

# Watershed Observer



NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN CHESTNUT LAND TRUST - VOLUME 35 No. 1 WINTER 2021

## CONTENTS

RESILIENCE IN A CHANGING  
CLIMATE...1

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:  
GOVERNOR'S RUN DEVELOPMENT  
CORPORATION (GRDC)  
PROPERTY UPDATE 2

CELEBRATING ACLT 3

CHAMPIONS AMONG US: ACLT'S  
ANNUAL PARKERS CREEK  
CHALLENGE 4

ACLT'S 2021 CHESAPEAKE  
CONSERVATION CORPS  
MEMBERS 5

FLIPPO GRAVATT AND CHESTNUT  
BLIGHT RESEARCH, 1926-1953 6

THE BEECH TREE: BARK MESSAGING  
OR MUTILATION 7

NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE  
AVAILABLE 8

SAYING FAREWELL TO 2020 WITH  
GRATITUDE 8

CONTRIBUTIONS AND NEW  
MEMBERS 10

REGISTRATION OPEN—MASTER  
NATURALIST PROGRAM 11

ACLT'S ANNUAL MEETING MARCH  
2021 11

BE SURE TO CHECK OUR WEBSITE,  
[HTTP://ACLTWEB.ORG](http://acltweb.org), TO VERIFY THE  
CURRENT STATUS OF OUR EVENTS.

PLEASE VISIT OUR TRAILS! ALL TRAILS  
WILL REMAIN OPEN AS USUAL FROM  
DAWN TO DUSK EVERY DAY. RE-  
SEARCH HAS SHOWN THAT COMMUN-  
ING WITH NATURE IS GOOD FOR BOTH  
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BOOST THE IMMUNE SYSTEM!

QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?

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## Resilience in a Changing Climate

by Greg Bowen, Executive Director, ACLT

Over the last year, I have written about our changing climate and the reasons that land trusts are stepping up to preserve large landscapes, thus protecting wildlife diversity and maintaining wildlife corridors. It is sobering, but urgent news that needs to be told.

This time, I am writing more encouraging news about The Nature Conservancy's (TNC's) work to more comprehensively assess ecosystem resources and develop a plan for addressing climate change. If it is utilized, it could help the local and state governments and non-government organizations (NGOs) to focus efforts on preserving the most resilient landscapes, protecting more species, and leaving a more enduring landscape for future generations.

At this year's Land Trust Rally held in October, Mark Andersen of The Nature Conservancy presented the Conservancy's work with respect to climate resilience. Over the last 10 years, 150 scientists have participated in this project and they divided their work into 9 regions of the country. The work also involved and was supported by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

To begin, Mark described the degree in loss of species abundance in the United States due to many factors, including pollution, further development of lands, and climate change. For example, native species biomass is down 20% since 1900, amphibians have decreased in abundance by 30% in that same time period, butterfly abundance is down 35% in 40 years, and the number of birds is down 29% since 1970.

He noted that due to climate and precipitation changes, nature is moving upslope 36 feet per decade and northward 11 miles per decade. He also observed that individual species are seeing their ranges declining (e.g. martins, caribou, cougars, mountain goats, etc.) by 20% to 80%.

In response to these losses, TNC decided to look for areas that could sustain species based on biodiversity, resilient sites, and climate flow.

TNC scientists have determined most of nature is based on site conditions: soils, geology, elevation, topography and hydrology. 'Site Resilience' estimates the climate-resilience of an area of land "based on its landscape diversity (estimated microclimates) and local connectedness (lack of fragmentation). Each site is scored relative to all other sites in its ecoregion that have the same geophysical setting based on soils, bedrock geology, and elevation zone," as noted in Mark's presentation. The results identify land where high microclimatic diversity and low levels of human modification of the landscapes provide species with "connected, diverse climatic conditions they will need to persist and adapt to changing regional climates." Those properties are identified as the most resilient.

Factoring all of these variables, TNC has just posted a new website that maps out the most resilient landscapes of the United States. Mapping was just released in October 2020 and can be viewed at <http://maps.tnc.org/resilientland/> Please check it out.

After participating in the workshop, I took a look at Southern Maryland and was delighted to see that it contains some of the most resilient lands in the Mid-Atlantic region.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 9)



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Published quarterly by the American Chestnut Land Trust. The ACLT is dedicated to the preservation of Calvert County, Maryland's Natural and Historical Resources. Since it was established in 1986, ACLT has preserved over 3,200 acres. We own 1390 acres, manage 1,819 acres owned by the State of Maryland, and hold conservation easements on 374 privately-owned acres.

Editors: Ellen and David Farr

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## From the President's Desk ...

### Governor's Run Development Corporation (GRDC) Property Update

At ACLT, we are finishing the year 2020 on a high note! In November, the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners approved the purchase of an easement on the 78-acre Governor's Run Development Corporation (GRDC) property by a 5-0 vote. Now the project moves to the Maryland Board of Public Works to authorize the use of Rural Legacy Funds to fund the easement purchase on this beautiful forested tract on the north side of Governor's Run Road.



