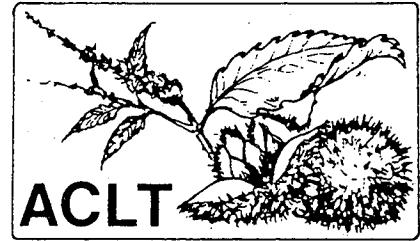


American Chestnut Land Trust, Inc.  
Post Office Box 204  
Port Republic, MD 20676



# NEWSLETTER

Volume 6 - Number 3

Editors: Ellen and David Farr

Summer 1992

## ACLT Begins to Repay MET Loan

You may recall that last fall the Board of Public Works of Maryland authorized the Maryland Environmental Trust to grant an \$80,000 loan to ACLT to enable us to proceed toward settlement with the Wallace heirs for the purchase of their property. Acquiring these fifty acres of woodland at the northern end of our land on the west side of Scientists Cliffs Road has been an ACLT Board priority. The Program Open Space loan was to be repaid from revenues from the sale of transferable development rights (TDRs) augmented by new contributions from our membership. At the time of the loan and until recently the market for TDRs has been practically non-existent. We would have been at a serious financial disadvantage had we been forced to sell at the depressed prices of a year ago in order to meet an early settlement date. Although progress toward settlement has been extremely slow, we know the court-ordered survey is now complete and the required appraisal is to be forth-coming within a week or two. Meanwhile, the TDR market has been showing signs of recovery.

On July 1, ACLT sold sixty of its transferable development rights at a price the Board determined to be equitable in today's recovering market to David Lewis of the Osprey Investment Corporation of Annapolis, the developer of the new Peach Blossom subdivision in Huntingtown. The money is now in the bank enabling us to go to settlement on the Wallace property as soon as it is approved by the Court. At the same time, we have been able to repay 50% of the loan received last fall from the MET.

## ACLT Looks Forward to New Office Space

For the past several months ACLT has been exploring with the Scientists Cliffs Association the possibility of using the small cabin at the entrance to the Scientists Cliffs Association property as an office. The cabin is just across the road from the ACLT main parking lot and seems ideal for our purposes, both in size and location and in providing adequate, securable space for an office and a meeting area for our Board and committees. We can foresee it becoming a mini-museum and library where photos, maps, insects, butterflies and other natural and cultural treasures collected from ACLT land can be shared.

The cabin is situated in the newly created "open space" of the Scientists Cliffs community which is now willing and able to make the cabin available to ACLT without charge. The community will up-grade the failing septic system to make the space habitable for the foreseeable future. ACLT will assume the costs associated with necessary interior renovations. Except for what must be done by licensed professionals, most of the work will be carried out by volunteers. Skip Ford has generously offered both his time and skills to oversee this volunteer project when he returns to this area in September. We anticipate the cabin will be ready for occupancy before the end of the year.

During its occupancy ACLT will be responsible for utilities, water, maintenance, insurance, and any other out of pocket expenses that the Association might incur on our behalf. After twelve months, should either party wish to terminate the arrangement, it may do so on 60 days notice.

About 50 years ago, Flippo Gravatt built this little cabin to serve as a convenience store and gathering place for the community. (The original store had been taken over for an office.) This was an era before the two-car family, the beltway, and the high speed four-lane highway connecting us with the Greater Washington area. The store would be stocked with frozen meats, milk, bread, eggs and the newspapers. Nearby neighbors were the source of fresh fruits, vegetables and home-baked cakes, pies and bread. In those days, a number of mothers and children would move down to their cabins for the summer with fathers joining them on weekends or a longed-for family vacation. (Source: *A Dream Realized*. The fifty-year history of the Scientists Cliffs community. 1987.)

In September, Skip will be looking for volunteers handy with saw, hammer or paint brush. Please call the ACLT office, 410-586-1570, or drop a note to ACLT, P.O. Box 204, Port Republic, MD 20676 to let us know of your availability this Fall. Your help will be most welcome.

