

# American Chestnut Land Trust, Inc.

Post Office Box 204  
Port Republic, MD 20676



## NEWSLETTER

Volume 5 - Number 1

Winter 1991

Editors: Elien and David Farr, 4512 Tonquil Place, Beltsville, MD 20705 (301-937-8160)

### Board of Directors

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### Welcome to our Newest Members

Since September when we last published the names of our newest members, 23 newcomers have added their names to our rolls bringing the total of members joining in 1990 to 97. In addition, we have as new members the children of Appeal Elementary School who selected ACLT as one of the beneficiaries of their special school environmental project. Welcome one and all!

Children of Appeal  
Elementary School  
Mr. Gerald L. Adams  
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Apple  
Dr. & Mrs. Robert L. Bartlett  
Mr. Patrick M. Buehler  
Mr. & Mrs. John Denny  
Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Griffin  
E. J. Shields  
& Barbara Haugen

Mr. & Mrs. E.W. Hosley  
Mr. Jack Krolak  
Mr. John W. Little  
Ms. Julie Modlin  
Mr. & Mrs. F. O'Donnell  
Northrup  
Mr. & Mrs. Timothy  
Northrup  
Ms. Lois Roeder  
Mrs. Mary Howard Smith

### 1991 ACLT Board Meetings Scheduled

ACLT Board meetings for the rest of the year will be held on Saturday mornings from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 at the Battle Creek Nature Center on the following dates: March 23, June 1, July 27, September 28 and November 30. All members are welcome. If there is an item you would like to place on our agenda, please let us know. We suggest you call 586-1749 in advance to confirm the date of any future meeting you would like to attend as it is sometimes necessary to make a last minute change in schedule.

### Special Day for New Members

New members and others who are interested in learning more about the Land Trust are invited to join us for a walk followed by picnic lunch and discussion on Saturday April 6. Bring a brown-bag lunch and meet at the ACLT parking lot at 9:30 a.m. Additional details on this and other activities in the spring newsletter.

### New Volunteers Enlist for ACLT

Florence Ford will be serving the ACLT Board as Recording Secretary taking over the job well-done by Dan Priest for the past two years. We look forward to having Flo with us and believe we will gain significantly from her observations. Thank you, Dan, and welcome, Flo.

Layne Bergin has indicated her willingness to help us

coordinate our volunteer program so that we better utilize the people who want to be more actively involved in ACLT. Layne does this work professionally at the Calvert Marine Museum. We know there have been members who have volunteered in the past who have never been called on for help. It is not because we haven't needed you; it is because we were short on a well-defined process for following through on your offers. We apologize.

John Hollowell, our newest Board member, has taken over the Land Management Committee for ACLT. This is the largest, most demanding of all of our Board committees and includes oversight responsibility for land maintenance, forestry management, trails, wildlife, nature interpretation, cultural resources, emergency management, firewood, arboretum and chestnut development. These are all *functions* or jobs to be done, and most of them require several people to do an effective job. John and his committee chairmen need a great deal of help particularly between now and May. John will welcome your call. 586-0545.

—Aileen Hughes

### ACLT Benefits from School Project

Barbara Carey's fifth-grade class at Appeal Elementary School in Lusby was in charge of their school's aluminum can collection and recycling effort this past year. As coordinators of the project, they also had the privilege of determining who would become beneficiaries of the money raised. According to Ms. Carey, the students felt it most appropriate to distribute their funds to local organizations showing concern for the protection of the environment. Principal Ted Haney who happened to have one of our brochures in hand submitted it to the children for their consideration. Happily for ACLT, we were among those who qualified! To express our thanks, we hope to schedule a special school event sometime in the spring. Meantime, our new Appeal School members have an open invitation to visit our land with parents, teachers or friends whenever they can.

—Aileen Hughes

## Financial Highlights of 1990

Below I have provided the financial statement for 1990 and the proposed budget for 1991. Before reporting the details, however, I will take this opportunity to discuss some of the financial highlights for last year. Much of our activity can be traced through the details of our income, expenses and balance sheet.

