Stepping Up to Lead with the Capacity Grant

By Greg Bowen, Executive Director

In the summer newsletter, page 4, I reported that the Board of Directors had just accepted an anonymous 5-year $100,000 Capacity Grant to allow the Board and staff to take on new challenges brought on by climate change and development in the Southern Maryland region. With the funds, we have added grant-funded staff and initiated actions consistent with the strategies requested by the donors. Read the article here: bit.ly/ACLTSummer22Newsletter

Setting Up Plans and Goals for Conservation

One of the goals requested by the donors is to support the Southern Md Conservation Alliance (SMCA) whose mission is to “work to conserve and restore Southern Maryland’s landscapes, waterways, and shorelines that are special to its people, fundamental to its economy, reflected in its culture and vital for its native fish, wildlife, and plants, on which we rely.” One very exciting project that SMCA is undertaking is to work with US Fish & Wildlife to develop a long-term Plan for all five Southern Maryland counties for the protection of threatened wildlife in our region. Land preservation is expected to be a component of that work (more on that in the next newsletter).

October

1—Parkers Creek Challenge
9 – Full Moon Hike (Members Only)
23—Chili Cook-Off

Early morning trail cam photo of Bald Eagles in the Parkers Creek watershed by Ian Messent, ACLT volunteer.

However, SMCA is also looking statewide to be sure that there are programs and funding available to address climate change and restore the Chesapeake Bay. We are raising the questions: When it is fully developed, will Maryland have enough natural lands to support native wildlife, including fish, crabs, oysters, a variety of birds and game animals? Will it be resilient to changing conditions as the climate heats up?

(Continued on page 9)
New Opportunities

As discussed by Greg in the article on page 1 of this newsletter, ACLT has received a five-year 100,000 dollars per year matching grant. The purpose of the award is to allow ACLT to expand its capabilities to help address climate change and protect regional wildlife habitats. The grant provides that funds ACLT raises to support its ongoing operations will be matched up to $100,000 in each of the five years beginning with 2022.

This capacity grant is an exciting opportunity, but the Board also realizes this is new territory for us. As a result, we need new procedures to manage this money prudently, as has always been the case with ACLT.

This grant is not a replacement for our core budget. To fully realize the potential of the grant, ACLT must continue to raise funds for our core budget at the rate we have for the last couple of years, ensuring that the grant does not interfere with current operations. Next year, the Board will have two budgets, one for the work we have always been doing and one for the anonymous donor’s “capacity grant.”

This challenge grant will enable us to achieve even more! To meet the goals of the grant, we have hired two full-time employees to help us fight climate change, support the work of the Southern Maryland Conservation Alliance (SMCA), and work to connect preserved lands in Calvert County.

Combining protected lands will also improve our efforts in large landscape conservation and preservation and support our fight against climate change. In summary, these activities will support our goal of connecting people to the land and, at the same time, raise awareness of ACLT’s work in the broader community.

David Farr, President
### Around ACLT

#### Remembering Jim Greene

by Marisa Brock & Miriam Gholl

We are remembering and celebrating the life of Admiral Jim Greene who passed away peacefully on August 10, 2022. Jim served on ACLT’s Board of Directors from 1996-2012. He, along with his sister and long-time ACLT volunteer Ginny Murphy, helped establish the Land Management Endowment Fund in 1997 by a family gift in memory of their parents, Mary and Jim Greene.

Jim was involved in numerous projects at ACLT. He put a lot of time and effort into writing a North Side Report and he also helped to clear many of the trails. That is why he was so anxious to adopt the bridge on the Horse Swamp Trail (see photo below).

Ginny shared that Jim’s passion & love of Parkers Creek began when he started fishing and crabbing there as a child, earning him the nickname “Barnacle Jim” from his friends. He continued to remain engaged in the goings-on at ACLT and in recent years was interested in learning what the interns found in their fish studies on Parkers Creek.

According to Ginny, “Jim wanted his children, grandchildren, & future generations to share the joys that he experienced in his lifetime on the land & water that surrounds us, and that is why in his final days he was so anxious to put together the Friends Forever article in the summer newsletter (bit.ly/ACLTSummer22Newsletter). He was hopeful that others will follow his lead and consider a legacy gift to the ACLT.”