GRDC Wooded Glade.

With the money from the easement purchase, ACLT will have critical funding to finance the purchase of the land. This will complete nearly a 5-mile long contiguous band of protected land along or adjacent to the Chesapeake Bay from Western Shores to Dares Beach Road. This wooded tract contains old growth forest near the Gravatt East tract and it is part of the Lower Bennett Patent from Lord Baltimore in 1658.

The Summer 2019 issue of the *Watershed Observer* featured a lengthy article describing in detail the history and the importance of the property (<https://www.acltweb.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/summer2019.pdf#page=3>).

We will continue to keep you posted on the progress!

David Farr, President



Aerial photo of GRDC property including boundaries

# Around ACLT

## Celebrating ACLT

by Miriam Gholl, Community Relations Manager

Since we were unable to hold our annual dinner and auction due to concerns about the spread of COVID, the Outreach & Membership (O&M) Committee came up with an outdoor weekend event that was intended to celebrate ACLT and educate the public about everything we do.

ACLT's first-ever Celebration Weekend was held October 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. To kick off the celebration, we premiered a short video on Friday evening featuring Greg Bowen, Executive Director, and Autumn Phillips-Lewis, Land Manager, describing the successes ACLT has had this year and emphasizing the importance of support from the community. The video also kicked off our annual Fall Appeal, which continues until the end of the year. View the video here: [https://youtu.be/yT4\\_9j2kPKk](https://youtu.be/yT4_9j2kPKk)

Saturday's event was held at the south side trailhead and Sunday's at the north side. Several ACLT committees and groups contributed exhibits displaying ongoing projects and chronicling the history of ACLT. Carl Fleischhauer assembled a detailed display of the cultural history of the area and the research that is being conducted as part of the ongoing Parkers Creek Heritage Trail project. Peter Vogt was present both days to discuss the history of ACLT's lands with visitors.

Several games, activities and crafts were available for the kids, including a bird migration game to demonstrate the obstacles and dangers faced by birds as they migrate. Informational signs were put up along Frog Pond Trail on Saturday and Turkey Trail on Sunday so that families could learn more about what they were seeing while hiking. They were also given a scavenger hunt to complete and were encouraged to look for hidden painted rocks that were donated by the community. Master Naturalist Georgeanne Scott created a "camouflage hunt" at the beginning of each of the trails, with man-made items hidden to demonstrate how animals use camouflage for protection.

On Sunday, Alyssa Matanin, CCC Intern, and Sharon Brewer, farm volunteer coordinator, offered tours of Double Oak Farm, while Master Naturalists Peggy Cook, Sandy Foley, and Connie Willoughby guided the final canoe trip of the year. Local musician and storyteller Longman Joseph Norris closed out the weekend with a concert on the porch of the Double Oak barn.

We'd like to thank the following local businesses who, once again, showed their support for ACLT by sponsoring the event and donating items for our raffle: Flag Harbor Marina, Chesapeake's Bounty, Nate Novotny/Edward Jones Financial, Calvert Dog Academy, Half Shell Adventures, Shelden Studios, The Tidewater School, Pax Real Estate, Stephen Oberg,

Esq., Maerten's Jewelers, local artist and farm volunteer Pat Morrison, Spencer Riddile Art, Calvert Marine Museum, and Hook & Vine Restaurant. Special thanks to Dream Weaver Café for donating lunches and Chesapeake's Bounty for decorations.

The event would not have been possible without the help of our dedicated volunteers (in addition to those mentioned above): Alison Burnett, Brian Bowen, Chuck Whittington, Colleen Kiefer, Connie Willoughby, Jackie Burson, Janel Young, John Koelbel, Kathy Horak, Keith Linville, Liz Laher, Liz Orlandi, Lori Sampson, Mary Hollinger, Nicole Stevens, Steven Witkin, Tim Dow, and Tom Dugan. Special thanks to Board Member and Chair of the O&M Committee, Penny Moran, who spearheaded the event.



Celebration Weekend — Saturday



Celebration Weekend — Watershed Exhibit

# Champions Among Us: ACLT's Annual Parkers Creek Challenge

by Miriam Gholl, Community Relations Manager

The weather was dreary and drizzly, the roads were wet, and the Bay was choppy, but nothing deterred the athletes who participated in the Parkers Creek Challenge Triathlon on September 26, 2020. Fifty athletes of various ages and skill levels competed in the grueling contest which started at the south side trailhead and included a 9-mile bike ride, followed by a 2-mile run to Warriors Rest, followed by a 2 1/2 - mile paddle up Parkers Creek, and finished off with another 2-mile run back to the trailhead. This year, for the first time, participants were divided into two age groups – those 60 and over and those who were under 60.

