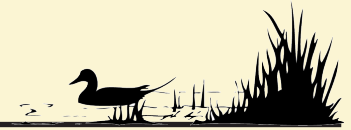


# Watershed Observer



NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN CHESTNUT LAND TRUST - VOLUME 37 No. 4 FALL 2023

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## COMING UP ON THE CALENDAR

### NOVEMBER

4 Sat – Fall Foliage Guided Hike at  
North Side Trailhead (10am-  
11:30am)

25/26 Sat/Sun - Wreath-making  
Weekend (volunteers and their  
guests) at North Side Trailhead

### DECEMBER

2 Sat – Annual Wreath and Greens  
Sale at South Side Trailhead  
(11am-1pm) at South Side Trail-  
head

See full calendar on page 10 and on  
our web site:

<https://bit.ly/ACLTEvents23>

## Zoning Matters!

### Why Calvert residents should all care about the County's zoning process.

By Greg Bowen, Executive Director

The proposed new Zoning Ordinance and Map for Calvert is both a threat and an opportunity for county citizens. In a way, it reminds me of a rezoning process that happened 25 years ago. During the late 1980s and 1990s, Calvert County was the fastest developing county in the state while at the same time it maintained one of the best land preservation programs—two competing land uses involving Calvert's rugged, beautiful working farms and natural landscapes.

However, by 1997, the County Commissioners had experienced enough development. They were building a new school every year and having to upgrade many other services, at great expense to county taxpayers.

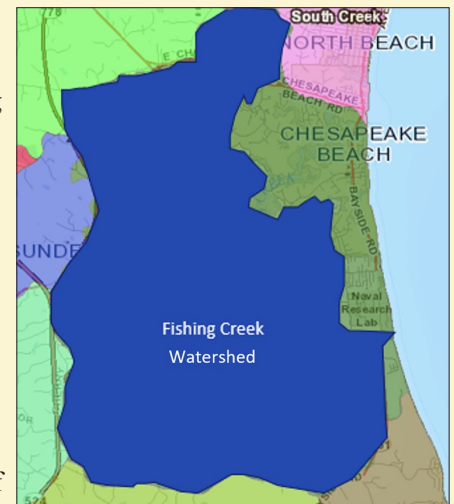
So as a new comprehensive plan was being prepared, the Commissioners posed a question to staff: How much growth can Calvert County accommodate before we significantly impact our road system, our education system, and our environment, including our working farms and forests?

Randi Vogt (a current member of the ACLT Board of Directors) wrote the Land Use section of the 1997 Comprehensive Plan. She began by noting that “the rapid population growth that is occurring in Calvert County is part of a nationwide trend. Many people throughout the United States are moving away from central cities and suburbs to ‘rural fringe’ areas such as Calvert County. The negative impacts of this development pattern on urban areas include increased poverty and crime and underutilized infrastructure. Negative impacts on suburban and rural areas include a lack of infrastructure and increased long distance commuting.”

She went on to say that “rural areas also experience a severe imbalance between housing and jobs and the rapid loss of farms, forests, and wildlife habitat.” The Land Use section noted that between 1985-1990, Calvert lost 8.3% of its agricultural land, virtually tied with Montgomery County for the highest percentage of agricultural land lost in Maryland.

She proposed four steps to implement her land use strategy:

- Reduce total build-out of the County;
- Reduce the rate of residential growth;
- Preserve the County's prime farms, forests, historic resources, and sensitive areas; and
- Direct growth to appropriate locations.



Outlined Area in Fishing Creek Watershed should be protected.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)



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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 3,800 acres. We own 1627 acres, manage 1,810 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 ...

### A Dinner/Auction to Remember

The temperatures were dropping on the evening of October 8th at the pavilion located at Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum. Still, our bodies were warmed by great hot chili from our cooks, and the sounds of friends meeting friends, both old and new. I know it was a great fundraiser, but more important was the mood and enthusiasm for the cause and the progress made in 2023.

ACLT remains strong. We are making a difference. Our guest was Dan Murphy, Chief, Division of Habitat Restoration and Conservation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the Chesapeake Bay Field Office. He briefly spoke about the major role that ACLT has played in helping to create a new refuge in Southern Maryland. Mary Hoover, our Regional Conservation Coordinator, spoke about the Southern Maryland Conservation Alliance (SMCA) plan to buy, conserve, and resell critical lands on the market for sale.