From the Income Statement you can see that our total income was \$52,361 and our expenses were \$12,785, producing net revenue of \$39,576. As in the past, our principal sources of income have been the membership dues and contributions. In addition, last year's tree harvest netted \$13,047 which will be used for land maintenance activities. The small figure for 1990 expenses provides only an indication of the substantial activity of the ACLT. Cultural resources expenditures were for materials to stabilize the old Wallace house and to move a corn crib that will be erected on the property. The land use management funds were to purchase 2 signs now on the property, the almost 3,000 Loblolly pines planted, and materials to construct the privy and protect the Chestnut plantings. The Outreach Committee provided scholarships for two high school students to attend the Maryland summer program. Our only organizational membership this year was in the Land Trust Alliance, through which we purchase our insurance and obtain access to literature and seminars related to our activities. Insurance costs were for general liability, volunteer worker accident insurance and board liability insurance. Legal and accounting expenses were to prepare taxes for 1988 and 1989. Printing and publications expenses paid for our 4 newsletters and the brochures. Land purchase costs were for 2 appraisals and costs associated with purchase of the Helvy tract while the meetings expenses were for the Annual Meeting, to send 6 persons to the Southern Maryland Forestry seminar and 2 to a Land Trust Alliance seminar. For those of you

who pay close attention to our financial condition, you will also notice that the value of land has increased by \$181,486 as we have added the 80-acre Russell Tract to our holdings. After discussions with our accountant, a portion of the land value will be reallocated to Transfer Development Rights.

Not mentioned in this discussion are the activities that cost nothing. The substantial volunteer labor to maintain the trails, manage the tree harvest, plant the trees, place the signs on the property, build the privy, develop a long range plan, initiate the tasks to bring us into compliance with the LTA Standards and Practices, investigate property availability, determine and negotiate property ownership and boundaries. As you might imagine, we consider and investigate many more tracts than we purchase in pursuit of our goal to develop as large a preserve as possible between Governor's Run and Parkers Creek.

Our 1991 Budget, while more than twice as much as last year's expenses, is only about \$5,000 more than last year's budget. Much of the difference is in expenses related to land purchase. We incur interest, legal, appraisal, survey and other costs with each land purchase and not all purchases budgeted last year were realized. We have again budgeted for at least one purchase this year, but may or may not be successful. The other major addition is that we have budgeted to purchase a small tractor, bushog and other necessary equipment to maintain the 12-mile trail network throughout the spring and summer.

In summary, I would leave you with the thought, evident from our financial reports, that every dollar we spend is related to land purchase and maintenance, or to the basic maintenance of the land trust—newsletters, mailings, networking and so forth. We continue to be a financially efficient organization managed and supported by volunteers who insure that almost all income received is used directly for land purchase or maintenance.

—Gary Loew, Treasurer

<u>INCOME STATEMENT</u>			<u>1990 BALANCE SHEET</u>	
<u>ACCOUNTS</u>	<u>Dec 31, 1990</u>	<u>1991 PROPOSED</u>	<u>ACCOUNTS</u>	<u>BALANCE</u>
	<u>ACTUAL I/E</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>		
<u>INCOME</u>			<u>ASSETS</u>	
Contributions	8,134	8,000	CB&T Checking Account	6,321
Membership Dues	10,645	10,000	Acc'ts Receivable	0
Grants	0	1,625	CB&T Savings Account	29,784
Interest	20,095	12,000	Development Rights Owned (1)	0
Sale of TDR's	0	0	First Annapolis Bank	44,188
Timber Sales	13,047	0	First Ntl Bank of MD	60,791
Merchandise Sales	290	500	Investments	10,375
Miscellaneous Income	150	200	Land (1)	246,968
Total INCOME	52,361	32,325	MD National Bk—CD (2)	115,134
			Petty Cash	36
			Prepaid Items	0
			Total ASSETS	513,597
<u>EXPENSES</u>			<u>LIABILITIES</u>	
(C) Historical and Cultural	118	0	Accounts Payable	0
(C) Land Use Management	1,652	2,000	Mortgage	0
(C) Outreach	650	2,000	Notes Payable	0
Bank Charges	187	100	Taxes Payable	0
Dues/Subscriptions	125	500	Total	0
Equipment Rental & Maint.	0	100		
Insurance	2,084	2,100	NET WORTH	\$513,597
Interest	0	2,000		
Land Purchase Cost	1,050	1,000	Retained Earnings(3)	473,237
Land Survey	650	2,500		
Legal/Accounting	1,125	3,000		
Meetings	1,430	1,500		
Postage & Shipping	780	1,000		
Printing & Publications	1,098	1,800		
Society Mem/Cost Merchandise	0	300		
Supplies	969	1,000		
Taxes	157	250		
Miscellaneous Expenses	710	500		
(C) Land Acquisition/Preservation	0	200		
Equipment Purchase	0	6,000		
Total EXPENSES	12,785	27,850		
NET INCOME	39,576	4,475		