Thanks to our members and supporters who are highly engaged & passionate about ACLT’s conservation efforts, the joys of Parker’s Creek, as well as Jim’s story, will continue for future generations.

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#### American Chestnut Land Trust

Calendar of Events

Details available on the ACLT Web Site (bit.ly/ACLTEvents22)

**OCTOBER**
- 1—Parkers Creek Challenge
- 9 – Full Moon Hike (Members Only)
- 23—Chili Cook-Off

**NOVEMBER**
- 6- Guided Hike – Fall Foliage
- 8 – Full Moon Hike (Members Only)

**DECEMBER**
- 3 – Annual Wreath and Greens Sale
- 8– Full Moon Hike (Members Only)
**ACLT’s 2022-23 Chesapeake Conservation Corps Members**

The Chesapeake Conservation Corps (CCC) program supports and trains the next generation of stewards in professions that restore and protect our environment and natural resources while providing hands-on environmental and leadership experience and training. The Corps places individuals (ages 18-25) with nonprofit or government agencies throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed for a one-year term of service. Meet our 2022-23 CCC members below.

**ACLT’S 2022-23 Conservation Corps Member – Grace Mayer**

My name is Grace Mayer, and I have the privilege of working with the American Chestnut Land Trust this year as part of the 2022-2023 Chesapeake Conservation Corps cohort. I will serve as the Stewardship Coordinator during my year here. I’ve already participated in invasive species removal on the trails with groups of volunteers and will work on many land management and science projects with Autumn throughout the year.

Before my sophomore year of college, I hadn’t given much thought to a career in environmental science. I grew up with my mind set on pursuing dance as a career, and I hadn’t really considered a job related to Geography despite having an interest in the topic. I made an effort to learn about conservation as a kid, and was particularly interested in endangered species, but didn’t think that it was something that I had much agency to affect aside from donating. After changing my mind a few times about what majors I would choose in college, I ended up taking a general education class on Geography and knew that it was something I wanted to pursue. Two years later, I graduated from James Madison University with a double major in Dance and Geographic Science with a concentration in Applied Geographic Information Systems. GIS in particular became something I was really interested in, and something I hope to continue to learn about. It combined my interests in art and geography, and through mapmaking I was able to make use of both. As much as I was interested in GIS and mapmaking, I didn’t think that I would be completely happy working entirely in an office, and started looking for jobs that involved some type of field work.

Since then I have been exploring different areas of environmental science, trying to determine what career path to take. I have been particularly interested in restoration and conservation and am passionate about getting outside and making a tangible difference, even if the difference is small. I’ve learned to find value in the small changes we can make on a daily basis, even if we can’t improve our entire environment in a day. I came across the Chesapeake Conservation Corps on a job website and knew that this would be a perfect opportunity to try out different conservation projects. I grew up in Virginia and stayed there through college, and even though it’s not too far from where I’ve lived for my whole life I’m excited to see what Maryland has to offer. I already love the land around ACLT and am grateful for the opportunity to work outside in this beautiful area.

During my year with the Corps, I am hoping to gain hands-on experience in a variety of projects and work with people from many different backgrounds and disciplines. ACLT seems like the perfect place to connect with others who are making a difference in our community and learn from them. I am looking forward to gaining many new experiences with ACLT this year!

**ACLT’S 2022-23 Conservation Corps Member – Kassandra Patrick**

Hello all, my name is Kassandra Patrick, and I am one of two new Chesapeake Conservation Corps (CCC) Members working at the American Chestnut Land Trust (ACLT) this year. Under Greg Bowen’s mentorship, I will be taking on increasing responsibilities at Double Oak Farm as Farm Manager and playing a role in planning ACLT community outreach events. Though I am not from Maryland, I grew up surrounded by nature in East Stroudsburg, PA, a rural, forested town near the Delaware Water Gap Recreational Area. I learned to love nature first through biking around the neighborhood, going hiking with my family, and going snowboarding with friends, and eventually my appreciation of the natural world grew through outdoor volunteer work including maintaining the grounds of local donation centers and food pantry buildings, running laps for the annual Relay for Life event, and helping to implement a community garden.