The PCC would not be possible without the numerous volunteers who were there from pre-registration to the finish line and everything in between. From timekeepers, watercraft haulers, bike and beach assistants and photographers, to any other task that needed to be done, our volunteers were there (despite the sloppy weather) to support the athletes and ensure the event went off without a hitch. We would like to recognize and thank all PCC volunteers: Mike Blanchette, Marie Estabrook-Bundy, Chuck Gaston, Liz Laher, Penny Moran, Ken Romney, Georganne Scott,

We would also like to thank the Calvert County Sheriff's Deputies who directed traffic during the race and ensured everyone's safety.



Our 2020 PCC Champions! L-R: Greg Bowen (1st Place 60 & over male); Denise Breitburg (1st Place 60 & over female); Autumn Phillips-Lewis (1st Place under-60 female); Kimberly Whittington (2nd Place under-60 female); Shawn Kyle (1st Place under-60 male); Robert Johnson (2nd Place under-60 male); Adam Sampson (3rd Place under-60 male); and Anne Snouck-Hurgronje (3rd Place under-60 female). CONGRATULATIONS!

A “virtual biathlon” was also offered this year between September 15<sup>th</sup> and November 1st. On their own time, twenty participants rode the same bike route as the triathlon and then ran/hiked a 4-mile route on the south side trails.

View more photos from the event on our Facebook page:  
[www.facebook.com/AmericanChestnutLandTrust](https://www.facebook.com/AmericanChestnutLandTrust)



Participants: Parkers Creek Challenge Triathlon on September 26, 2020.

## ACLT's 2021 Chesapeake Conservation Corps Members

Again this year ACLT has the opportunity to be a host site for the Chesapeake Conservation Corps (CCC) Program. The program was the subject of a lengthy article on page 4 of the Summer 2014 issue of the Watershed Observer (<https://www.acltweb.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/summer2019.pdf>).

Meet our 2021 members from the Chesapeake Conservation Corps.

Hello everyone, my name is Nicole Stevens and I am one of the new Chesapeake Conservation Corps members for 2020-2021. I am working as the science and restoration intern under Autumn Phillips-Lewis and it has already been a blast! My primary responsibilities are related to land management, though I will also be helping with the farm and completing my own capstone project (probably related to reptiles/amphibians, my favorite groups of animals!).

I have been passionate about nature my whole life, from catching bugs in my backyard as a kid to later performing ecology research on the bluehead wrasse in Panama and completing my senior thesis on how humans are affecting the diet of the Turks and Caicos Rock Iguana. My love of wildlife and the outdoors encouraged me to pursue science and I recently graduated from Johns Hopkins University with degrees in Molecular and Cellular Biology and Earth and Planetary Sciences and a minor in Global Environmental Change and Sustainability. I plan to later get a PhD in conservation biology so I can continue to learn about and protect the natural world. I have already learned new skills and had important experiences at ACLT that will help me excel in graduate school and beyond.

While not from Maryland originally, I have loved living here these past few years and am excited to explore more of this beautiful state. I love climbing, kayaking, and hiking, and am happy to take recommendations of fun outdoor activities in the area! I look forward to my many adventures this year at ACLT and getting to meet all of the amazing volunteers and members who help preserve this wonderful land.



Hello ACLT Members!

My name is Alyssa Matanin and I am the new Farm Manager and one of the Chesapeake Conservation Corps Members here at ACLT. My roles include managing the farm and coordinating volunteers, helping with trail maintenance projects, assisting in community outreach efforts, and completing a capstone project of the course of the year. So far, I have loved working with volunteers and meeting members at Wednesday Harvest Days, TTA days, and at many other one-off events, and I am so excited to become part of such an involved and vibrant community of conservationists.

I grew up in Ellicott City, MD, and moved to West Philadelphia for college. I graduated from Saint Joseph's University with a degree in Environmental Science with a minor in Spanish. I am currently hoping to attend graduate school after I complete my year with the Corps and I hope to study sustainable development and urban planning. While in college, I was very involved with our fair trade club and the sustainability advisory board, as well as a member of the student theater company. I am always ready to talk coffee and am currently looking for good coffee shop recommendations! I also did a decent amount of traveling in the last year, having studied sustainable and fair coffee production throughout college and completing a study tour to Costa Rica in June of last year, as well as studying abroad in Denmark from August to December as well. I am also always willing (and sometimes can't stop) talking about my time abroad.

While I loved visiting new countries, I am excited to be giving back to the community and helping to preserve part of the Chesapeake Bay. Growing up, I spent my summers clamming in the bay with grandpa, kayaking with my siblings, and visiting Assateague Island with my parents. I love hiking and working outdoors, so I am absolutely thrilled to have the opportunity to spend my year outside, especially because most of my previous experience was more research and lab based work indoors. I cannot wait to meet all of you over the course of the year and get to know Calvert County!