Clara Brill-Carlat addressed ACLT's efforts to eradicate invasives as well as our efforts to control stormwater. She also talked about our partnership with a new organization known as the Southern MD Active Recreation and Transportation Alliance (SMARTA), which is working for more hiking trails, more and safer biking trails, and better access to water trails, meaningful ways to better connect people to land and water.

Thanks to all who came out and to all who made it happen! ACLT is in a good place thanks to our members, donors, and supporters. I'm so glad that you were able to be a part of this special event. It's important to remember that even small gestures of support can make a big difference.

David Farr, President



Auction attendees mingle while checking out the offerings.



## Scenes from ACLT's 2023 Dinner/Auction



Auction attendees mingle while checking out the offerings.



2023 Chili Cook-off attendees enjoy a delicious dinner under the open-air tent at Jefferson Patterson Park.

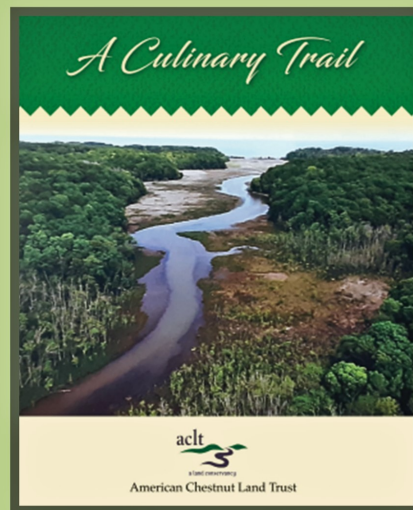


Auction Table Decoration by Sue Dzurec-Decorator

Just in time for the holidays ...

ACLT's *Community Cookbook*,  
"A Culinary Trail" is now available to  
pre-order! Get yours today!

[www.acltweb.org/cookbook-order-form](http://www.acltweb.org/cookbook-order-form)



This special cookbook contains more than 270 recipes gathered from ACLT supporters! It is printed in a padded 3-ring binder with a linen-finish laminated cover that features Parkers Creek flowing into the Chesapeake Bay.

Price: \$30

Available for Pick-up: Late November  
1st Come-1st Served!

## Cookbook Creators:

A very special *Thank You* to the volunteers who worked tirelessly to create the cookbook under the leadership of Board of Directors member Darlene Harrod: Editors Pat Hofmann, Kathy Klauda Shirley Knight, and Robyn Truslow; Angie Shields & Lingerine Robinson (typists); Peter Vogt (Author, "Foraging Wild Plant Edibles in Southern Maryland"); Robbie McGaughan (who named the cookbook); and Nathan Bowen (who took photo of Parkers Creek used on the front cover).

*And of course, a huge thank you to everyone who submitted recipes!*



# Around ACLT

## Introducing ACLT's 2023-2024 CCCC Members

Hi! My name is **Emily Dunsmore** and I am one of the Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps (CCCC) members working with the American Chestnut Land Trust this year. I will serve as the Stewardship Coordinator, working with Autumn and Clara on land management projects. I've already had a wonderful time meeting and working with volunteers removing invasive species and am excited to get to know everyone involved at ACLT!

I've known I wanted to work outside in some capacity since I first started thinking about potential careers, I knew I loved being outdoors- I've been an avid hiker and gardener from a young age. And, growing up right here in Calvert County, I've had so many wonderful outdoor education opportunities which instilled in me an interest in conservation and the environment. These experiences led me to pursue a degree in Environmental Studies from Washington College. From early mornings on the Chester River for rowing, to exploring the Eastern Shore during my free time, I spent a vast majority of my time outdoors. At the end of my 4 years at Washington College came the question, "what next?" and after hearing of the CCCC program from my mentors and professors, I knew it was my next step.

I'm looking forward to expanding my knowledge and skill set at a place so close to home. I've been hiking at ACLT for years, and am excited to experience the natural beauty of Calvert County from a different perspective. I know I will continue to enjoy meeting our volunteers and learning more about what goes into maintaining a place as wonderful as ACLT.



