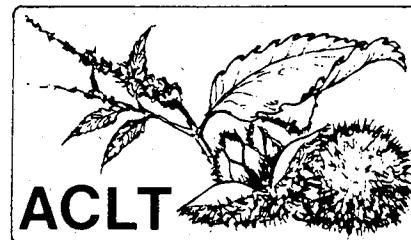


# American Chestnut Land Trust, Inc.

Post Office Box 204  
Port Republic, MD 20676



## NEWSLETTER

Volume 6 - Number 1

Winter 1992

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

### Welcome to Our New Members

Thirteen new members have joined the Land Trust since the publication of the Autumn Newsletter:

The Crawford/Brazzel Family	Mr. Ewing H. Miller
Vernon W. Brumbaugh	Mr. & Mrs. Michael A. Pappas
Mr. & Mrs. James Odgers	Mr. & Mrs. William P. Parkes
Ms. Ruth M. Mathes	Mr. & Mrs. Thomas P. Stack

We are pleased to find that a number of our new members live in the communities adjacent to ACLT's recently acquired Kenwood Beach property and are particularly appreciative of those who have volunteered their services. We look forward to finding ways we can work most effectively together:

### Board of Directors: New Arrivals and Farewells

New faces on the Board this year are Margaret Young and Charlene Sturbitts. The Autumn 1991 issue of the ACLT Newsletter ran an article on the retirement of Margaret Young as Postmaster of Port Republic. It didn't take us long to tap her talents as a Board Member and co-chairman of the Outreach Committee.

We are extremely fortunate to also add Charlene Sturbitts to a roster of hard-working Board Members. Charlene is an attorney specializing in environmental law; her knowledge and capabilities will be invaluable resources to ACLT. She is already reviewing documents and serving on the Land Acquisition Committee.

Unfortunately, the Board has lost the talents of Gary Loew as Treasurer and Joe Steller, Jr. as Member-at-Large of the Executive Committee. Both Joe and Gary have served as members of the Board since the establishment of ACLT in 1986. They have contributed hundreds of hours in decision making, idea formation, record-keeping, budget preparation, and sound financial management. While they may not be serving on the Board, we know we can always call on them for their time and talents.

### Update on the Wallace Property

It has been more than two years since we first started to work with Woodrow Wallace, principal spokesperson for the heirs of Cephas Wallace, on our acquisition of two woodland tracts at the northern boundary of ACLT's property to the west of Scientists' Cliffs Road. The land lies behind the residential properties that abut the left side of the road north of Gate E of Scientists Cliffs. This

has been a rather complicated situation which ultimately required action by the Court. A trustee satisfactory to the heirs has now been appointed and all parties are prepared to go forward.

To facilitate the purchase we were able, last fall, to apply for and receive a grant for an \$80,000 repayable loan from the Maryland Environmental Trust's currently limited Program Open Space funds. The loan gives us time to work out a few contingencies and to proceed with the purchase without depleting ACLT's Transferable Development Rights reserves while the market for TDRs is depressed. In these difficult times for the State, our receiving the loan speaks well for the importance of the property. The loan was endorsed by the Department of Natural Resources and the Maryland Environmental Trust on the basis of the evaluation of the Maryland Heritage Foundation and an independent appraisal. It was approved by the Board of Public Works on October 23, 1991.

### County Commissioners Explore Parker Creek

Although the weather was slightly breezy and skies overcast, Commissioners Mary Krug, Michael Moore, Hagner Mister and Patrick Buehler bravely joined a group of eleven ACLT unofficial guides and several reporters for a canoe trip up to the headwaters of Parkers Creek on October 21. Canoes were provided by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation; special permission to launch the canoes at the mouth of the creek was graciously given by the Jetts. Only Commissioner Terhes was absent; prior commitment precluded her participation in this outing, but she made a similar trip as a guest of ACLT in the past. Among ACLT's highest of hopes is preservation of the Parkers Creek wilderness in perpetuity. The value of this ecologically significant drainage area puts its acquisition, preservation and stewardship beyond ACLT's reach, but we have been encouraged to help in the formation of a coalition of governmental and other entities, including local citizenry, to accomplish this monumental task. It may seem an "impossible dream" but so did the existence of a viable American Chestnut Land Trust five short years ago.

### Board of Directors

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



## ACLT Receives Marpat Foundation Grant

Just before the holidays, we received the good news that ACLT had been awarded a \$17,000 grant by the Marpat Foundation toward salary and benefits for Margaret "Peg" Niland, ACLT's new part-time Administrator. The Marpat Foundation was established through the generosity of Mrs. Jefferson Patterson who is perhaps best known to many of you for her donation of the magnificent Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum to the State of Maryland for the benefit of us all. Marpat grants are made for public charitable purposes exclusively to 501(c)(3) organizations which are "created for *cultural, educational, scientific purposes* ..." among others and more specifically in regard to ACLT "to organizations providing services and/or education designed to preserve natural and historical resources, or advance the knowledge of mankind's history and cultural past and to those which promote volunteer participation in and citizen involvement with such organizations." We have been honored to count Mrs. Patterson as one of ACLT's members.