I went on to channel my passion into my academic career as an Environment and Sustainability major with a concentration in Environmental Economics at Cornell University. I recently graduated in May having experienced a highly interdisciplinary academic career covering a wide range of topics outside of environmental science, including environmental quality engineering, resource management, psychology, economics, and politics. These academic and work experiences combined with...
more traditional course work, such as field ecology, climate change discussions, and soil science, gave me a broader perspective on the importance of environmental stewardship. When I began considering my future career path, I was determined to work to promote and protect a healthier environment, for the sake of people and the planet. I hope to do so using the strategy of an environmental economist: through the reallocation of natural resources. More specifically, I hope to aid in reforming how natural resources are allocated to create sustainable and resilient lifestyles. These desires ultimately led me to pursue a career in agriculture, an economic sector that requires the input of many of our natural resources and heavily impacts public health and overall quality of life.

My interest in soil science, my major concentration in environmental economics, and my desire to maximize both public and environmental health will aid me in my new role as the primary communicator between ACLT staff and all the wonderful volunteers at our collaborative farm. I am excited to bolster the many examples of permaculture practices already in place at Double Oak Farm, and I look forward to contributing even more sustainable agriculture practices, as well as an extra pair of hands and many hours of tender love and farm work. While it is still too early to say what I plan to do after my year as a CCC Member, I have already become attached to the farm and the endless passion of all those who maintain it, so I hope to be able to use the wealth of knowledge I am sure to gain at ACLT to promote sustainable agricultural practices throughout my future career. For now, I endeavor to bring everything that I have been fortunate enough to experience during my undergraduate career to the ACLT to bring about a healthier environment and a more connected, eco-conscious community here in Calvert County. I look forward to working with all our volunteers throughout the year, learning more about agriculture, and contributing to community events at the ACLT. Hope to see you soon at the farm!

Bringing Back ACLT’s Chili Cook-off (Safely)

By Miriam Gholl, Community Relations Manager

Join Us! ACLT’s Chili Cook-off & Auction
Sunday, October 23rd – 4-8 p.m.
Jefferson Patterson Park, St. Leonard, MD

As long-time members of ACLT will fondly recall, our annual dinner/auction began as casual chili cook-offs held in the community house at Scientists Cliffs. We are pleased to announce that we are bringing back that tradition this year on October 23rd … with several safety precautions in place.

The chili cook-offs were discontinued for a period when the local Health Department requirements did not allow food prep without a commercial kitchen; however, we checked with them again, and they have indicated that the rules have changed. As long as our events are by invitation only, we can hold potluck meals once again.

We are taking several steps to ensure the safety of our guests. First, we are holding the event in a semi-enclosed space – the Pavilion at Jefferson Patterson Park. The space is large and open on three sides, with an open-sided tent in the center. We will have three separate seating areas: One beneath the tent; another adjacent to the tent under the pavilion roof; and a third area of picnic tables on the lawn outside the pavilion.

The venue offers ample space to spread the food and auction items out to allow social distancing. We are encouraging all attendees to wear masks when moving around the venue.

Secondly, Dreamweaver Café will provide appetizers, sides, and desserts and owner Trish Weaver, who has a great deal of experience and knowledge when it comes to food safety, will provide guidance to us throughout the event to ensure the food is heated properly at all times.

We are still looking for chefs to enter their chili into the cook-off! If you would like to participate, please complete this form: bit.ly/ACLTCook-OffContestant22

Finally, this year we are focusing on “experiences” rather than “stuff” for the auction. This will allow for even more space in the viewing area.

