

American Chestnut Land Trust, Inc.
Post Office Box 204
Port Republic, MD 20676
410-586-1570



NEWSLETTER

Volume 11 - Number 1

Editors: Ellen and David Farr

Winter 1997

ACLT Annual Report for 1996

When I start to review the events of 1996 and what was accomplished, at the top of the list was the fact that our administrator, Peg Niland, was returned to good health. She must be more than ready to put 1996 into a closed file and begin this year with her usual vigor and enthusiasm. The amazing thing was that she kept ACLT going between her visits to doctors and hospitals, so that our 10th anniversary year was a banner indeed. Grants were up, volunteer hours increased and all events went forward as scheduled.

In many ways, 1996 was a year of transition. Leslie Starr took over from Mark Switzer as chair of land management and spent many hours maintaining trails with our newly purchased Gravely bushhog. Paul Berry succeeded David Farr as Treasurer and set up his computer station in our office. When Gary Loew was transferred to Texas, Ewing Miller stepped forward to become Vice President and to start the process of developing a five-year strategic plan. And for the first time, we sent a contingent to the Land Trust Alliance's annual convention in order to learn what was being done across the country by other land trusts.

Our focus on preserving the Parkers Creek Watershed continued with several important advances. In October, we hosted a meeting at Double Oak Farm for representatives of the State, the County and The Nature Conservancy to review the status of key parcels in the watershed and to plan together for possible acquisitions or preservation by the purchase of easements. ACLT's acquisition of the 20-acre Commodore tract seems on target with the appointment of a trustee for the family and a state grant through the county. Meanwhile, acting for the state, The Nature Conservancy purchased one parcel (Somervell #1) and has secured options on two other parcels (Turner and Somervell #2), and negotiations were started towards possible ACLT management of these properties following the model of Warrior's Rest. Working with the state and the county and with the

possibility of a legislative initiative introduced by the Governor, we ended the year with the hope that the resources can be put together to realize this dream.

While we are motivated by dreams, we still live with realities. Our 10th anniversary celebration in October enabled us to reflect on what ACLT has been able to accomplish and to receive reports from our committees of volunteers. We also received an interim report from Matthew Reeves, who is conducting the Phase 1 Archaeological Study of the Parkers Creek watershed under a grant we received from the Maryland Historical Trust. While we still have the debt on Double Oak Farm, we were able to meet most of our fund-raising goals in 1996 and made payments on principal through the sale of development rights. With the continued support of our members and volunteers, we can face 1997 with confidence.

Ralph Dwan
President, ACLT

Auction A Great Success—Thanks

Last year's silent auction was such a great success we're going to expand it to include a live auction this year. The success of the event was due to the enthusiastic participation of so many people who donated and purchased auction items. We're starting to plan now for this year's dinner, dance and auction following our Annual Meeting on October 25, and would like to hear your unique ideas for auction items. Please call Mimi Lacouture at 535-3183 or Alan Wilson at 586-0575 with any of your ideas or donations. Thanks again for your help and we're already looking forward to this year's event.

Mimi Lacouture
Outreach/Membership Co-Chair

Board of Directors

Ralph H. Dwan, Jr., President
Ewing Miller, Vice President
Caroline E. Van Mason, Secretary
Paul L. Berry, Treasurer
Joy A. Bartholomew
David Farr
Carl Fleischhauer
Florence W. Ford
Edward Greene
James B. Greene
Mimi Lacouture
Julie Nisonger
Robert Pfeiffer
Leslie Starr
Alan Wilson