## Flippo Gravatt and Chestnut Blight Research, 1926-1953

by Carl Fleischhauer, Charter Member, ACLT

The summer 2020 issue of the *Watershed Observer* featured Land Manager Autumn Phillips-Lewis's article, "New Hope for Restoring an Old Forest Giant." (*The Watershed Observer*, Summer 2020, p.7, <https://bit.ly/ACLTSummer2020NL>)

The American chestnut is the land trust's namesake and Autumn's article describes recent developments that may restore this important species. This article reports on an older, more intimate connection between ACLT and *Castanea dentata*.

The ACLT was launched in 1986–87 with the purchase of about 440 acres of land from the estate of Annie and George Flippo Gravatt. Both were forest pathologists in the Department of Agriculture, based at the research facility in Beltsville, Maryland. Flippo's main professional interest was the blight affecting the American chestnut. As Autumn reports, the disease was introduced from Asia, identified in New York in 1904 and, within a few decades, it had destroyed a species that had once represented twenty-five percent or more of forested land in the East.

Gravatt's contributions to the effort figure in Susan Freinkel's 2007 book *American Chestnut: The Life, Death, and Rebirth of a Perfect Tree* (Berkeley: University of California Press). Freinkel reports that the state of Virginia established a Chestnut Blight Laboratory at Virginia Polytechnic Institute in 1912 and that Gravatt became the unit's head, just before his move to Washington and the USDA. Gravatt's report, *The Chestnut Blight in Virginia* (Commonwealth of Virginia), was published two years later and it counseled the cutting of diseased trees, not to stop the inevitable advance of the blight but rather to give residents south of the front line "a year longer to market chestnut products, a year longer for [tannin] extract plants to operate."

Gravatt studied and wrote about the fungal disease that is the main cause of tree death, *Cryphonectria parasitica*; referred to in Gravatt's day as *Endothia parasitica*. Gravatt also studied a second disease-causing fungus that attacks the chestnut's roots, *Phytophthora cinnamomi*. He coauthored a paper on this disease published in *Phytopathology* in 1945. The most recent article this writer has identified is dated 1953, published in *First Proceedings, Northeastern Forest Tree Improvement Conference*.

In the late 1940s, Gravatt participated in USDA efforts to hybridize American and Chinese chestnuts, an effort ultimately judged to be unsuccessful. By the 1960s, the USDA had stopped its work on chestnut diseases and, as Autumn writes, the work has primarily proceeded under the auspices of entities at the state level and by independent organizations like the American Chestnut Foundation.



Flippo Gravatt inspecting the end of a branch cut from an American chestnut tree, probably during the 1930s. Courtesy Norman Prince and the Scientists' Cliffs archives.

The Gravatt-Miles family papers are held in the Scientists' Cliffs Archives. The collection does not include a copy of the 1914 work cited by Frienkel, but it does hold several others, including the 1945 article. Copies provided to the ACLT can be accessed at the following links:

- 1926: G.F. Gravatt and R.P. Marshall, *Chestnut Blight in the Southern Appalachians*, U.S. Department of Agriculture Circular 370. (<https://bit.ly/Gravatt1926>)
- 1930: G.F. Gravatt and L.S. Gill, *Chestnut Blight*, U.S. Department of Agriculture Farmers' Bulletin 1641. (<https://bit.ly/Gravatt1930>)
- 1945: Bowen S. Crandall, G.F. Gravatt, and Margaret Milburn Ryan, "Root Disease of *Castanea* Species and Some Coniferous and Broadleaf Nursery Stocks Caused by *Phytophthora Cinnamomi*," *Phytopathology*, Vol. XXXV, no. 3, pp. 162-180. (<https://bit.ly/Gravatt1945>)
- 1949: G.F. Gravatt, "Chestnut Blight in Asia and North America," *Unasylva* (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations), Vol. III, No. 1. (<https://bit.ly/Gravatt1949>)
- 1953: G.F. Gravatt, J.D. Diller, F.H. Berry, A.H. Graves, and H. Nienstaedt, 1953, "Breeding Timber Chestnuts For Blight Resistance," *First Proceedings, Northeastern Forest Tree Improvement Conference*, Williamstown MA. (<https://bit.ly/Gravatt1953>)

# The Beech tree: Bark Messaging or Mutilation?

## And A Memorial to the Passenger Pigeon

by Peter Vogt, Charter Member ACLT

We have few if any trees more distinctive than the American beech, its smooth, gleaming gray bark, unlike human skin, never furrowed even in old age. Excepting, of course, where humans have carved—we would today say defaced or mutilated- the bark with names, symbols, or messages, many with dates. Beech bark is thin and such ‘tree tattoos’ never heal. Beeches seem to tolerate these scars, which widen as trunk diameter increases. In time, inscriptions become illegible but the scars remain. The European beech is very similar to ours, and allusions to such carvings-many romantic- have a long history. In Shakespeare’s 1599 comedy "*As You Like It*", Orlando woos the heroine Rosalind by proclaiming "*These trees shall be my books, And in their bark my thoughts I'll character....*" The famous Roman poet Virgil (70 BCE- 19 BCE), in translation from Latin, asks "*Or should I rather the sad verse repeat, Which on the beech's bark I lately writ?*" In fact the Latin word for beech, *Fagus*, became the scientific name of the genus.