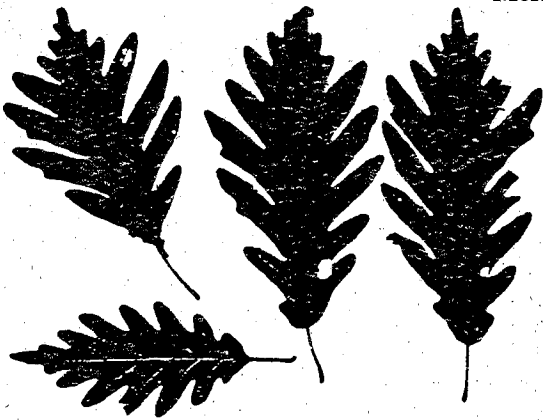
### NOTES

1. Portion of value of Russell Tract to be reallocated to TDR's
  2. Cashed in; now less than \$100,000
  3. To be increased when 1990 closed
- (C) Indicates committee expenses.

## An Unusual *Quercus* on ACLT Lands

The genus *Quercus* (Oak) still seems to be aggressively evolving and contains a wide range of specific forms and many variants. Within each of the white and black oak sub-genera occasional hybrids are found. A quite unusual specimen found on ACLT lands appears to be an extreme variant of *Q. prinus* (Rock chestnut oak) or (less likely in our opinion) a hybrid of that species with *Q. alba*, *Q. bicolor*, or *Q. muhlenbergii*. Recognizing that hybrid oaks also may be expected to be quite variable, we note that *Q. prinus* × *Q. alba* is pictured by Guy Stenberg (*American Nurseryman*, July 15, 1990, p. 33: Sturdy as an Oak). The specimen in ACLT is quite different in appearance from the pictured hybrid. County forester John Fisher kindly inspected the specimen and estimated its age at 50 years. While above average, the growth rate of the tree was not great enough to indicate hybrid vigor. Slightly damaged examples of the unusual leaves of this specimen (reduced to 1/4 size) are shown below.

—Merrill Wilcox



## Program Open Space Loses Funds in State Budget Cuts

The current U.S. economic downturn has affected a number of states, including Maryland. In a serious blow to our state's land conservation programs, the State has announced budget cuts that would take between \$23 and \$40 million from the Program Open Space account in order to balance unforeseen declines in state revenues.

Program Open Space (POS) is Maryland's leading natural areas acquisition program. POS purchases many kinds of open space, including Bay access areas, greenways, endangered species habitat, wildlife management areas, and state and county parks. It is funded by a tax of one-half of one percent on real estate transactions. This "transfer tax" is an appropriate source of revenue because it links the rate of development with the rate of open space acquisition.

POS funds are used by the State to purchase easements on land such as ACLT properties to insure that they remain undeveloped and thus, provides revenue that can be used in turn to purchase and set aside additional land. It seems unlikely that our land preservation goals in the Parkers Creek/Governor's Run watershed can be accomplished without substantial support from this important State program.

It is realized that all State programs must share the burden of balancing the budget, but the cut to POS funds should be consistent with cuts in other State programs. With the proposed \$23 – \$40 million cut, POS seems to be bearing a disproportionate share of the burden.

If you are concerned about this development or have

further questions, contact your legislator or Governor Schaefer (The Honorable William D. Schaefer, Governor of Maryland, The State House, Annapolis, MD 21404).

—Peter Vogt

## Notes from the January Board Meeting

A few highlights from the January ACLT Board meeting: Treasurer Gary Loew presented a draft of the 1991 budget which will be voted on at the March meeting. Ralph Dwan reported on the status of on-going land acquisition and preservation negotiations. John Hollowell, chairman of the Land Management Committee, requested funds to purchase a used tractor for ACLT's trail maintenance work. Since the Board has been unable to find alternative solutions for trail and fire road clearing, the request was approved with a limit of \$6000.