Treasurer's Report for 1996

<i>ACLT Expenditures</i>	
Administration/Fundraising:	
Accounting	1,800.00
Bank Charges	105.25
Cost of Merchandise	16.66
Equipment Repair	316.70
Fundraising	381.72
Insurance	4,970.00
Miscellaneous	391.87
Occupancy	911.76
Postage/Shipping	556.94
Salary/Benefits	8,294.82
Supplies	1,327.10
Telephone	209.78
Subtotal	19,282.60
Land Acquisition/Preservation:	
Appraisals/Surveys	2,500.00
Legal	2,700.07
Occupancy	339.73
Presentation Materials	203.76
Salary/Benefits	20,736.94
Taxes	78.91
Telephone	1,014.73
Double Oak Center	1,281.15
Subtotal	28,855.29
Land Management:	
Equipment Operat./Maint.	439.33
Forestry Management	51.24
Land Management	4,176.14
Occupancy	679.41
Salary/Benefits	4,147.41
Subtotal	9,493.53
Outreach/Member Service:	
Dues	1,322.00
Meetings/Training	2,196.55
Occupancy	339.74
Outreach	1,077.77
Postage/Supplies	968.02
Printing/Publications	2,155.29
Salary/Benefits	8,294.55
Telephone	523.02
Subtotal	16,876.94
Operating Expenditures:	
Double Oak Loan Repayments	124,132.64
Parkers Creek Survey (MHT)	14,621.33
Total Expenditures:	213,262.33

<i>ACLT Receipts</i>	
Non-Restricted:	
Memberships	10,245.00
Contributions	5,635.00
Spring Appeal--Unrestricted	12,090.00
Fall Appeal	9,765.00
Environmental Fund for MD.	3,543.99
Sales of Merchandise	322.00
Services Rendered	156.25
Grants--First St. Paul	20,000.00
Reimbursements	430.48
Miscellaneous	2,736.32
Interest--Unrestricted	1,219.37
Subtotal	75,143.41
Restricted:	
Land Acquis.--General	1,500.00
Land Acquis.--Double Oak	19,262.50
Spring Appeal--Restricted	8,275.06
Memorial Fund--Hughes	550.00
Memorial Fund--Other	1,610.00
Grant: MET Hollmann	3,000.00
Grant: BGE	2,500.00
Grant: Spring Creek Foundation	20,000.00
Grant: Abell Foundation	5,000.00
Grant: Maryland Historical Trust	21,000.00
Grant: MarPat Fund	5,000.00
Holly Arboretum	188.85
Outreach Restricted	450.00
Sale of TDRs	90,991.92
Interest--Restricted	1,368.13
Subtotal	180,596.46
Total Receipts:	255,739.87
Carry over from 1995:	67,543.26
Total Funds Available in 1996:	323,283.13
Less expenditures:	(213,262.33)
Balance to 1997:	110,020.80
 Bank Balances (for 1996):	 110,020.80

Paul Berry, Treasurer

The Rural Legacy Program

As part of his 1997 legislative initiative entitled "Smart Growth," Governor Glendening proposes to establish a grant program that redirects existing state funds to preserve rural lands which are threatened by sprawl development and thus helps to maintain the viability of farms and forests for future generations. It provides funds from the transfer tax revenue for purchasing property and

easements in rural areas selected from proposals which are submitted by local governments and non-profit land trusts. Key elements of this proposal are the increase of funds for preservation through the issuance of state bonds to supplement Program Open Space funds and the establishment of a Rural Legacy Board to award grants on a competitive basis.

At its January meeting the ACLT board voted to support this program and communicate this support to our

state representatives, which as been done. We were willing to testify at the hearings held on February 26 and 27 but were told that they had filled the panel representing land trusts. We were assured that the slide show for the legislators included Parkers Creek and ACLT. How this program will play out in the Parkers Creek watershed, if adopted, remains to be seen. Still, the prospect of additional funds that could be available to Calvert County (and maybe ACLT) for preserving forests and farms make it well worth our support.

ACLT Receives Two Special Donations

Have you visited Double Oak Farm lately? Our old, moldy, handmade sign has been replaced by a professional work of art. Brian Treece, ACLT member and owner of Banana Banner in Alexandria, Virginia, has donated a sign that we proudly display at the entrance to Double Oak Farm. Skip Ford and Arnie Petty had it installed in time for Committee Day and visitors have been complimenting our improved appearance ever since. *Thank you Brian!*

Another special thank you goes to Jim Cawood for the donation of a Macintosh IIsi computer with a fax modem and a printer for use by our outreach/Membership service volunteers and committee chairs. Our much-needed additional workstation is now complete!