The origin and evolution of **common tree names**, indeed all words, is so fascinating it's a shame word histories are rarely mentioned by teachers (The scientific “binomial” naming of living and extinct organisms was devised by the Swedish naturalist *Carl Linnaeus* (1707-1778), the ‘father of modern taxonomy’). Linnaeus is the Latin name for another distinctive tree, the linden or lime. Carl’s dad chose the family surname due to a giant linden tree on their land. In the Linnaean system, we know the American beech as *Fagus grandifolia*. The story of our word beech goes further back in time than Linnaeus, Shakespeare, or even Virgil.

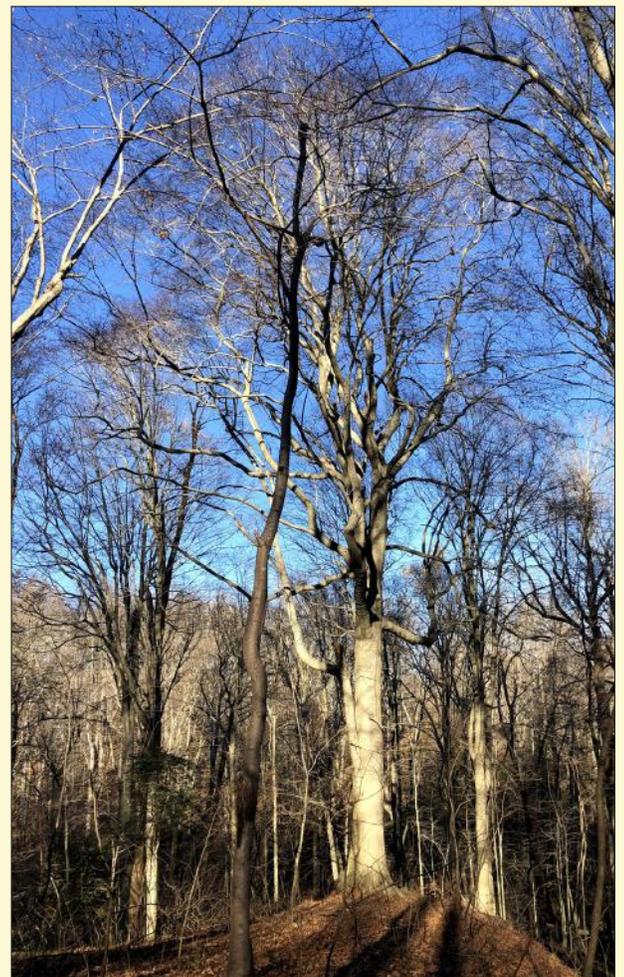
The ancestral tree name which became ‘beech’ was later transferred to the role of its bark in early ‘bark messaging’. This explains its cognate ‘book’. (Along similar lines, some American Indians called the white man’s paper documents ‘talking leaves’) The Anglo-Saxon word for beech was *beece*, and a *boc* was a letter or character in the alphabet. Similar cognates are found in other Germanic languages: in German,

*Buche* is beech, *Buch* is book, and *Buchstabe* (‘book stave’) is a letter in the alphabet. Although beeches grow only in southernmost Norway, *bok* means beech, *boek* means book, and *bokstav* means alphabetic character. These languages and ours had a common ancestor around 2000 years ago, so the ancestral word for beech is at least that old. Its connection with inscribing bark messages might relate to the early Runic alphabet, with its stick-figure letters—easier than curved letters to chisel or carve into rocks or beech trees. Ancient people must have also carved beech bark to mark territory, much as dogs and deer use body biochemicals.



The connections between writing and inscribing beech trees go even further back in time—to the common ancestor of Germanic, Baltic and Slavic languages, which all evolved in beech forests. Modern languages give us clues. When the Russian terms for ‘beech’ and ‘alphabetic character’ are written in our ‘Latin’ alphabet, they are *buk* and *bukva*. The Lithuanian word for beech is *buko*.

The origins of tree names ‘beech’ and ‘birch’, animal names like bear, and basic things like ‘snow’ and ‘water’ go back to a long extinct language now called Proto—Indo-European (PIE) spoken around 5000-5500 years ago in the area of present Ukraine. Called *Yamnaya* by modern scholars, those people migrated west into Western Europe and southeast into what are today Iran and India. The Yamnaya left behind their DNA and descendent languages. They introduced wheeled wagons, horses and cows to the early farmers and remaining hunter-gatherers of western Europe—which they largely replaced, somewhat as European colonists later replaced Native Americans. Most modern European languages are descended and evolved from what the Yamnaya spoke. From their reconstructed PIE vocabulary we know they farmed and hunted among forests of beech and birch



trees, bears, and winter snows—not so different from our own environment on this side of the North Atlantic.