—The Editors

## ACLT Board Members Attend Maryland Land Trust Alliance Meeting

Aileen and Sam Hughes and I attended the semi-annual meeting of the Maryland Land Trust Alliance in December. The trusts represented had one thing in common—reliance primarily upon the interest of enthusiastic volunteers. Compared to a land trust that had hired a professional planner in 1957, ACLT is young. Compared to one with 25 members, we are large. Numbers provide no index to the diversity of our purposes which range from identifying small urban parks, to preserving a historic village or battlefield, improving water quality, reducing pressures on inland bays, or preserving a small ecosystem.

Formal sessions focused on State and Federal Legislation, a report from the Governor's Growth Commission and the Maryland Greensways Commission, Program Open Space and Land Trust Funding Opportunities, and Land Trusts and the Agriculture Preservation Program.

The Tax Counsel for the Trust for Public Land, Bill Hutton from San Francisco gave very interesting sessions on tax issues, including discussion of the "Benefits and Burdens of Tax Exempt Status" and "Charitable Contributions and Tax Benefits." The session emphasized the technicality with which this whole arena is surrounded and stressed the necessity of getting good professional advice.

One conclusion, I personally carried from the meeting was the importance of effecting change through influence on land owners, because protecting our small ecosystem can't all be done with purchase. The need for coalitions, joint ventures and cooperative efforts is critical to success.

—Caroline Van Mason

## ACLT Annual Meeting

For members who were unable to attend the annual meeting on October 27, I am pleased to report that it was a grand affair. Attendance was at an all-time high and most of the candidates for the Board of County Commissioners were present. That speaks of a growing public awareness of environmental issues as well as the fact that ACLT is becoming well known around the county.

Reelected to the Board of Directors were Carl Fleischhauser, Aileen Hughes, Mark Switzer and Bob Ulanowicz. John Hollowell was elected to his first term on the Board, replacing Dan Boesz, whose Air Force Reserve unit was called up for duty transporting troops and equipment to the Middle East. President Hughes

thanked Dan for his contributions as chair of the Land Management Committee.

Among the highlights from the committee reports were the following: the addition of an historically valuable corn crib to our collection of "historic" structures and sites; the planting of 2500 Loblolly pine seedlings, 104 Chestnut hybrids and 40 Black Walnuts; and the addition of 65 new members in 1990. John Axley and Arnie Petty were honored for their outstanding volunteer efforts, respectively, in supervising the Virginia pine harvest and the reforestation.

The keynote address was delivered by Robert L. (Bobby) Swann, Assistant State Comptroller, standing in for his boss, Louis Goldstein. Among his many assignments he is the Comptroller's designee on the State Agriculture Land Preservation Foundation, so he said that he has a good understanding why ACLT was formed. He noted that the date—October 27—was a very appropriate one for our meeting, since it was the birthdate of Theodore Roosevelt, "The Environment President," who added 125 million acres to the national forest. By contrast, the State of Maryland has lost 400,000 acres of forest land over the past two decades. After citing the various state and county programs to encourage reforestation and preserve forest land, he closed by quoting Russell Train, who wrote "that we humans, individually and collectively, are part of the living community of the Earth that nurtures and sustains us; that all living things, including humans, are interdependent; and that we have a duty, collectively and individually, to care for God's Creation."

—Ralph Dwan

[A transcript of the keynote speech is available. Write to ACLT at the Port Republic address.]

### **From the Outreach Committee**

Two programs are being arranged by ACLT for the Calvert County Library's the "Beat the Winter Blahs!" series.

**Prince Frederick Library, Feb. 19, 7:30 p.m.** "Southern Maryland Farm Culture, Then and Now." We will explore the historical and cultural roots of a rapidly vanishing way of life in Calvert County. Do we want to preserve or remember it? The panel will include farmers Allen Swann, John Prouty, Sr. and Susan Hance Wells; Greg Bowen who grew up on a farm and is in the Zoning and Planning office; and Patricia McGuire who has conducted a barn survey of the county and is on the staff of the Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum.

**Prince Frederick Library, March 19, 7:30 p.m.** Forming a Land Trust, a Workshop. The ACLT will explore the options with at least two other representatives from the Land Trusts in Ann Arundel and Prince George's Counties.

We are again sponsoring students for the Gifted and Talented summer program of the Maryland State Board of Education in one or more of the environmental programs.

—Elaine Cochran

### **Trifocal Eyeglasses Found**

Tortoise-shell tri-focal eyeglasses found in late October on trail near privy. Call 586-1749 to claim them.

\*Printed on recycled paper.\*

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