Committee Day and the Five-Year Plan

Work on the five-year plan is progressing, although it may take a few more months than we had originally hoped. We have arrived at the following tentative statement of our vision, culled from our day-long meeting of the board and invited guests: *"We are stewards of Calvert County land through ownership and alliances, preserving land and cultural heredity by education, research, public accessibility, and family programs."*

On Committee Day, February 22, about forty board and committee members, interested volunteers, and our administrator spent the greater part of a Saturday establishing for each committee year-by-year goals for the next five years. The day was well organized. We have learned from previous experience with committee days that a focused program for discussion produces much better results, and the five-year plan, plus much hard work by the committee chairs, gave us that focus. If I were to judge the tenor of that meeting, I would say it was fiscally conservative in recognizing that we must concentrate on reducing our debts by more imaginative methods, change our focus from land acquisition to land management, in-

crease the responsibility of the committees, and bring in more volunteers.

These are tall orders, but not impossible ones. Responsibilities will change, our emphasis will change, and cooperation and partnerships with others will grow. ACLT has done a stunning job, and the next five years should polish up what we have. There was an enthusiasm through the entire meeting that comes from a job well done.

Ewing Miller

Land Management Committee

Twenty-three people attended the Land Management portion of the recent Committee Day activities. This was an outstanding turnout, and even more gratifying is the fact that thirteen people are willing to be on the committee and meet regularly to undertake land management practices for the ACLT and make plans for the future.

The agenda began with a recap of accomplishments from 1996, most of which have previously been described, but also included what has been done so far this year, notably to complete the most difficult parts of the boundary marking on the Kenwood Tract. The committee structure was discussed next. Art Cochran has agreed to be co-chair of the committee, along with Leslie Starr. Art is already our most stalwart volunteer, and has considerable skills in both surveying and forest work as well as being a full-time resident of the area. It was realized that most of the actual work being done by the land management forces takes place on the two Gravatt Tracts, the original ACLT acquisitions and the site most accessed by the public. While it was initially proposed that the northern properties, including Double Oak Farm and some of the state land, have a separate committee, further reflection and input from committee members suggest that there should be an trust-wide land management committee with separate subcommittees representing the different geographical regions, such as north and south of Parkers Creek. Pat Murphy and Jim Greene have agreed to have oversight of land management of the northern properties and the Double Oak Conference Center, giving guidance and support to the Niland family and volunteers.

A long list of potential and/or actual projects for 1997 took up much discussion. Earth Day will be observed on April 26, with the cleanup of Double Oak Road as a special goal. Trail maintenance on the main (Gravatt) tracts will again be a priority, with a minimum estimated need of fifty mowing hours if conditions are the same as last year. Ongoing projects include care of the historical sites, boundary marking, trail improvements, and the chestnut arboretum. Brian Treece has enthusiastically offered to construct bridges over the streams on the Laurel Loop and to work on the problem of bike tire degra-

dation of damp areas. Art's daughter, Cathy Cochran, is doing a school environmental project on the arboretum and will be sorting and updating records and making plans to replant where some of the chestnuts have died. Eradication of exotic invasive plants has long been on the wish list of the committee, and with SMECO's test spraying along their right of way we will at least begin to learn whether herbicides affect bamboo. A new project is the native flower bed and display garden planned for the main entrance. Helen and David Didion are still willing to organize this and will happily welcome involvement by other volunteers.

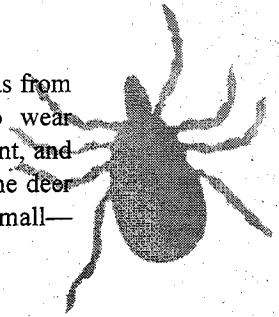
The main task of the Land Management Committee for 1997 is the revision of the forest management plans for the Gravatt tracts. As the ACLT has acquired property these last ten years it has applied to and been accepted into the county Agricultural Preservation Program. This is what has enabled us to sell transferable development rights (TDRs) to earn money to purchase additional land, as well as eliminating county property taxes. Land is accepted into the program by being suitable for either agricultural or forestry production and must have an approved Soil Conservation Plan or Forest Resource Management Plan. A certification of compliance with the management plans is required by the county every three years. All of the ACLT property has been enrolled as managed forest land, and our original forest management plans called for active forestry production. After the devastating ice storms in early 1994 our forester recommended initiating timber harvesting on the Gravatt tracts as he felt that the trees would lose their market value from deterioration due to storm damage. His proposal to clearcut 60-70 acres along Scientists' Cliffs Road prompted the board to examine their and the membership's feelings about timber harvesting. While many would not rule out silviculture as a means to generate income or improve forest health, it became apparent that most people felt that possible greater benefits could be reaped by treating the woods conservatively. Allowing some trees to mature would at the very least produce bigger and possibly more valuable timber in the future. It might also turn out that the woods as a preserve would have more value as wildlife habitat, for protection of air and water quality, and as a site for ecotourism. At a meeting of the Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board on August 7, 1995, the question was raised as to whether a landowner could revise their forest management plans in the direction of natural resource protection. The board indicated that they would be willing to consider such plans and, per a letter to the ACLT dated August 29, 1995 agreed that "the landowner must have the flexibility to react to constantly changing environmental and economic factors. As long as a plan is employing Best Management Practices, the intent of the Agricultural Land Preservation Program is being followed."

