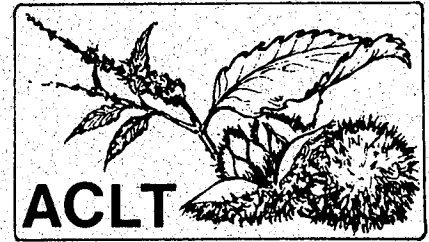


American Chestnut Land Trust, Inc.
Post Office Box 204
Port Republic, MD 20676



NEWSLETTER

Volume 7 - Number 1

Editors: Ellen and David Farr

Winter 1993

ACLT Office Now Open

Just before the end of the year, ACLT moved into its new office space in the small cabin across the road from the main parking lot on Scientists Cliffs Road. We are most appreciative of the generosity of the Scientists Cliffs' community in making this cabin available to us for office space and meetings. We are appreciative, too, of the hours of volunteer labor and contributions of furnishings and equipment that have turned the cabin into a most comfortable and convenient center.

From early November into December, Skip Ford supervised the renovation project and provided most of the labor to say nothing of the gas and rubber his pick-up truck burned up from Lexington Park to Annapolis and back many times over. Sam Hughes was a ready and willing assistant for carpentry, floor tiling and plumbing. We have Bill Hosler to thank for up-grading the wiring and for finding for us some previously-owned kitchen cabinets. The cabinets and sink were in remarkably good condition, and with little alteration fit into our space quite neatly. We thank John Hollowell for installing at his own expense the deadbolt locks on all the doors. Dan Boesz' reward for cutting back brush that was engulfing the cabin was a severe case of poison ivy, but before that he had earned our thanks for a fair share of interior painting. Lewis Firth spent a day on the walls, too. We learned that Sue Hamilton is not above doing windows. Flo Ford and Peg Niland could be seen dipping their brushes into paint buckets when their arms were not up to their elbows in Mr. Clean. When Flo's last curtain was hung, we declared the job done! Other cooperators: The like-new bathroom fixtures came from the Farman cabin; Viens Carpet gave us a special discount price on the carpeting; Ames had a timely sale on mini-blinds that saved us many \$\$\$.

The next-to-new self-cleaning kitchen range was a less than half-price windfall from Sears. With the all of the volunteer labor, the work was accomplished for less than the renovation donation of \$2500 we received from a most generous Charter Member. The ACLT Board held its first meeting in

the cabin on December 12. Until we line up a crew of steady volunteers, office hours will be sporadic. However, if you see a car in the drive, feel free to stop in and look around. Please enter through the porch (back) door. A bell will announce your entry.

Office Volunteers Needed

ACLT's administrator, Peg Niland, has accepted a contract to fill in for the County's Rural Planner, Sally McGrath, for 6 months. Instead of her usual 3/4 time job with ACLT, Peg will work full time for ACLT until March, up to 1/2 time from March to October, and then full time for the remainder of the year. With Peg Niland's hours being cut back during the next six months, the need for volunteers to help her stay ahead of the endless chores involved in running the ACLT office is quite evident. The list of tasks includes, but is not limited to, collating, copying, simple word processing and minor house keeping. The hours being considered are 10-2 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Anyone interested in donating their time either on a regular or "call" basis is asked to contact Flo Ford at 410-586-3437 (2620 Aster Rd., Port Republic, MD 20676).

"Wish List" for the New Office

We apologize for getting ahead of ourselves when we published our wish list for office furniture in the Summer Newsletter. A number of you responded immediately with offers of desks that you were about to dispose of. Unfortunately, we were unable to take advantage of your generous offers promptly as we had no place to store any office furniture until December and many a kind offer went by the board. We appreciate your giving us a chance. In the end, one of John Jones' handsome desks was moved over from Chestnut Cabin; Pat Bash provided a like-new legal-size filing cabinet, calculator and

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typing table; Madeleine Johnston, a heavy duty three hole punch. The Fords donated 25 folding chairs. A \$2,500 contribution toward the purchase of a Macintosh computer and printer as well as the requisite computer table and chair was made by Baltimore Gas and Electric. Thank you all very much for getting us off to a great start.

Financial Highlights of 1992

Having completed my first year as your treasurer, I am pleased to present a healthy financial picture in the accompanying financial statements. Some minor adjustments are expected after all bank statements have been received.

That income exceeded expenses by approximately \$21,000 is due to the generous support of our members in addition to the MARPAT grant (see Winter 1992 newsletter) for the administrator's salary in 1992. Not included under 1992 income is an initial installment (\$7,900) received in December from the World Wildlife Fund for the Parkers Creek project beginning this year. That grant is reflected in the restricted fund balance along with a contribution of \$4,000 received in 1992 for post Wallace land acquisition.