CCCC Member Emily Dunsmore.

Hello everyone! I'm **Brian Spinner**, one of the two Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps members for the 2023-2024 year. I am very excited to be spending my next year at the American Chestnut Land Trust. With Greg Bowen's mentorship, I will be working as Farm Manager at Double Oak. In this position, I will manage the farm while having the opportunity to get involved in all other endeavors at ACLT. From community outreach to Thursday trail adventures, I am looking forward to spending my year immersed in the nature and community that ACLT provides to the state of Maryland and beyond.

In addition to being new to ACLT, I am new to the Southern Maryland area. I grew up in Connecticut in a small town called Middlebury. There, I learned to enjoy nature through hiking, biking, swimming, sailing, and many other activities. I was introduced to the world of agriculture with my grandfather on his organic farm. Throughout the many years I spent on his farm I got to experience everything from planting to harvesting. I was fascinated by the process. It taught me to appreciate the food on my plate during every meal.

When I began my studies at the University of Maryland I kept this fascination and passion for nature close to me, majoring in environmental science and policy with a concentration in environment and agriculture. I used my four years at school to continue growing my knowledge of agriculture, such as learning the pros and cons of many different agricultural methods. I was able to learn outside of the classroom as well. I frequently started my day in a lecture hall and ended it at the university's greenhouse. I even got the chance to spend this past winter abroad in New Zealand studying land use and sustainability. From these past experiences, I understand the importance of using our lands more sustainably for agriculture and in general. I know this year at Double Oak will allow me to continue learning about sustainable agriculture on this farm that has been bountiful for many years prior to my arrival. I am excited to work with volunteers and learn more about the methods they have used to keep Double Oak organic and beautiful.



CCCC Member Brian Spinner.

## Return of the Bobwhite

By Grace Mayer, '22/'23 CCCC Member

The once-common sound of a northern bobwhite's whistle has been noticeably absent in Maryland to those who remember it. Coveys of northern bobwhite quail were frequently sighted in their favored habitats of young forest, overgrown fields, and other edge habitats. Beginning in the 1960s, sightings of the species became less and less common. As a popular game bird, the bobwhite has been well-studied over the last 60 years in which the population has been declining, allowing warning signs to be seen early and preventative measures to be taken. While the birds are not dwindling enough to be endangered as a species, they are listed as Near Threatened on the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List. One subspecies (the masked bobwhite) is endangered, though these birds are located in the Southwest region of the U.S. and are not found in Maryland.

Thanks to the determination and efforts of hunting enthusiasts and environmental stewards alike, there have been state-wide efforts in Maryland to rectify the land use changes threatening this species. Projects aimed at planting or managing early successional forest area are providing bobwhites with the shelter and space they need to survive to adulthood and reproduce. Many of these efforts are aimed at connecting fragments of habitat. Coveys need the ability to merge as the mortality rate of bobwhites is very high: when a covey is reduced to only a few birds, they need to join another covey as they no longer have the numbers to protect each other. Re-connecting existing habitat fragments provides each bird with better chances of survival as they are less likely to end up alone. Providing as much suitable habitat as possible in one area can have a big impact on local and adjacent bobwhite populations.

While predation accounts for many bobwhite deaths each year, there are natural processes in place meant to prevent this from wiping the species out. Bobwhites have high reproductive potential and females can lay up to three clutches, each with an average of twelve eggs, in a season. The large population increase that is possible during a single mating season means that only a small percentage of that population needs to survive to reproduce the next year in order to maintain a steady birth rate. However, predation becomes a bigger threat to the overall population when the number of chicks hatching is reduced due to lack of habitat. Restoring bobwhite habitat provides better resources and shelter for the mating season, which can help the population expand despite the presence of predators. It can also lower the mortality rate due to exposure in the winter when shelter is often sparse.

Protecting the habitat needed for adult bobwhites to reproduce has already shown promising results. While bobwhites are still not as widespread as they were 60 years ago, more are being spotted in areas where their habitat is protected and maintained. Many different initiatives are actively restoring bobwhite habitat, with some already seeing results. Bobwhites have been heard and spotted for the first time in years within areas such as Pocomoke State Forest on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Much of the early successional habitat present in Maryland when bobwhites were common has progressed to forest cover, blocking sunlight from maintaining grasses and shrubs that provide the quail



BobwhiteQuailMaleWithChicks-  
Photo Credit-Maryland DNR

with food and cover. Prescribed burns and maintenance of these early successional areas has allowed bobwhite populations to move back into suitable habitat, with the right amount of cover and food sources.