The Forest Resource Management Plans are to be drawn up by a forester, but the landowner's goals are the starting point for the development of these plans. We have received a proposal from a highly accredited ecologist to perform an ecosystem needs assessment, which could be the beginning of what has been visualized as a Parkers Creek Watershed Ecosystem Management Plan. We are, along with the entire ACLT board, working on an updated Five Year Plan, which will reflect where we want the ACLT to be by the year 2002. The Land Management Committee welcomes input as to what the ACLT's goals are. Our motto of "Preserving Calvert County's Natural and Historical Resources" is a good place to begin.

Leslie Starr

Tick Season

Ticks are a problem in our woodlands from now through September. Remember to wear light clothing, cover up, use insect repellent, and check for ticks when you return home. The deer tick, which can carry Lyme disease, is small—about the size of a sesame seed.



Warrior's Rest

With the onset of warmer weather, we are starting to receive requests from organizations and educational institutions throughout the region for access to Warrior's Rest. If you or your organization wish to visit Warrior's Rest for scientific or educational purposes, we remind you to get your application in soon. Access rules and regulations have been developed and you may obtain a copy by contacting the office at 410-586-1570 or Bob Pfeiffer, the committee chair at 410-586-0683.

Robert Pfeiffer

Leaving a Legacy

While we were saddened by the loss of long-standing members over the past year and a half, ACLT has received memorial gifts in the amount of \$ 18,520.00 and the assurance of a \$10,000 memorial endowment. Our finance committee is now exploring new avenues for our members to leave an expression of their admiration for ACLT's endeavors. New to us, but a major source of income for many nonprofits, the committee will be working on a planned giving program for our members and supporters. At this time we are seeking individuals with experience in estate planning or planned giving programs and urge any with such talents to let us know if you can lend your expertise.

Recollections of Calvert: Thomas Bourne Turner

My grandfather and grandmother would take me to Baltimore on the steamboat. We'd get on about six at Dare's wharf, have a nice dinner, go to bed, and then I'd sleep in a bunk over them, they'd sleep late, we would get to the Baltimore pier at five, I think. They'd put the gangplank out and take the calves off. And I know exactly how to move a calf, you twist its tail, and he goes. I've seen it many times. And then they'd roll the hogsheads of tobacco off, you know, and eventually we'd get up and move to the hotel, and we'd go various places in Baltimore. In 1911, I went to the first airplane show with my grandfather.

Thomas Bourne Turner, born in 1902, is reminiscing about his childhood. It is now September 1996 and six ACLT visitors armed with a tape recorder are spellbound by the exuberance of Turner's storytelling and by the light that his narratives shed on the greater Parkers Creek neighborhood in the early years of the century. Turner grew up in a house on Main Street in Prince Frederick, which he described as "only a village." But the family owned (and still owns) a farm of more than 800 acres that spans the sloping land between Parkers Creek and the road to Dare's wharf, now better known as Dare's Beach Road. As newcomers and new owners of neighboring land, Turner's stories evoke for us the sense of place held by an astute and insightful man born and raised in the heart of Calvert.