The proceeds from the sale of development rights (TDRs) in 1992 are listed under income but not included in the total, since the transaction represents an exchange of assets with the value of the land being reduced by that amount on the balance sheet. The remaining TDRs (currently 103) are included in the land value until sold.

With the success of our fund raising under Aileen's leadership and the sale of TDRs, we were able to repay the MET loan of \$80,000 and still have sufficient unrestricted cash reserves to complete the purchase of the Wallace property. The expenses of renovating office space (included under miscellaneous expenses) were less than projected due to the marvelous effort of volunteers, who are still the bedrock of our organization.

—Ralph Dwan

1992 Income and Expense Statement

Income	
Membership Dues.....	10,715
Contributions.....	23,403
Interest Earned.....	5,947
Merchandise Sales.....	96
Timber Sales.....	0
Development Rights.....	(120,000)
Grants.....	17,000
Miscellaneous Income.....	607
Total Income.....	57,768
Expenses	
Land Management.....	1,266

Land Acquisition/Preservation.....	0
Outreach.....	1,015
Land Purchase Cost.....	105
Land Survey.....	1,680
Legal.....	1,395
Accounting.....	1,275
Insurance.....	2,182
Meetings.....	1,576
Printing & Publication.....	1,000
Postage and Shipping.....	1,179
Supplies.....	1,590
Equipment Maintenance & Operations.....	89
Dues/Subscriptions.....	960
Fundraising.....	77
Bank Charges.....	231
Cost of Merchandise.....	216
Telephone.....	580
Taxes.....	258
Salary & Benefits.....	17,678
Miscellaneous Expenses.....	2,467
Total Expenses.....	36,819

1993 Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings will generally be held on the fourth Saturday of each *odd* numbered month from 8:30 a.m. to noon in the new land trust cabin. All meetings are open to our members. Although the meeting area is fairly small, there will be room in the corners for a few visitors. Please make a note of these dates: January 23, March 27, May 22, July 24, September 25 and December 4 (in order to avoid Thanksgiving weekend). The Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, October 23.

Land Management Activities

Starting in late September Mark Switzer, Chairman of the Land Management Committees, and his crew of volunteers have been marking the boundaries of ACLT's 336-acre tract on the west side of Scientists Cliffs Road. To date 58 posts have been set on the south and west sides of this tract at corners, bends and extremely long straight lines. ACLT member, Art Cochran, a surveyor by profession, has been in charge of the technical aspects of the project donating time, use of his equipment and know-how toward the project. The work has been done on Saturdays, with Mark and Art assisted on a regular basis by Dick Simpkins and Dave Dziergowski and more occasionally by Dave Chessler, Jay Switzer, Dave Gough and a girl friend of one of the hunters. In the course of the work, a few inevitable disagreements on the actual location of boundary lines between ACLT and several adjacent neighbors have surfaced. Mark's committee and the Land Acquisition Committee

headed by Ralph Dwan will take whatever steps are necessary to resolve the disputes to everyone's satisfaction and enter the corrected boundaries in the County Land Records.

Under stringent guidelines, bow hunting privileges were extended to two hunters on ACLT property beginning November 2. Under State regulations, hunters must be made familiar with property boundaries by the owners. Mark didn't miss the opportunity to recruit Dick Simpkins and Dave Dziergowski, the two bow hunters, for his boundary marking project. Since they started the work, for which they showed up regularly, both have become members of ACLT. Each of the hunters has taken a deer. Simpkins took the first one on ACLT's first day of hunting, November 2. The animal was an eight point buck, approximately 4 years old, weighing in at 135 pounds. Bow hunting season will close on January 31. Hunters on our property are limited to two deer. ACLT does not grant permission for any hunting with guns.

Arboretum Help Needed

The ACLT chestnut arboretum is now a part of the American Chestnut Foundation's Meadowview Research Program. We receive chestnuts, advice and requests for information from the Foundation. It has become increasingly difficult to monitor our arboretum. Access is blocked by bushes, briars and stumps and with the coming of summer, ticks, yellow jackets and snakes. This coming spring, probably in late March or early April, we would like to have a bush-hogging day to clear away undergrowth and assure access for members and for monitoring the progress of the trees. If you can help us with this project, please call Sandy Roberts (586-1791) and give your name and you will be notified when we will meet. All help will be greatly appreciated.

Nature Walks

Woodcock Stroll, Saturday March 20th, 6 p.m.
By late February, the American Woodcock males have staked out a display area and begun their crepuscular courtship. Open fields surrounded by brushy woods are ideal, so every year a number of them can be heard at dusk. We will meet at the new ACLT office. Please park on Apple Road. (If you need directions, stop at the office.) After a short introductory talk, we will cross the street to watch the "timberdoodle."