Aside from its sensuous bark, the American beech ranked high as a mast tree-feeding wildlife and even people with its abundant beech nuts. Passenger pigeons in particular depended on our many beeches and in enormous flocks timed their arrivals to the ripening nuts. This bird was famously portrayed by *John Audubon* (1785-1851). Taking its English name from the French word for “passing”, this pigeon was once the most abundant bird—estimates say several billion—not only in the US but likely in the world. Although not breeding here, they must have been common in Calvert County. Yet its dense flocks made it easy food—so many were shot in single hunts that the birds were even fed to hogs. It was mindless mass slaughter. Meanwhile the Midwestern beech forests, indicating good soils, were leveled for farmland. Passenger pigeon populations declined, but large flocks were still observed as late as 1860. By 1900 they had disappeared in the wild. The last passenger pigeon—a female named Martha—died in the Cincinnati Zoo on 1 September, 1914. From billions to zero! I’m sure we have some old beech trees in the Parkers Creek Preserve. Old enough to recall—if trees could talk like the sapient *Ents* in *Lord of the Rings*—the times when their branches and ground below were thick with pigeons, pecking at beechnuts but also fertilizing the soil.

One beech tree which lived most of its long life annually feeding passenger pigeons and survived their extinction is the one made famous by Daniel Boone’s inscription in its bark. Probably using his sharp hunting knife, Boone carved:

**D. Boone**  
**Cilled A Bar**  
**On Tree**  
**In Year 1760**

An old stage road in Washington County, Tennessee passed by this tree, and Boone’s ‘misspelled’ inscription was still legible in 1880. The tree—28 ½ ft in circumference—fell in 1916, his inscription still there but no longer legible. Foresters determined its age at 365 years, so the beech was two centuries old when Boone bagged his ‘bar’.

People today who wish to commemorate themselves, a heartthrob, or some event, please remember that carving graffiti into beech bark permanently scars a beautiful tree. Boone’s beech is long gone. A more permanent commemoration is to help ACLT preserve natural habitats and guard against more extinctions.

If you feel inclined to actually hug a tree—your choice of species should be obvious!

## Newsletter Archive Available

This issue of the ACLT newsletter is Volume 35 – Number 1. The ACLT newsletter is beginning its 35<sup>th</sup> year of publication. The “Newsletter” was renamed the “Watershed Observer” in 2000.

Thanks to a lot of volunteer help, we now have a Newsletter archive with a searchable index to the titles of articles in almost all of the issues, beginning with volume 1 in 1987. We are missing 1999 Spring, Summer and Fall and 1993 Summer; let us know if you have paper copies.

On the ACLT website look for the link to the search form under the “About” tab on the menu bar or go directly to <https://www.actlweb.org/index.php/newsletter-search-page/>.

## Saying Farewell to 2020 with Gratitude

As 2020 (finally) comes to a close, we want to say "THANK YOU" to everyone who has gone above and beyond in their support of ACLT in this difficult time. When COVID first hit, we published a blog entitled, "Amidst the COVID-19 Crisis, ACLT is Responsible and Proactive" (<https://www.actlweb.org/index.php/covid-19-crisis/>), where we outlined the measures we were taking to keep our staff, visitors, and volunteers safe. We also declared that we would be ramping up production at Double Oak Farm to address the needs of the food-challenged in our community—a much larger group this year due to COVID’s impact on jobs. We are proud to say that because of the hard work of our dedicated farm volunteers, we donated 3,300 lbs. of naturally grown produce to the local food pantry—an increase of approximately 800 lbs. over last year’s crop!

Our land management and science volunteers stepped up to the stewardship challenges of this year, never pausing in their regular duties and doing even more when faced with the extensive damage caused by Hurricane Isaias, including the loss and eventual recovery of our ever-popular raft.

Our Outreach and Membership Committee adjusted to the “new normal” by creating three new “virtual” events that were so popular, we’re going to continue them post-COVID!

The peace and tranquility of our trails drew many new visitors to ACLT, and from the comments we’ve received, most will become regular visitors.

Finally, it is the support of our members and donors for which we are profoundly grateful. As demonstrated by the lengthy list of new members and donors on the following pages, our supporters have been extremely generous during this difficult period! This year, several long-time supporters pledged funds totaling more than \$60,000 to be used as matching funds for all other donations to the Fall Appeal. Without our annual dinner and auction to augment our Fall Appeal, the Admin and Fundraising Committee came up with a creative new opportunity that offers year-long “sponsorship” of ACLT. Donors can have their names displayed on ACLT “icons” or added to the “2020 Vision Sponsors” sign to be displayed on the barn at Double Oak Farm. Visit our website (<https://www.actlweb.org/index.php/2020-fall-appeal>) for more details. Fall Appeal donations will be accepted through December 31<sup>st</sup>, so please make your donation if you have not already done so. And if you have, Thank You!