Turner's familiarity with the northern flank of the Parkers Creek watershed reflected the location of the family farm and the homes of nearby relatives, as well as the routine of taking the steamboat from Dare's wharf to Baltimore. But Turner was also well acquainted with the creek proper and Port Republic, the community to the south and home to several Turner friends and relations. His grandmother Hannah Brooke Dorsey (born 1827!), for example, lived on the Port Republic farm now called East View until her death in 1912. But Turner's strongest link south of the creek was with Anne Parran Somervell, the daughter of Alex and Nannie Somervell of Port Republic, and the woman Turner married in 1927.

And what sort of place was it? In Turner's youth, the Civil War was as close in time as World War II is today. And Civil War memories were very vivid in Calvert which, like much of Southern Maryland, had strong Confederate sympathies. For Turner, in fact, the sympathies were so deeply imbued as to be subconscious.

I grew up as a devoted follower of the Confederacy. When my father said, when I was ten or twelve, "It's a good thing the South lost," I was sort of shocked. I didn't real-

ize he felt that way. And, you know, it was always the Gray and the Blue. We separated out [when playing games as children] . . . I began to think — that's what Lincoln said, that was Lincoln's great contribution: "The Union has to be preserved." It's not slavery, that was going anyway. The Union had to be preserved. And it took me a long time to admire Lincoln. But I certainly do now.

As Turner recalls life among the county's leading families in the teens and twenties, he remembers books and music. "We didn't have much money in Calvert County," Turner said, "if there was a choice it was usually girls that were sent away to college. When they came back, they established a cultured society that was way beyond what might have been." Turner's mother, for example, attended the Virginia Female Seminary in Manassas. Turner recalled visiting relatives who occupied the old house on Peterson Point on the Patuxent, at the mouth of St. Leonards Creek, where the Patterson residence at Jefferson Patterson Park now stands.

My grandmother and my Aunt Brooke were marvelous pianists and my great-grandmother was a pianist but when her fingers got tough she took up the violin. I heard her play the violin. But my grandmother played Mozart and all that. . . . And all that culture was still there. No telephones, no automobiles, you know, no electricity, nothing, but somehow that persisted—its a great tribute to Calvert County.

In contrast, as Turner remembers it, many boys in these same families either went without higher education or studied agriculture. "They thought you didn't need an education to farm," he said. But Turner himself is an exception, one of the boys who joined the professions. In his case, he followed in the footsteps of his great-grandfather John Turner, born in 1812, and became a doctor. An avid reader, Turner was first drawn to St. John's College in Annapolis, where he won a scholarship in 1916. After the interruption of World War I, Turner returned to St. John's and then, in 1921, matriculated at the medical school at the University of Maryland.

Following his graduation from the University of Maryland medical school, Turner was given a fellowship at Johns Hopkins Medical School. He was soon sent by the Rockefeller Foundation to fight yaws and syphilis in the tropics in the 1930s, served in the U.S. Army during the Second World War, specializing in the control of venereal diseases, and culminated his career in a long and distinguished stint as Dean of the Medical Faculty of the Johns Hopkins University. Residing in a handsome town house in Baltimore's Bolton Hill neighborhood, Turner and his wife kept company with many interesting figures,

including Hulbert Footner, the well-known author who also had a rural retreat in Calvert County, and H.L. Mencken, the incomparable sage of Baltimore.

I knew Mencken . . . every Christmas night we would have dinner with the Menckens and Gerald Johnson and ourselves. At Bolton Hill. And then his brother August, I knew very well. [H.L.] was quite a person, he had to be an adversary, you know, and in his diary he said nasty things about everybody . . . [But at the dinner table] he was nice. He was a writer rather than a conversationalist. He was at his best at writing.

Turner still lives in Baltimore and maintains a house on Gibson Island, where we visited him. But he has never lost his sense of connectedness to Calvert. In one of his books, he writes, "It gives me great satisfaction that through my father I still own a small piece of the good earth of Calvert County, where aged oaks and tulip poplars shade a verdant softness and a deep, life-sustaining loam." (*Part of Medicine, Part of Me: Musings of a Johns Hopkins Dean*, 1981, p. 13.) Thanks to Turner's leadership during the last three or four years, his family has protected this land (see article elsewhere in this newsletter).