We are very excited to bring back this fun event and thrilled at the opportunity to get together in person with fellow ACLT supporters once again in a safe manner.
Land Manager’s Corner

Waging War Against Wavyleaf

By Clara Brill-Carlat, Assistant Land Manager

Every Thursday morning this past summer, a dedicated group of land management volunteers entered the woods near the North Side meadows equipped with gloves and weed whackers. These adventurous volunteers hiked up and down muddy slopes, crashed through spiderwebs, and braved mid-summer heat and humidity, all in the name of protecting ACLT’s ecological diversity from wavyleaf basketgrass. Wavyleaf basketgrass is a highly invasive plant that spreads quickly across forest floors. It has long, hairy stems, wavy leaves, and sticky seeds that attach themselves to passing wildlife, dogs, and hikers in the fall. At ACLT, the infestation began with small patches found in the fall of 2019. ACLT staff and volunteers began trying to contain the spread by hand-pulling the patches, all the while being very careful not to spread the seeds. (You can read more about their efforts on page 8 of the spring 2020 newsletter: https://www.acltweb.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/spring2020.pdf.) Every summer since then, staff and volunteers have tirelessly weed whacked and hand-pulled wavyleaf basketgrass on the Double Oak property (near the Horse Swamp Trail and the North Side meadows). Unfortunately, the seeds are easily spread by animals, and there are currently large affected areas on the Double Oak property and the Goldstein property (near Double Oak Road Trail).

This summer, the Thursday morning crew’s efforts were bolstered by a boy scout troop and several weekend volunteer groups led by Master Naturalists. The removal efforts began in late June and continued until the plants produced seeds in September, at which point the risks of spreading the seeds while cutting and pulling the plant outweighed the benefits of removing it. Collectively, these volunteers hand-pulled and weed whacked much of the affected area on the Double Oak property. The hand-pulling efforts were focused on two streambeds; wavyleaf basketgrass can spread far downstream when its seeds are transported by water, so it is particularly important to limit spread in the stream channels. Other volunteers wielding weed whackers worked on the hillsides surrounding the streams, where wavyleaf basketgrass had formed a carpet in some areas. After receiving grant funding, ACLT also contracted with two companies in July and August that sprayed herbicide on the Goldstein infestation and on two patches on Double Oak. ACLT staff noticed that the infestation was sparser in areas that had been weed whacked, hand-pulled, or treated with herbicide in 2021, although unfortunately the plant has continued to spread. Infested areas will need to be treated for at least three consecutive years to exhaust the potential seed bank.

Be on the lookout for wavyleaf basketgrass this fall as you hike at ACLT and on other Maryland trails. It is sometimes confused with deertongue, a native plant with slightly wavy leaves that curl around the stem at their base. Wavyleaf basketgrass leaves come out straighter from the stem and have many waves running across them. Be sure to stay on trails and keep your dogs on a leash while you hike since the sticky seeds easily attach to passersby. When hiking somewhere with a wavyleaf infestation, it is also important to brush off your pants and wipe your boots before leaving to remove any lingering seeds. If you’d like to get involved in the battle against wavyleaf basketgrass at ACLT, join our hardy Thursday morning crew or one of our weekend workdays next summer as we continue the fight.
By Carl Fleischhauer, Charter Member, ACLT

For 10,000 years or more, people have hunted, fished, worked, and made their homes around Parkers Creek and Governors Run in Calvert County. Their lives and cultures shaped our local heritage even as the terrain and waterways shaped their lives. The American Chestnut Land Trust is exploring that relationship in the Parkers Creek Heritage Trail (PCHT) project. The results are being shared through interpretive signage along ACLT’s more than 20 miles of trails and at selected heritage sites, reinforced on the ACLT website and in public events.

Project research is taking place in 2021 and 2022 with an overlapping interpretive-development phase in 2022 and 2023. The 12-square-mile study area is not limited to ACLT-managed land, and it embraces both the Parkers Creek and Governors Run watersheds. The project is a component of the Southern Maryland Heritage Area, with funding support provided by the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, part of the Maryland Historical Trust.

At a high level, we summarize our research and interpretation in terms of historic context statements, four of which are outlined below.

Life in the region before European contact. Native Americans were the first humans to make use of the Parkers Creek area. To develop this topic, project researcher Kirsti Uunila is revisiting the 1997 and 1998 archaeological surveys. Uunila is a Registered Professional Archaeologist and the recently retired Calvert County Historic Preservation Planner.