Figure 1: Southern Maryland's resilient landscapes

Focusing even closer, we can see that the eastern portion of St. Mary's County and much of Calvert County is in the "most resilient" category, especially the area around Parkers Creek.



Figure 2: Calvert and Eastern St. Mary's are especially resilient according to TNC

In our fall *Watershed Observer*, Peter Vogt in "Life IN the Edge: Ecotones and Ecozones of the Parkers Creek Preserve" writes about the many microclimates in our watersheds. They

are one of the main reasons why we have such a wide diversity of species. Another reason is the size of our Preserve. Certain species need large ranges to exist.

The importance of preserving Southern Maryland's resilient landscapes is even more critical when considering the degree of climate change and human modification of lands expected over the next century.

Knowing where resilient lands are and how they provide critical habitats will be a key to saving the native flora and fauna of our region.

Residents who grew up in Calvert fishing, birding, hunting, crabbing, or just enjoying nature in its many forms may recognize the value of this work and the importance of protecting what is left in Southern Maryland.

Check us out on Facebook.



<https://www.facebook.com/AmericanChestnutLandTrust/>

# Thank you for your support

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## Maryland Master Naturalist 2020 Graduates:

Allison Burnett  
Will Bushnell  
Jeffrey Buyer  
Rachel Delbo  
Tom Dugan  
Wes Gould  
Rachelle Green  
Jane Jamieson  
Colleen Kiefer  
Zak Lellis-Petrie  
Irene Montgomery  
Susan Noble  
Debra Rantanen  
Ginny Rice  
Georganne Scott  
Ben Springer  
Will Travers

## New Members

ACLT would like to welcome the following new members since the Fall 2020 Newsletter:

Will & Sarah Burton  
Scott & Sheree Butterfield  
Mr. James Garland, Jr  
John Hammett  
Tracey Heibel  
Mr. Brian Hochheimer  
Ms. Pat Kennelly & Family  
Rev. & Mrs. Albert Lane, III  
Mrs. JoAnn Larkin  
Susan & Robert Morrow  
Barbara Mullenex & Phil Martin  
Doug Nahas  
Jeston Oswald  
Stephen J. Pereira & Family  
Dan & Peg Veith

## Memorial Donations

Thank you to the following who made a memorial contribution since our last newsletter:

### In memory of **Joanne Boxwell:**

Mary & Doug Alves  
Sherma Munger  
Susan Rork  
Pat & Rod Schroeder  
Margo Sinback  
Susan Skow

### In memory of **Dan Head:**

Julie & Rob Dallen

### In memory of **Brixton Katt Henfield:**

B.L. Johnston & Robert Keisling

## In Honor of Donations

Thank you to the following who made an "in honor of" contribution since our last newsletter:

### In honor of **Corky Feagin Stone:**

Olivia E. Alison

## Gift Memberships

Thank you to the following who donated a gift membership since our last newsletter:

Daniel Boesz  
Cassandra Egloff  
Jim & Susan Greene

## General Contributions and Designated Gifts

### Celebration Weekend Sponsors

Chesapeake's Bounty  
Dream Weaver Events & Catering  
Robert Gholm, Pax Real Estate  
Flag Harbor Marine Service  
Nathan Novotny, Edward Jones Financial Advisor  
Stephen Oberg, Council Baradel  
The Tidewater School

### Celebration Weekend Donors

Carl Fleischhauer & Paula Johnson  
Thomas Oakley

## Fall Appeal

Karl Adler & Danielle Chappell  
Richard & Guenever Aldrich  
Louis Amtmann – *In Memory of Rita Amtmann*  
Karen Anderson  
Dawn & Steve Balinski  
Tammy Beardmore  
Charles Bennett & Gail Hoerauf-Bennett  
Stanley & Barbara Benning  
Paul & Mary Blayney  
Daniel Boesz - *In memory of Maggie Reynolds & David Morin*  
Nick Bohaska  
Angela Bollich & John Williamson  
James Borell, Jr. & Jo Anne Longhill – *In Memory of Maggie Reynolds*  
Greg & Tamea Bowen  
Walter & Mary Ellen Boynton  
Chris Brake