One may have feelings about verdant softness and life-sustaining loam, but we visitors knew that this elevated expression must spring from more down-to-earth experiences. And we heard reminiscences from Turner's childhood and youth suggestive of the intimacy of nature and culture in Calvert. "At about age 15," he writes in his book, "I became my father's 'foreman' during the summer, working along with the hired men--about a half dozen blacks and whites--planting, cultivating, and harvesting corn and tobacco." (*Part of Medicine*, p. 4). He clearly remembered seeing beaver in Parkers Creek and—surprising to us—a complete absence of deer. And then there was his grandfather, a devoted foxhunter.

The grandfather was also named Thomas Bourne Turner and, until his death in 1913, was master of the Hotel Calvert that stood opposite the courthouse in Prince Frederick. The hotel is universally remembered for the luxuriant wisteria vine that shaded its porch. In later years, Turner's father, George Dorsey Turner, also ran the hotel, in addition to farming and operating a construction business that built steamboat wharves. Today, the hotel building is long gone but a remnant of the wisteria flourishes today, a grace note in a zone of asphalt.

My grandfather was a fox hunter. He ran the hotel but he didn't do any work, my grandmother did most of the work and her--the people she employed. But he used to fox hunt and we always had fox hounds. . . . [We would go] early in the morning. Very early . . . daybreak. . . . And they

would follow these hounds on horseback, but by the time I got around, my grandfather was not all that old, but pretty heavy and so we frequently went in buggies. I went with him in buggies. And he would try to guess where the foxhound would cross the road, and the fox, he did pretty well at it, and it was in that land [near the farm], but it was mostly uplands rather than near the marsh. . . . For example, I remember distinctly going down the Double Oaks Road [off of Dare's Beach Road], actually there were three oaks there, you know, originally. Not just two. I never quite knew where the Double Oaks got its name, but there were three big [trees]. . . . one on one side of the road, couple [on the other]. . . . All that was open land at that point, on the right as you go down. That [land] was open until twenty or thirty years ago. . . . The fun was in the chasing, the catching, we never got one, I don't think he wanted a fox, you know. They would skin the fox and get the hide and somebody would sell it but the chase was the fun and the dogs, you could hear them baying. I don't know if you've ever heard it or not but a fox hound, foxhounds, act as individuals, barking, until they spot the fox and then they all come in unison and start to chase him, and you can hear by your ear that they found the fox.

Carl Fleischhauer

Postscript: As this newsletter was going to press, we learned how Doctor Turner spent his 95th birthday. Baltimore mayor Kurt Schmoke declared January 28, 1997, "Dr. Thomas B. Turner Day," and Governor Parris Glendening sent along a special citation. A tribute was paid at the January 29 meeting of the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine Advisory Board, where university president William Brody related the story of Turner recently renewing his driver's license, good "til he turns 100." The ACLT joins this august company and wishes Tommy Turner a very happy birthday indeed!



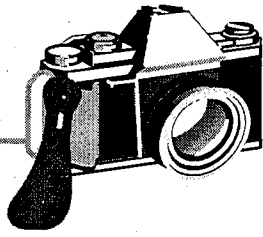


Photo Contest

We're looking for photographs that show the magnificent, natural resources of Calvert County

Wildflowers, trees, birds, historical landmarks and people

Take your camera as you travel through Calvert County or when you attend any of the ACLT events listed in the Calendar. The Parkers Creek Canoe trip and Earth Day would be great photo opportunities.

Prizes will be awarded in four categories:
Nature - History - People - Junior Division

Prizes will be awarded at the ACLT Annual Meeting, October 25, 1997

Rules: Submit your photograph (prints only please) with a brief description of the photograph along with your name, address and telephone number. Mail photographs to ACLT, P.O. Box 204, Port Republic, MD 20676. Photographs will be accepted until October 1, 1997.

For the Love of Land . . .

and all that it means to each of us, come our volunteers—for acres of unspoiled forest and marshland, the sound of geese flying overhead or a bubbling brook underfoot, the emergence of spring wildflowers and renewed life, the glimpses of foxes, raccoons, and deer.

The week of April 20th is National Volunteer Week and ACLT will be offering its volunteers much more than just additional work. Each volunteer, however, must find that reward within herself or himself in the land through its beauty, its history, its culture and knowing that what they do makes a difference—not just for today, but for generations to come.