## Board of Directors

Aileen R. Hughes, President  
Peter Vogt, Vice President  
Sue Hamilton, Secretary  
Ralph H. Dwan, Jr., Treasurer  
Paul Berry  
Stephen M. Bunker  
Donald C. Dahmann  
Carl Fleischhauer  
Oliver S. Flint, Jr.  
Daniel Priest  
Charlene Sturbitts  
John Mark Switzer  
Robert Ulanowicz  
Caroline E. Van Mason  
Margaret Young

## Spring Rally a Huge Success

Word of mouth, a few fliers, and an ACLT newsletter article brought out more than 70 men, women and children for the clean-up along the roadsides of ACLT properties on May 3. As a result of this collective effort, nine truck-loads of trash were sent off to the land-fill, an old abandoned car was carted off for salvage and the State Highway Department finally removed the huge pile of debris that for months had been an eyesore on Governors Run Road. We extend our sincerest thanks to all the volunteers from the communities of Scientists Cliffs, Governors Run, Kenwood Beach, and Western Shores who gave up their Sunday morning for this endeavor. Special recognition goes to ACLT's Sandy Roberts who organized the trash collectors, Ted and Jo Post of Western Shores for advance publicity and ultimate trash disposal, and to the Western Shores community which made its beach pavilion available for the picnic that followed. The consensus: This should be at least an annual event so we can get to know our neighbors better.

## Welcome to New Members

Nineteen new members have been added to our membership rolls since we last published a list of new members. We extend a warm welcome to:

Mr. & Mrs. Edward L. Bowen	Mr. & Mrs. Edw. Lassotovitch
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew D. Buck	Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Morella
Ms. Kathleen Cain	Mr. & Mrs. Michael Santangelo
Calvert Garden Club	Dale H. Snell
Dorsey Gray, Inc.	Ms. Mary Stanley
Mr. Doug Douglass	Joan Wohlgemuth, M.D.
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Gambaro	

## Photo Contest Reminder

July and August will still provide many opportunities to snap that prize-winning picture for the Calvert County Landscapes Photo Contest sponsored by ACLT, or perhaps you have a photograph taken in an earlier season that also captures the sense of what Calvert looks like today. Think about Calvert County's fields, forests, houses, cliffs, wetlands, churches and creeks. Our three categories: The Natural Landscape, the Historical Landscape, and Pictures by Young People (age 12 or under). Each picture is to be accompanied by a brief statement in which you identify its location and explain which features make it a distinctly Calvert County landscape. Photos do not have to be matted or framed, but enlargements are suggested. The winner in each category will be announced at the ACLT Annual Meeting on October 24 and will receive a \$50 savings bond and a one year membership in the ACLT. If the photo is to be returned, be sure to enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope. The deadline for entries is September 1. Send entries to ACLT Photo Contest, P.O. Box 204, Port Republic, MD 20676. For a brochure with contest details, call 586-1570.

## Fairfax Moves to Ease Restrictions for Bay Protection

In May, we sent a letter to the 60 or so members of ACLT with Northern Virginia zip codes asking them to write letters to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors urging that the Board not weaken the mandated Fairfax County Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance - Chapter 118 - that had been enacted four years ago. Steve Wilcox, an ACLT member who lives in Alexandria, brought to our attention that a majority of the new Board of Supervisors of Fairfax seemed to be leaning toward easing restrictions on developers and property owners that were to prevent soil from construction sites from running into streams that drain into the Bay. A public hearing was scheduled for June 8. We want to thank Steve for bringing this matter to our attention and for his contribution to cover the cost of the mailing. Thanks, too, to our Virginia members who took the time to write the Supervisors. You may have seen the editorial in the *Washington Post* on Friday, June 26, "Fairfax Shouldn't Pollute the Bay." We join in the Post's contention that "water quality management is serious business and the Chesapeake Bay is a treasure that needs all the protection from pollution it can get." You can get an up-date on this issue by calling the Clerk of the Supervisors at 703-324-3151.

## Annual Meeting Date Set- October 24, 1992

Mark your calendars now for the ACLT Annual Meeting to be held at Christ Church, Broomes Island Road, Port Republic on Saturday, October 24, 1992, 10:00 a.m. A catered sandwich lunch will be served at noon with guided walks on our most interesting trails to follow. We are pleased that Wayne Klockner, Director of the Maryland Field Office of The Nature Conservancy, will be joining us as keynote speaker for this occasion. Reservation forms will be included in the Fall Newsletter. Meantime, be sure to save the date.

The ACLT Executive Committee will act as the Nominating Committee this year. Please feel free to recommend names of ACLT members you believe should be considered as candidates for the future Board. The term of office for a Board member is three years, and there is no restriction on the number of terms any director may serve.

Peter Vogt, Vice President	410-586-4067
Ralph Dwan, Treasurer	410-586-1759
Sue Hamilton, Secretary	410-586-1494
Donald Dahmann	410-586-2784

## Thank You, John Hollowell

We accepted with regret but understanding the resignation of John Hollowell from the ACLT Board of Directors some weeks ago. Because of other personal commitments, John asked to step aside for an indefinite period of time. For two years, John ably served as Chairman of the Land Management Committee, probably the most demanding, time-wise, of all the ACLT Standing Committees. Mark Switzer who has served on the Land Management Committee since its inception has taken over John's responsibilities.