Bobwhite quail have brought together many people of different backgrounds in a collective effort to protect this valued species. Through efforts to protect the bobwhites people are preserving and maintaining valuable ecosystems, benefiting not only the quail and the people who wish to see them thrive but also the environment as a whole. The addition of native plants and natural corridors through developed land benefit countless other species through the addition of habitat and food sources, and benefit the planet through carbon sequestration. The more early successional habitat we preserve and maintain, the greater these benefits will be and the easier it will become for the bobwhites to expand in numbers. With the assistance and passion of hunters and environmentalists alike the bobwhites have already started to make a comeback, and with continued efforts their distinctive whistle may someday become commonplace once again.



# Climate-Proofing the Bay

By Mary Hoover, Southern Maryland Conservation Alliance Coordinator

*Climate change is the single greatest threat facing modern humanity.*

This statement so frequently comes up in environmental discourse that it has lost much of its bite. I still recall my first introduction to the existential threat of climate change while taking an earth science course during my senior year of high school. I was perplexed by the world's seeming indifference toward humanity's decidedly grim fate. Surely such a drastic phenomenon with such overwhelming scientific consensus should elicit urgent global action, right? From what I could see at the time, this was not the case. Now, having been sufficiently immersed in both academic and professional environmental spheres for several years, I realize there has been urgency among many, but the unprecedented complexity of the crisis and the prioritization of more immediate issues, among other factors, has hindered progress. And I, too, have grown numb to this phrase. However, as tempting as climate doomism may seem at times, the reality does not change: climate change is the *single greatest threat* facing modern humanity. We already are and will continue to experience climate-caused devastation, but not all hope is lost. There are manifold steps we can take to adapt to climate change and, in turn, soften its effects. Although global preparations are needed to fully adapt, for now, let's scale it down and consider steps we can take to climate-proof the Bay.

For brevity's sake, this article focuses on a few adaptive measures to reduce climate change impacts felt by the people and ecosystems of the Chesapeake Bay. I won't dwell on mitigation/prevention, although keep in mind that the two are often interchangeable, as adaptive measures tend to prevent otherwise positive feedback loops of climate effects begetting even worse effects. Considering the variety of climate change effects expected to manifest — notably rising temperatures, increasingly severe weather events, species loss, declining food production, and sea level rise—three of the most necessary preparations for the future of the Bay include strategic restoration, improving stormwater management with green infrastructure, and accelerating land preservation.

## Strategic Restoration

The Chesapeake Bay Watershed encompasses a stunning diversity of ecosystems. From verdant, old-growth forests to lush marshlands, the natural environment endears many to this region. While the aesthetic benefits of the environment are obvious, the subtler ecosystem services provided are innumerable and indispensable. Because of direct human activity and climate change, however, many of these ecosystems have become degraded, diluting the provisions they offer. Without our intervention to restore these key ecosystems, climate change will continue to degrade them. Thus, restoration is a crucial adaptive strategy for addressing many of the foremost effects of climate change. For example, restored meadows offer higher quality habitats for a wide range of wildlife, combatting biodiversity loss; restored floodplains attenuate and filter water, reducing the threat of flooding and runoff from exacerbated storm events; and restored forests reflect sunlight and offer atmospheric cooling through evapotranspiration, combating rising temperatures. These, among multifarious other benefits, necessitate restoration as a crucial step to climate-proof the Bay. However, the key to restoration in

preparing for climate change is to make our methods enduring. That is, we must be strategic.