As we look back over the past year of hours of hard work on and off the trails, we realize that, despite having staff, ACLT is still a volunteer organization. Our office now has two extra workstations manned by Paul Berry, Treasurer; June Whitson, who has handled our membership records and acknowledgments for several years; and newcomer, Ginny Murphy who has taken over membership correspondence. Always behind the scene and often on the scene, are your board of directors. I've even caught president Ralph Dwan cutting the grass at the office and I've heard Carl Fleischhauer drives a mean bushhog! Guess who does window—board member Flo Ford. Research for grants is aided by Joy Bartholomew and Caro-

line Van Mason. Also found around the office grounds are Joe Mihurski keeping the bamboo in check and Joanne Hildebrand planting bulbs and keeping our gardens growing.

After what must seem like years of very lonely work on the Kenwood Beach property, Ted Post has finally gotten help from ACLT regulars, Erik Vogt, Jay Switzer, Ralph Dwan, John Lewis and sons Josh and Matt, Mike Gottfried, Steve Parker, Paul Lambert, "Amy and boyfriend", Art Cochran and Leslie Starr. Two serious days of mowing, trimming and boundary marking proved to be difficult work in the heat of summer, but accomplished a great deal. Vince Keyser and student community service volunteer, Matt Marguess have also assisted with special projects. Hopefully Ted finds his reward in the woods because he's on his own again for awhile.

Moving northward, the Gravatt tracts—our original and most beautiful property and trails—continue to receive special care under the hard-working and never-ending diligence of Land Management Co-Chairs, Leslie Starr and Art Cochran. It is on these tracts that we know our volunteers must derive an inner reward for their efforts—what else could possibly keep them going year after year. The hours of mowing and bushhogging, painting and installation of signs, downed trees removed, boundaries marked, soggy places bridged, and arboretum tending are almost inconceivable. I know many of you aid

in our trail maintenance on your own and not with an organized work party and that we'll never know your name. A few names that can always be counted on to pitch in, in addition to those mentioned, are Peter Vogt, John Hollowell, Dan Boesz, Joe Turner, Mark Switzer, Kathy and Peggy Cochran.

In addition to the Niland women, whose faces do we see maintaining the trails and equipment, and setting up for events at the conference center at Double Oak Farm and Ward property—Skip Ford, Arnie Petty, Ginny Murphy, Jim Greene, Jim Cawood, Alan Wilson, Paula and Dick Simpkins, Ed and Jan Greene, Mimi Lacouture, Julie Nisonger, Roxana Homer, and, of course, Leslie Starr. As our visitors and activities at Double Oak increase, we are excited about the involvement of our neighbors and local residents at Deer Crossing and Dares Beach - Frank Buckler, Ronnie Stinnett, "Wheelbarrel," Virginia and Jim Simms, Wilson Freeland, members of the Southern Maryland Hunt Club II, and newcomers Leon Myers and Angelo Cimini.

Not to be forgotten are the members of the Warrior's Rest Committee and resident managers Leigh and Dan Hamilton. Owned by the state and managed by ACLT, Warrior's Rest has been a management challenge that we are proud to say we do well. Lead by committee

chair, Bob Pfeiffer, this dedicated band of "warriors" have established policies for use and public access, salvaged an almost lost holly arboretum (with Karen Lucas's expert guidance), and hosted several exciting ACLT events. Dan and Leigh's restorative endeavors provide a beautiful setting for scientific and educational activities for visitors. Rolling up their sleeves for planned work-days, in addition to just about everyone mentioned as working elsewhere, are John Bergin, Dave Bohaska, Paul Dennett, Dave and Ellen Farr, John Jones, Ewing Miller, Erik Vogt.

Beyond the office and trail volunteers are the great thinkers, planners and detail people who pull off Earth Day, Family Day, annual meetings, planning sessions, educational programs, land negotiations, public relations and fundraising. With great reservation I mention those I know of - and hope that those who work unacknowledged as well as those we identify, know that not only during National Volunteer Week, but every time a hiker or visitor walks on a trail or drives by our forests and fields, they are appreciated. Their reward? They have already received it—*through their love for the land.*

Peg Niland

Printed on recycled paper.



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