The surveys report that indigenous sites near Parkers Creek were small and represented short-term occupation. Many of the artifacts found during these surveys were from the Archaic period (8500-1000 BC). Some artifacts dated to the Woodland period (1000 BC-1500 AD); the survey evidence suggests that the indigenous people of the Woodland period resided in larger settlements near the Patuxent River and made forays to the Parkers Creek area in order to procure resources to take back to those settlements. Although no sites remain, the surveys also remind readers about the Paleo-Indian presence roughly 10,000 years ago, when lower sea levels meant that riverside land lay where, today, we have the Chesapeake Bay.

European settlement, 1650-1750. The project’s research has identified more than fifty colonial patents in the study area, granted from 1658 to 1746. The initial grants near Parkers Creek were, in part, related to efforts by Cecil Calvert, the second Lord Baltimore, to retain his control of the colony during the ascendancy of Oliver Cromwell (ca. 1640-1658), the Puritan leader of the English Interregnum. Calvert was Roman Catholic and he hoped to curry favor by granting land to Puritans, Quakers, and other non-conforming Protestants, consistent with Maryland's trail-blazing 1649 Act of Toleration ("Concerning Religion").

Research on the patents included efforts by volunteer Carl Fleischhauer, retired from the Library of Congress, to collect copies of original documents in the Maryland State Archives. Research, analysis, and mapping is being provided by Rachel Bissett, a recent graduate of St. Mary’s College of Maryland and now a graduate student in Applied Anthropology and Historic Preservation at the University of Maryland. This and other examinations of the colonial period benefit greatly from guidance from Stephen Stec, a Marylander who now teaches at the Central European University, Budapest, Hungary.

Rural intensification and slavery, 1730–1865. For this period, the project has identified a handful of landholding families for interpretive focus. At one time or another during the period, two of these families enslaved twenty or more persons, relatively high numbers for our particular area. Meanwhile, we are interested in the dynamic between religious affiliation and slaveholding, particularly seeking clues about the circumstances on plantations (as the properties were often called) owned by Quakers, a faith whose followers were often abolitionist. The sidebar on the next page summarizes some of our findings.
Two Quaker plantations in the early 1800s

William Harris owned a plantation called Duran (or Durand) on the bayfront cliffs in the Parkers Creek watershed, a little south of today's Dares Beach. We are not certain of this Harris's religious beliefs but he was descended from an earlier William Harris, a Quaker who arrived in Maryland in 1662. In the 1800 census, the later William Harris is listed as enslaving 12 persons; in 1810 the number is 10. Apparently he had more workers than he needed and by 1814, he had rented an enslaved man named Frisby Harris to John H. Beall, owner of a plantation on the Patuxent River.

In July 1814, during the final year of the War of 1812, the British frigate Severn sailed up the Patuxent to reconnoiter prior to the attack on Washington and to raid the area. As the frigate moved north, Frisby Harris escaped from the Beall plantation and joined the troops on the British ship. Harris then led the British soldiers in plundering Beall's and other plantations and, on July 19th, was part of the force that attacked Prince Frederick and burned down the courthouse.

A second Quaker family provides a contrast to William Harris, at about the same time and in the same neighborhood. This is a branch of the Dare family (namesake for the waterfront community) that owned and operated Holly Hill farm through the 19th century. The farm is now owned by the ACLT.

Henry Dare operated Holly Hill in the 1820s and his name turns up in Quaker records more than once during this period. When he ran Holly Hill, the farm did not use enslaved farm workers. He and one of his successors employed—using the term of the time—Free Blacks, although there is a hint that the successor may also have enslaved a few workers.

Dare family preferences notwithstanding, the strength of abolitionist Quakerism in our area diminished well before the Civil War. Significant contributions to our understanding of these landholding families comes via research carried out by researcher Leila Boyer, the retired director of the Calvert County Historical Society. Information about the Yoe family is being provided by Beth Yoe Fiddler, a retired real estate abstractor and still-active genealogist.