## ACLT Fund Raising to be Major 1992 Volunteer Effort

ACLT's first and only major fund raising effort among our members took place in 1987 and 1988 when ACLT set out to raise the funds necessary to purchase the original 436 acres of Gravatt property. The approximately \$430,000 raised at that time (most of it in \$2500 shares from 129 or so Charter Members) was enough, combined with revenue from the sale of Transferable Development Rights from the Gravatt property, for us to purchase and own in fee simple not only the 436 acre-Gravatt property, but the 80-acre Russell Tracts on Parkers Creek and the 81-acre Kenwood Beach property in the Governors Run watershed as well. By limiting our expenses, we have been able to operate effectively up to this time on revenue from new memberships, regular and sustaining, and renewals. This was augmented by \$13,000 from timber sales in 1990, interest on our capital reserve funds and, in 1991, by a \$5431 matching Janice Hollman Grant through the Maryland Environmental Trust to help with administrative expenses. Our purchases of the Russell Tracts and Kenwood Beach property have depleted our capital reserves. While both acquisitions provide TDRs, the TDR market is depressed from 1990 levels, but is expected to be better later this year and in 1993. Meanwhile, more land that is contiguous is for sale or coming on the market at prices we consider fair. The Woodrow Wallace land is a case in point. We believe most of our members would like us to continue to try to purchase ecologically significant tracts of land in the Governors Run and Parkers Creek watersheds if they are affordable and close to Land Trust properties. In granting ACLT the \$80,000 loan for the Wallace property acquisition, the State Board of Public Works has demonstrated that it also wants to see us continue. While this is being written, the ACLT Board is laying the groundwork for a fund raising effort to enable us to acquire properties meeting our criteria as the opportunity arises. The fund drive will be an all-volunteer effort, Board directed and carried out with the help of members.

## ACLT Photo Contest

The ACLT is sponsoring a photo contest in 1992. Images of natural and historical landscapes that are distinctly *Calvert* are being sought. The winner in each of three categories will receive a \$50 savings bond and a one-year membership in the ACLT.

The purpose of the contest is to heighten awareness of Calvert County's natural and historical landscapes. What does our county look like? What special aspects can the camera capture? "Landscape," of course, takes in both land and water. In addition to pictures of woods, farms, and fields we welcome photographs of the Chesapeake, the Patuxent, and their tributaries as they touch Calvert County.

### Rules for the contest:

1. Each entry is to be placed in one of three categories.
  - a. Natural landscape. Images that show primarily natural scenes.
  - b. Historical landscape. Images that show features of traditional culture—farms, waterfronts, old structures, roadways, or any other aspect of human creation or influence.
  - c. Photographs by young people. Any landscape image produced by a child 12 years of age or under.
2. Each entry is to be accompanied by a brief statement telling us where the landscape is located and explaining what features in the photograph are distinctive to Calvert County.
3. Entrants may submit photographs in any form, including 35mm slides or prints in color or black and white. If a print, we would prefer an enlargement greater in size than a typical snapshot. Enclose a self-addressed envelope if you want the picture to be returned.
4. Deadline for entries is September 1, 1992. Entries should be mailed to ACLT, Post Office Box 204, Port Republic, MD 20676.

We will display the photographs at the ACLT Annual Meeting next October and offer a few to local newspapers for reproduction. We also plan to make a slide copy of each for the ACLT archives. *Please tell us if you do not wish to have your picture reproduced in these ways.*

If you would like more information call the ACLT Office (410-586-1570).

—Carl Fleischhauer

## ACLT Board: 1992 Officers and Meetings

The ACLT Board of Directors met following the October Annual Membership Meeting to elect officers for 1992. Aileen Hughes and Peter Vogt will serve another term as president and vice president, respectively. Sue Hamilton is our new secretary and Ralph Dwan treasurer. Don Dahmann joins the four officers on the Executive Committee as Member-at-Large.

The ACLT Board meets from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon at the Battle Creek Nature Center. Meetings for 1992 are scheduled for February 1, March 28, May 30, July 25, September 26, and November 28. Meetings are open to all. If you plan to attend, confirm the meeting time and date with the ACLT office (410-586-1570) because it is sometimes necessary to reschedule meetings.

## Financial Highlights of 1991

Below I have provided highlights of our financial activity for the year and an abbreviated version of the financial statement for 1991. The formal final statement will change only slightly when I receive the December bank statements.

Overall income of \$55,440 exceeded expenses of \$27,705 by \$27,735. Primary sources of income this year were membership dues, which continue to grow, contributions, which included a single grant of \$6,800 for Kenwood survey costs, interest, and grants. We received two grants this year, the first a matching grant for one half of our administrative costs and the second to cover staff salary for one year.

