates related standards among international space agencies.

Ed married Janet Campbell in 1962 and they have two daughter, Amanda and Sandra. When the Governor's Run Condominium was formed in 1981, Ed and Jan became cabin owners in that community. Ed has been Treasurer of the Governor's Run Condominium Association ever since. Ed and Jan both have a strong interest in enjoying the Chesapeake Bay region and protecting its environment.

Leslie Starr was born in Baltimore, grew up in Annapolis, and now lives in Baltimore and Scientists' Cliffs. She received bachelor's degrees from St. John's College and the Peabody Conservatory and has been active as a professional musician since graduating from Peabody. She is currently principal oboist of the Delaware Symphony, a member of the Baltimore Chamber Orchestra and the Baltimore Choral Arts Orchestra, and a substitute with the Baltimore Symphony and the Baltimore Opera. She is also on the faculty of the Baltimore High School for the Arts.

In contrast to her professional life Leslie's leisure activities often take place outdoors, such as hiking, bird-watching, gardening, and cross-country skiing whenever possible. She and her husband, Joseph Turner, have hiked and bird-watched in the Grand Canyon, through Massachusetts on the Appalachian Trail, and most recently in Alaska. They are members of the Nature Conservancy, the Sierra Club, the Audubon Society, and many other advocacy groups, and are charter members of ACLT.

Land Trust Programs in Maryland

The members of ACLT can take pride in the accomplishments of their land trust, based on a report given to the Maryland Land Trust Alliance Conference and Training Workshop in Ceresville on November 5 and 6. Staff of the Maryland Environmental Trust reported that there are now forty-one local land trusts in Maryland, located in all counties except St. Mary's. In addition, there are nine state-wide, regional, or national land trusts protecting land in Maryland. Total acreage under protection by all land trusts has reached very close to one-hundred thousand acres, not including acreage transferred to public agencies, of which 12,575 acres are under protection by local land trusts. Of the land owned by local land trusts, ACLT ranks third in the state, with 649 acres owned, exceeded by only the long-established Accokeek Foundation, in Prince George's County, and Stronghold Corporation

(Sugarloaf Mountain), in Frederick County. ACLT has achieved an enviable record.

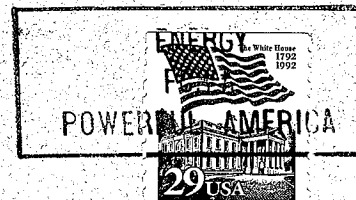
Attendees at the conference on November 5 heard from other land trusts on their accomplishments, new initiatives, and problems. A three-hour forum explored the principles and elements of rural design used to maximize open space, conservation values, and esthetics when some development is inevitable. Not surprisingly, clustering for farmland and open space preservation figured prominently in this discussion. The workshops on November 6 included sessions on appraisals, fundraising, tax implications from donations of land by entities other than individuals, and conservation easements. ACLT's participation in this statewide program has had many benefits.

—Paul Berry

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