For planters and farmers, getting crops to market was always a headache. However, the second half of the rural intensification period brought growers one significant improvement. By 1830 or 1840, steamboat service had been established on the Western Shore, and farmers in our area could ship their crops to Baltimore more efficiently than by sailing vessel, and it was easier to receive goods and travel to the city in person. In our neighborhood, steamboats stopped at Governors Run and Allnutt's Landing, later known as Dare's Wharf. Information about the steamboat era and the two landings is being provided by team volunteers Ralph Eshelman, the retired director of the Calvert Marine Museum, and Robert Hurry, the CMM's archivist.

Small scale agricultural economy, 1865–1940. Following the Civil War, agricultural production continued, with tobacco remaining the most important crop. Many Blacks in Calvert County worked as tenant farmers, joining the White families who also worked as renters or sharecroppers. However, several African American families in the vicinity of Parkers Creek became land-owning farmers, living side by side with White farmer-owners. We were surprised to learn of the extent of Black land ownership. Using somewhat fragmentary deed information for the peak period of 1880 to 1920, we have identified about 1,200 acres (1.8 square miles) once owned by about eight Black families (there are more not yet identified). Since the project study area is about 12 square miles, this means that African Americans once owned nearly one-sixth of that land.

Black families lost much of this land during economic downturns, including the Great Depression, exacerbated by the phenomenon called heirs property. The term heirs property refers to the circumstance of an owner dying without a will, when existing law forces the sale of the land and the division of the proceeds among family members. We hope to learn about the experiences and perspectives on the loss of land from family members during the oral history interviews planned for 2022-2023.

Information about the post-Civil War period in general and about Black farm families in the project study area is being contributed by several team mem-

Maryland is our nation’s 5th most densely populated state. At the beginning of the 20th century, over 81% of the land in the state was in farms, typically with woodlots, wetlands, and meadows (1). Other land uses included state and federal lands, cities, towns, and non-farm open space. That changed quickly in the 1950s when residential sprawl began to emanate from Washington DC and Baltimore. By 1973, 10.5% of the state was developed. By 2010, 27% of the state was developed as over 1,000,000 acres of rural land was converted into low density residential sprawl in just 37 years (2). The year 2020 land development report won’t be out for another six months, but we estimate that another 100,000 + acres have been development since 2010.

Calvert County has not been immune to sprawl. By the year 2010 approximately 30% of its lands, primarily northern Calvert, were lost to residential sprawl. According to Dr. Elliott Campbell, an ecological economist from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the county lost $888 million in nature capital value (3) during that 37-year period. However, because of an effective land preservation program and zoning density reductions, Calvert remains as one of the most resilient landscapes in the state, according to mapping conducted by The Nature Conservancy.

Meanwhile, the post-Civil War period saw the expansion of schools in the area. White children near Parkers Creek were served by two one-room public schools, one founded in Port Republic to the south in 1867 and at the Holly Hill school to the north, established in 1914. The year 1869 saw the launch of the Parkers Creek one-room school for Black students, constructed south of the creek with the support of the Freedmen’s Bureau. The year 1924 saw the establishment of the Rosenwald Fund-supported one-room Dares School north of the creek, also for Black students. Information about the schools is provided by team volunteer Mary B. Rockefeller, the author of Early Schools of Calvert County Maryland (2019).

What next? During the remainder of 2022 and for much of 2023, we will continue project research, notably via the oral history interviews mentioned above. Meanwhile, we offered our initial set of interpretive trail signs and web pages in December 2021. During 2022-2023, we plan to expand that offering. Stay tuned!

Most Calvert County deeds were destroyed in an 1882 fire at the courthouse. We have found five post-1882 deeds for 220 acres of land near Parkers Creek acquired by the African American farmer William H. Commodore. This page in the 1880 Agricultural Census, however, identifies an additional Commodore-owned property for which we have not found the deed: 35 acres, 15 of which were tilled; total value including improvements $300; tobacco cultivation, 3 acres, yielding 800 pounds for market.
Maryland counties and the state have been active in land preservation and creation of parkland so that 29% of the land has been protected (farms and parkland) and approximately the same amount has been developed. That leaves roughly 2.4 million acres of lands uncommitted—not protected and not developed. Thus far, the state has not set a goal for how much needs to be preserved to address climate change and protect the Bay. Setting a goal is something that SMCA is looking into.