Expenses increased somewhat from previous years, reflecting our growing program. Land management expenses included bridge materials, gas and oil for the tractor, and a tree planting grant to the Calvert County Forestry Association. Outreach expenses funded a vigorous program including two meetings with other groups, a scholarship and an Eagle Scout project. Land purchase and survey costs were for appraisals, minor administrative expenses and surveys of the rifle range, Kenwood tract and a boundary description of the Wallace tract. The substantial accounting expenses this year were to complete audits for the five years from 1986 to 1990. From now on, ACLT accounts will be audited each year. Meeting expenses enabled various ACLT members to attend seminars of interest to the organization. Annual meeting expenses are also included in this category. Printing expenses were for four newsletters, pamphlets and brochures. Equipment maintenance expenses were for tractor parts and repairs, while dues and subscriptions cover our membership in nine related organizations.

There are several major changes to the balance sheet this past year. We converted \$224,657 in liquid assets to land when we purchased the Kenwood property, we purchased the tractor and we received an \$80,000 no interest loan from the Maryland Environmental Trust towards purchase of future property.

Finally, I must acknowledge the substantial amount of "no cost" activity which permits the ACLT to thrive: The time of the Board and committee members, volunteer maintenance of trails and plantings, production of the newsletter, brochures and other publications, assistance to other land trusts, coordination with other property owners, research of land records, *ad infinitum*. These activities are not reflected in our accounting records, but are, in fact, the essence of our being. Through the substantial efforts of many dedicated and talented volunteers we are able to direct our expenses towards the purchase and maintenance of land.

—Gary Loew

## ACLT ACCOUNTS — 1991

### Income and Expense Statement

<u>Income</u>	
Membership Dues	\$17,110
Contributions	8,517
Interest Earned	\$7,190
Merchandise Sales	52
Timber Sales	0
Development Rights	0
Grants	22,431
Miscellaneous Income	140
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>55,440</b>

### Expenses

Land Management	542
Land Acquisition/Preservation	0
Outreach	717
Land Purchase Cost	1,270
Land Survey	6,750
Legal	1,099
Accounting	3,175
Insurance	2,050
Meetings	1,597
Printing & Publications	1,177
Postage & Shipping	933
Supplies	1,099
Equipment Maintenance & Rental	737
Dues/Subscriptions	688
Interest	0
Bank Charges	214
Cost of Merchandise	0
Miscellaneous Expenses	706
Taxes	369
Salary & Benefits	4,582
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>27,705</b>

**NET INCOME** **\$27,735**

### Balance Sheet (12/31/91)

#### Assets

CB&T Checking Account-1	951
CB&T Checking Account-2	881
Petty Cash	13
CB&T Savings Account	26,775
CB&T - CD	0
First Fed. Savings Bank/Annapolis	22,890
MD National Bank - CD	0
Equipment	5,905
Land	471,625
Prepaid Items	0
Accounts Receivable	0
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$619,727</b>

#### Liabilities

Accounts Payable	0
Mortgage	0
Notes Payable	80,000
Taxes Payable	0
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>80,000</b>

**EQUITY (RETAINED EARNINGS)** **\$512,812**

## Bird Survey

This year we will institute a formal bird survey of the tract lying west of Scientists' Cliffs Road. Anyone who would like to help is encouraged to call Sue Hamilton (410-586-1494). This is your opportunity to learn local bird calls while helping with the gathering of data. Clipboard, pencil and binoculars will be provided. However, you **MUST** call ahead, since only a few people can participate at any one time.

The point survey method will be used, following procedures recommended by Todd Engstrom of Cornell's Laboratory of Ornithology. This method calls for repeated visits to 15 pre-determined sites where all birds seen or heard are counted for 5 minutes. One person calls out the species detected while an assistant jots down the data.

By systematic monitoring of birds in this area we hope to detect habitat preferences and long-term changes in the relative abundance of resident birds. Of course, we also hope to see a few rarities!

These point counts will begin at the end of January, starting at 7:45 a.m. until April, when they will start at 6:30 a.m. The route will take from 1 1/2 to 2 hours to complete.

Partial Schedule:

<i>Sundays:</i>	<i>Tuesdays:</i>	<i>Saturdays:</i>
January 26	February 4	
February 9		February 22
March 22	April 21	
April 26		

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## Coming Events

An early wildflower walk is planned for Saturday, April 4. We will hope to see Bloodroot and Anemone. Meet at the ACLT parking lot at 10 a.m.

The first annual timberdoodle watch will be held at dusk (check your newspaper or call the ACLT at 586-1570) on Saturday, March 14. If you read Carl Fleischhauer's article on Woodcock and their courtship displays a few years ago (ACLT Newsletter January 1988), you will remember what a "timberdoodle" is. If you haven't seen and heard these chunky little birds perform, you are missing a local wonder.

Be prepared to sit in the field. Please park your car in the lot at least 15 minutes before dusk, or arrive on foot. There will be very little walking. (It will be appropriate to bring a thermos of hot cocoa along.) If there is rain or strong wind the event will be postponed until the 21st.

## Winter Bird Count

On Sunday, January 12, a small group of hardy birders counted birds in the ACLT as part of their contribution to the annual Calvert County Winter Bird Count. Sandy Roberts located a wintering Brown Thrasher right near the parking lot, and Linda Fadely identified a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker by the old barn.

This same crew would like you to help with the national Spring bird count which will be held May 9th. There will be more information in the next newsletter about this event and others.