## And Welcome Paul Berry

We are very pleased to welcome Paul Berry as John Hollowell's replacement on the ACLT Board of Directors. Paul and his wife, Doris, live on Hance Road off Broomes Island Road in Port Republic and have been members of the land trust since June, 1991. Paul, a librarian by profession, retired from the Library of Congress in 1980 after 35 years of service. A graduate of American University, he also served on the University's Board of Trustees from 1973-1982, as secretary, 1976-1982, and as emeritus since 1982. In November of 1982, he became volunteer librarian at the Calvert Marine Museum and subsequently served on its Board of Governors from January 1985 through December 1990, and as its chairman from 1987 to 1990. Since 1985, he has been a member of the Calvert County Historic District Commission. We know ACLT will benefit not only from Paul's broad knowledge of the community but from his extensive and significant service on governing boards as well. Since joining our Board in May, Paul has spoken on ACLT's behalf at public hearings before the Board of Zoning Appeals and the Planning Commission.

## "Wish List" for the New Office

With our move to the new office comes new needs, and you may have just what we're looking for! Being housed by the Hughes has meant the use of many office items that will no longer be conveniently available to us. If you find that you have a spare item on our list, are capable of building a needed item, or are closing an office and would like a tax deduction on office equipment or supplies, please keep us in mind! The ACLT Office: 410-586-1570.

Macintosh Computer	pencil sharpener
printer	paper cutter
computer desk	three-hole punch
diskette box	calculator
filing cabinet - legal	trash cans
typewriter stand	copier table
office desk	folding conference tables
shelves	folding chairs
lamps	refrigerator
metal cabinet	kitchen supplies
FAX machine	security lights

## Love our trails? Adopt a section.

We remain deeply indebted to Arnie Petty who continues to keep ACLT trails open with the tractor, but his work needs to be backed up by volunteers who cut back with clippers and pruning shears the vines and branches that encroach on our paths. With this joint operation many sections of our most popular trails can be enjoyed by walkers all through the summer. At this time of year it is wise to use tick repellent (DEET) when you are walking or working in the woods and to check over your body carefully on your return home for unwanted hitch-hikers. We are beginning to up-date our roster of volunteers in order to add newcomers to the team of old hands willing to continue their trail maintenance assignments. Please leave a message at 586-1570 if we can count on you for help.

## Cemetery to be Restored

One of ACLT's loveliest walks leads to the small Chesley-Hance family cemetery that dates back to the early 19th century. The entrance is near the sharp bend in the road between Scientists Cliffs Gates C and D. You will find off-street parking there for several cars. Along with weeds and unwanted grasses around the scattered markers, myrtle from by-gone days still thrives. In spite of a century of neglect and even though little sunlight can find its way through the overgrown canopy, it is a restful sanctuary where a sense of history combines with sights and sounds of nature to stimulate the imagination. ACLT member Sue Switzer and Gerda Mason of the Calvert Garden Club make up the nucleus of a small committee to develop restoration plans for cemetery. Undesirable weeds and grasses will be replaced with new ground cover and wild flowers. A few trees will be removed to let in the sunlight. A bench or two will be added. New plantings in the area will be selected to attract birds and butterflies throughout the seasons. Minimal maintenance will be the long-term objective, but the committee will need some help in clearing and planting at the start. Please call the office, 586-1570, if this project interests you.



## Scientists Cliffs Designates 150 Acres

### As Permanent Green Space

At its Spring Membership Meeting in May, the Scientists Cliffs community overwhelmingly voted (144 to 19) to designate its 150 acres of undeveloped land as permanent green space. This land, within the boundaries of or adjacent to the community on the east side of Scientists Cliffs Road, had been purchased by the community from Annie Gravatt, the developer, in 1985 not too long before her death. As most of you know, ACLT purchased its original 436 acres of farm and forest land from Mrs. Gravatt's estate in 1987. Now, most of the forest land along both sides of Scientists Cliffs Road will remain in its natural state forever. While the new green space is an integral part of the private community of Scientists Cliffs, wildlife does not recognize human property lines, and the SCA action has enlarged our "green island" by 150 acres adjacent to our community. A similar but smaller parcel of community green space buffers the ACLT in the north—next to the subdivision of Bicentennial Court on Parkers Creek Road.

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