If the remaining uncommitted land in Calvert is all developed, many of the county’s wildlife corridors will be severed and most of its wild lands will disappear. It is almost guaranteed that the fisheries and most game species and birding areas will decrease.

Likewise, the fate of the Patuxent River, its oyster sanctuary, fisheries, and game species will disappear unless a great deal of the unprotected lands in the River’s watershed are preserved. At the annual Bernie Fowler wake-in this year, Buddy Hance, President of the Board of County Commissioners, relayed that he and his family mourned the loss of Canvasback ducks in the cove near where he grew up. And he knew the cause. Algal blooms and turbidity of the waters in the Patuxent cove prevented submerged aquatic vegetation. Just another sign of how humans are impacted by the loss of wildlife.

Under the guidance and assistance of our new grant staffer, Mary Hoover, Southern Maryland Regional Coordinator for SMCA, 35 conservation organizations are working together to map critical lands to protect and identify approaches to protect them. It is not enough to just wait for landowners to decide to protect their own lands (though that is important too). Society needs to find ways to buy critical lands before large landscape conservation is a lost opportunity. After that, land trusts can resell the lands to conservation buyers or hold onto them for public access.

**Taking the lead in Land Stewardship**

In 2012, the ACLT Board of Directors set a benchmark for local land trust stewardship when it adopted the first Master Land Management Plan. The Plan sets forth ACLT’s land management philosophy, or stewardship ethic, as it relates to ACLT properties. Next, it summarizes the conservation values, or natural and cultural resources, ACLT strives to protect on the properties that it owns. Another section summarizes permitted and prohibited forms of public access and ACLT’s practices and policies for managing the human impacts on the properties. Finally, it sets forth the specific land management objectives, programs, and activities that are aligned with ACLT’s mission and stewardship philosophy.

Last year, the Board updated the Plan to address recent land use trends and stewardship challenges. With the 2019-2023 5-Year Plan, ACLT also focused on the loss of habitats in the region, such as the lack of meadow habitat on which so many bird species rely, and it called for an Invasive Species Control and Containment Plan to address the invasives such as Phragmites australis in our marshes and Wavyleaf basketgrass in our forests. Finally, in the last several years, members have noted the trend of slower moving storms with more rain and the resultant erosion of stream banks. Our staff and Science Committee are looking into ways to attenuate the impact of such storms.

The Capacity Grant allows ACLT to take on more land and more challenges caused by climate change, including increased stormwater runoff, protection of species habitats from invasives, and the protection of wildlife corridors as species need to move.

In introducing its need for action in Southern MD, The US Fish and Wildlife service cited the report entitled *Conserving and Restoring America the Beautiful* (see: bit.ly/ConservingAmericaReport) which said that “Consensus is growing around the world that more actions must be taken to conserve biodiversity in order to combat the growing effects of climate change and to sustain humanity”. In addition to conserving biodiversity, refuges typically are connecting people to nature too, such as hunting and fishing, birding and other wildlife observation, nature interpretation, photography and environmental education. With our new Capacity Grant, ACLT has hired Clara Brill-Carlat as Assistant Land Manager to help lead the charge to protect our vital landscapes and help provide a more resilient future for all species in our watersheds, including humans!

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(1) 1910 Census of Agriculture, 1900 figures. Also, it reported that 89% of Calvert County was in farms.