Denise Breitburg & Mark Smith  
John Brennan  
James & Melissa Burke  
Robert Butts  
Larry & Joanne Chaney  
Jessica & Ty Clark  
Gary Clarke – *In Memory of Beverly Ann Clark*  
Steve & Maricarol Cloak  
Rose Crunkleton  
Donald & Judith Dahmann – *In Memory of Gary P. Taylor*  
Kathy Daniel – *In Honor of David J. Braun*  
Annetta DePompa  
Paul & Diana Dennett  
Carol Donovan  
Michael Duffy &  
Margaret McCartney-Duffy  
Glenn & Karen Edgecombe  
Bob & Barb Estes  
Denis Faherty  
David & Nancy Falk  
Nick Fendinger  
Lynn Ferris  
Bob Field  
Karon Garrett  
Miriam Gholm  
Eliot Girsang  
Carlton & Marion Green – *In Memory of Anthony C. Morella*  
Peter Green  
Robert Grenier  
Edwin Haack  
Robby Hanovich  
Douglas Harbold  
Darlene Harrod  
Jane Head – *In Memory of Dan Head*  
Tracey Heibel  
Reed Hellman  
Jerry & Susan Helmrich  
Scott Hite  
John & Patricia Hofmann  
Bernard & Nancy Horak  
Josef & Kathy Horak  
Jessica Howard  
Dorothy Howe  
Bruce & Barbie Hudson  
Janis Hurst  
Jose M Irizarry Roman  
Brent Johnson  
BL Johnston & Robert Keisling  
Lynn Jordan  
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Kelly Generator & Equipment, Inc.  
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 Max Lederer  
 Brian Linville  
 Darrell Linville  
 John & Mimi Little  
 John & Karen Lucas  
 Michele Lyons – *In Honor of Mary Ellen & Walter Boynton*  
 Anne Warner & Michael Makuch – *In Honor of Jonathan Warner*  
 Martha Maratta  
 Shellie Marinaccio  
 Conrad & Marjorie Marsh  
 Charlie McBride & Margaret DeBell – *In Honor of Abbey & Pat Griffin*  
 Robert Mccaffery  
 Bruce McDonald  
 Howard McDonald  
 Kathleen McGahey – *In Memory of Mary & Ralph Dwan*  
 Thomas McQuighan  
 Marcia Monnett  
 Penny Moran  
 Michael & Ann Mudd  
 Patrick & Ginny Murphy – *In Memory of Patrick “Sean” Murphy*  
 Kathryn Nicodemus  
 Franklin & Linda Nutter

Geoff & Pat Parker  
 Nancy Philipp  
 Pam Platt – *In Memory of Bob Platt*  
 Sam & Brenna Prestidge  
 Norman & Helen Prince  
 Dusty & Vicki Rhoades  
 Bob & Janet Robertson  
 Michael & Nancy Rubino  
 Mark Schleicher  
 Suzanne & Craig Shelden  
 Susan Skow  
 Joe & Carmen Slater  
 Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative  
 Dave Spencer  
 Ted Staples  
 Peter & Jennie Stathis  
 Terry Staudenmaier & Dan McCarthy  
 Stephen Straka  
 John Strong  
 Frank Sanders & Nancy Teich  
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 Guy Toscano  
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 Jason Vogt  
 Peter & Randi Vogt  
 John & Patricia Wahl  
 Richard Worth  
 Timothy & Jolie Wratten  
 Nancy Zinn

## Friends of St. Leonard Creek

Spud Giving Fund

## General

Charles Bernstein  
 Denise Breitburg & Mark Smith  
 Rober Candey  
 Jessica & Ty Clark  
 Paul & Diana Dennett  
 Sandra Jarrett  
 Diana Lawless  
 Elaine Strong

## Holly Hill Donations

Thank you to the following, who made a donation to the Holly Hill campaign since our last newsletter:  
 Fran Armstrong  
 Karen & Glenn Edgcombe  
 Ray Noble  
 Joseph Turner & Leslie Starr  
 Jon & Nancy Warner Charitable Trust

Share your love of nature! A “Master Naturalist” is a citizen scientist who is dedicated to the care and conservation of Maryland’s natural environment. Certified Master Naturalists share their knowledge with the community through guided hikes and canoe trips, create and improve habitat for wildlife, work with scientists to monitor the health of our land and waterways, find and help remove invasive species that are damaging our native plants, and so much more!

ACLT is now accepting applications for the 2021 Master Naturalist Class. Classes are held from March to early June. All classes will be held virtually until it is safe to meet in person.

Registration closes February 1<sup>st</sup> or when class is full.

Visit our website for more info: [www.bit.ly/MDMasterNaturalist](http://www.bit.ly/MDMasterNaturalist)



**American Chestnut Land Trust, Inc.**  
**Post Office Box 2363**  
**Prince Frederick, MD 20678**

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***Why does it say "Or Current Resident" in my address?***

In order to use your donations as efficiently as possible, we use USPS Bulk Mail and this statement is now required in the address. Thank you for understanding!

## Come Join Us!

**Detach and Mail to: The American Chestnut Land Trust, Inc., P.O. Box 2363, Prince Frederick, MD 20678**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ I (we) learned about ACLT from \_\_\_\_\_

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**Corporate Membership**

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The American Chestnut Land Trust is a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization. A copy of the current ACLT financial statement is available on request. Requests should be directed to the American Chestnut Land Trust, Inc, P.O. Box 2363, Prince Frederick, MD 20678 or call (410) 414-3400. For the cost of copies and postage, documents and information submitted under the Business Regulation Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland are available from the Secretary of State.