Bloodroot Ramble, Saturday March 27, 2 p.m.
One of the earliest spring flowers is the lovely but delicate Bloodroot. There are several spots on the ACLT where it grows in profusion. Join us at the

ACLT parking lot for a short walk to see these special wildflowers!

—Sue Hamilton

The Case of the Stolen Fern

Those of you who have walked the trails in the last few months probably were horrified to read the note from Turner and Starr about the spinulose woodfern they had protected next to one of the trails. It had clearly been dug up and removed. Item #9 in the rules and regulations of ACLT clearly states that there is no collecting or removal of anything, including firewood, except as authorized by the ACLT in writing. Do Not pick flowers or remove plants for terraria. We strongly suggest that you buy wildflowers and ferns from one of the nurseries which specialize in them. You are likely to have much better success keeping plants acquired in that way.

Annual Meeting a Great Success

One hundred and fifty members gathered at Christ Church on October 24 for the sixth ACLT Annual Meeting. The weather was simply beautiful and may explain the largest turnout, ever. Wayne Klockner, Director of the Maryland Regional Office of The Nature Conservancy, was principal speaker. He described how from a *modern perspective* today's conservation measures that deal with large ecosystems and the biodiversity within them are proving to be far more effective preservation goals than the trend of the past to protect specific species in relatively limited ecological niches. Peter Vogt then spoke on conservation from an *historic perspective* recalling the scientific contributions of the Reverend Hugh Jones, an early pastor of Christ Episcopal Church in the 17th century, who was sent from England to this part of the world as much for his capabilities as a naturalist as for his ministering to his flock. (Christ Church dedicated the Hugh Jones Memorial Grove the following day at Evensong.)

In keeping with Klockner's theme, ACLT presented Certificates of Appreciation to six landowners in the Parker Creek watershed for the voluntary commitment of their land to conservation: V. Wilson and Victor E. Freeland for the 1987 enrollment of 100.85 acres of their White Cliff Farm on Calvert Cliffs in the Calvert County Agricultural Preservation Program; Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Talley, members of ACLT, for the enrollment of their 60.6-acre tree farm on Wash Hance Road in the same program in 1990; R. Grant Helvey for his 1989 gift to ACLT of a small parcel of land at the Trust's entrance on Parker Creek Road; posthumously to Jewell Glass for the bequest of the Jewell Glass Laurel Grove to the

Nature Conservancy, seven acres now under the protection of the Scientists Cliffs Association for its 1992 declaration of 183 acres of community-owned land as permanent open space. Combined with the 600 acres of mostly forested land owned by ACLT in the Parker Creek and Governors Run watershed, the total acreage permanently preserved since 1987 is 965.92 acres. Add to that the 50 acres more or less of the Wallace tracts, the total will soon be 1015.92 acres.

ACLT Receives MET Janice Hollmann Grant

The Maryland Environmental Trust Board of Trustees recently approved six grants from the Janice Hollmann Grant Fund to support local land trusts in their land protection efforts. The Fund is named for Janice Hollmann, co-founder of the Severn River Land Trust and the Arundel Conservation Trust, who exemplified the citizen leadership necessary for the success of local land trusts. The American Chestnut Land Trust will receive \$2,500 which may be used for administrative expenses. To be eligible, a land trust must be a "qualified organization" as defined under Section 170(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and have executed a cooperative agreement with the Maryland Environmental Trust after July 1, 1990. This is the second time ACLT

has been awarded a grant from the Janice Hollmann Fund. We are honored.

Photo Contest Winners Announced

During the Annual Meeting, Certificates of Recognition and one-year Honorary Memberships in the Land Trust were presented to winners of the Calvert County Landscapes photo contest sponsored by ACLT in 1992 with \$50 EE Government Savings Bonds awarded to the first place winners: First place in the Natural Landscape Division, Julie Nisonger; First place winner in the Historical Landscape Division: Russ Van Westervelt; Honorable Mention in the Historical Landscape Division: Jane Klemer, Carol Mealy and Judith L. Wiley; Honorable Mention in the Natural Landscape Division, Hope Theriault and Casey Page; and Honorable Mention in the Natural Landscape Division for Young People, Michael Bowen. The contest was coordinated by ACLT's Carl Fleischhauer; Professional photographers Michael Shisler and August Selckmann served as judges. The photographs were on display in the Christ Church Parish Hall through the Hugh Jones Memorial Grove Reception on Sunday evening. We thank everyone who worked on this project as well as all the photographers who submitted their fine work throughout the year.

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