(2) Source: Maryland Department of Planning

(3) Nature capital values are those elements of the natural environment which provide valuable goods and services to people, such as air pollution removal, aquifer recharge, the provision fish, shellfish, and other foods and wildlife for animal watchers and game for hunters. To see the full report, go to: bit.ly/CalvertEcosystemServicesReport.
New Members
ACLT welcomes the following new members since the Summer 2022 Newsletter:
James & Denise Bauman
Lawrence Bayley
Carol Boisseau
David Braun
Clara Brill-Carlat
Laurel Carroll
Ryan & Rachel Cuccia
Holly Dillatush & Warren Guthrie
Kelly Fair & Family
Diane Giuliani & Dale Gordon
Frank & Catherine Grasso
Kevin & Rhonda Greene & Family
Merry Haberkorn
Emily Hansroth
Mary Hoover
Tonyia Johnson
Shari Jones & Family
Bruce Kelley
Peggy Keune
Laura Leitch
Sherman Manley
Cindy Marquardt
Colleen Naeger
Ryan Niemi
Carey Paquette & Martin Kindl
Brandon & Alexis Patullo
Emily Phelan
Margaret Phipps
Lisa Port
Stephanie Richard
Janelle Rolstad
Mark Segraves
Amy & Harlan Shannon & Family
Phillip Smith
Sandy Sweeney
Mr. Charles Walton, IV
Marsha Williams
Daniel Wilson
Melinda Zimmerman

In Honor of Donations
Thank you to the following who made an “in honor of” contribution since our last newsletter:
In honor of Paul Dennett:
Richard Mersereau
In honor of Fred & Marin Lowther:
Les Crusey

Gift Memberships
Thank you to the following who donated a gift membership since our last newsletter:
Joy Bartholomew & Mark Edmondson
Judith & Donald Dahmann
Jim & Susan Greene
Barrie Howard
Diana Lawless
Mari-Ann Sweeney
Fay Walton

General Contributions and Designated Gifts

2021 Year End Campaign
Cheryl Place

2022 Year End Campaign
Patricia Hofmann

General
William At Lee
Judy Bradt
Denise Breitung & Mark Smith
Mr. Frederick Bumgarner
Lea Crusey
Kathy Daniel
Paul & Diana Dennett
Exelon Foundation - Helmrich match
David & Ellen Farr
Flag Harbor Condo Association
Miriam & Robert Gholl
Toby Gohn
Jessica Howard
Sandra Jarrett
Peter and Jean Johnson
BL Johnston & Robert Keisling
Ronald & Kathy Klauda
Penny Moran
Edwin & Monica Noell
Council, Baradel, Kosmerl & Nolan, P.A.
Elaine Strong
Paul Vetterle

Land & Stewardship Campaign
Fran & Bruce Armstrong
Patricia Hofmann
Charity & Matt Humm
Angela Bollich & John Williamson

Spring Appeal
Madeleine Blake
Greg & Tamea Bowen
Paul & Diana Dennett
Helen & Marylinda Govaars
Penny Firth & David Knapp
Cheryl Place

Workplace Giving
Jason Prowinski

Friends Forever Society
Thank you to the following donors for remembering ACLT in their estate plans:
Dan Boesz
Peter Daly
Kathy Daniel & David Braun
Mary Dwan*
David & Ellen Farr
Millicent Gay*
James Green, Jr.*
Robert Jeager*
Jane Klemer*
Shirley Knight & Bonnie Carter
Gary Loew
Robyn & Eric Truslow
Caroline Van Mason*

*Deceased

Please contact us if you wish to be added to ACLT’s Friends Forever Society

Memorial Donations
Thank you to the following who made a memorial contribution since our last newsletter:
In memory of Mary & Ralph Dwan:
Kathleen C. McGahey

In memory of Daniel Head, Sr.:
Julie & Rob Dallen

In memory of Arnold Petty:
Robert & Lori Alvord
American Chestnut Land Trust, Inc.
Post Office Box 2363
Prince Frederick, MD 20678

Come Join Us!
Join online at bit.ly/MembershipACLT or detach and mail this form 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 ___________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regular Membership</th>
<th>Corporate Membership</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>___ Land Saver—$35.00</td>
<td>___ Land Saver Corporate—$150.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>___ Land Protector—$60.00</td>
<td>___ Land Protector Corporate—$250.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>___ Land Conservator—$150.00</td>
<td>___ Sustaining—$5000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>___ Trustee of Land—$1000.00</td>
<td>___ Land Conservator Corporate—$500.00</td>
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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!

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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.