To propose the best restoration strategies for every Chesapeake Bay ecosystem would far exceed the page limit of this article, not to mention the extent of my knowledge. The point I want to emphasize is simply that climate change, given its unpredictability and all-encompassing nature, requires thoughtful and strategic adaptive restoration. Consider a forest restoration project—a reforestation project, to be specific. As with many wildlife species, trees are undergoing a poleward population shift in concert with latitudinal temperature shifts. According to the USDA, species such as American Beech, Eastern White Pine, and Yellow Birch are anticipated to see a reduction in habitat suitability in the mid-Atlantic, while southern species like the Southern Red Oak will see an increase in habitat suitability<sup>1</sup>. Reforestation efforts should reflect this fact, and repopulation should only include trees expected to survive the forthcoming climate shift. Restoration efforts for *all* ecosystems should be strategic by employing foresight of the projected climate.

## Stormwater Management and Green Infrastructure

Aside from rising temperatures, one of the most immediate effects of climate change thus far has been an increase in storms and flooding. Coastal Bay communities know this fact intimately. In Maryland, for instance, 2000-2020 saw a 100-150% increase in flood days, as well as a 2.63-inch per decade increase in precipitation<sup>2</sup>. These precipitation numbers are expected to continue rising as climate change unfolds in coming years, and without stormwater infrastructure upgrades, the associated floods will too. Worsening floods pose numerous risks to our quality of life in the Chesapeake Bay. In addition to the obvious damage caused to our built environment, flooding also threatens the natural



Flooding in Hunting Creek from Tropical Storm Isais in August 2020. Photo by Ron Klauda.

environment. For instance, increased runoff brings pollution from the land into waterways, harming our fisheries and contaminating drinking water. To combat these effects, our stormwater management strategies *must* be effective. Gray infrastructure (dams, drains, pipes, etc.) and green infrastructure (rain gardens, urban trees, vegetated rooftops, etc.) must both be incorporated into our climate change preparations for the Bay.

The literature mostly agrees that a hybrid green-gray approach to stormwater management is the most optimal method, considering both cost-effectiveness and additional benefits<sup>3</sup>. Although not inconsequential to the discussion, the cost-effectiveness of a hybrid model is less relevant to climate change adaptation than the additional environmental benefits the model begets. For this reason, I won't expound on the cost analysis of different types of stormwater infrastructure. Most of the additional benefits of the green-gray model, however, come from the "green" component and its ability to address other climate change effects, making it an essential tool for climate-proofing the Bay. As global temperatures rise, cities see exacerbated warming by the hands of a phenomenon known as the "urban heat island effect." Incorporating more green infrastructure helps reduce this effect. Not only do plants offer shade and reflect sunlight, but they also cool the surrounding environment through evapotranspiration. Furthermore, green infrastructure combats biodiversity loss by providing habitat for wildlife, and it filters pollution from the air, improving air quality in cities. These are just some of the many additional benefits provided by green infrastructure, distinguishing it as a necessary climate change adaptation.

## Land Preservation

If climate change is the single greatest threat facing humanity, I believe land preservation is the single most important action we can take to safeguard our future. I'm sure our readership is aware of the importance of land preservation for climate-proofing the Bay, but it can be useful to every once in a while remind ourselves *why* this is the case. In short, nature serves our most basic needs as humans. The air we breathe, the water we drink, and the food we eat all rely on nature. Without protecting nature, i.e. preserving land, our most fundamental needs are at risk.

Let's break it down. Air, more specifically oxygen, is a prerequisite for human respiration. The status of our air depends on the status of our land but for reasons less overt than mere atmospheric oxygen contributions from land-based plants. While land plants do produce a portion of the oxygen we breathe, the majority of atmospheric oxygen actually



Aerial shot of Double Oak Farm. Photo by Mary Hoover.

comes from photosynthesizing organisms in the world's oceans<sup>4</sup>. Thus, a hypothetical eradication of all land-based plants would not suffocate the human population by virtue of air *quantity* decline, but rather, humans would suffer from severe air *quality* decline, as land plants play an integral role in filtering toxic air pollution. With climate change, air quality is expected to suffer more and more, particularly as the frequency and severity of wildfires increase. Protecting land ensures we protect our natural air filtration system against these growing threats. Water, another fundamental human need, is similarly protected by natural land filtration. As stated above, climate change increasingly threatens water quality by bringing pollutants to our waterways, largely through stormwater runoff. Just as plants filter pollutants from air, so does natural land filter pollutants from water. Finally, natural land is needed to grow food and raise livestock, and protecting farmland ensures that land is always available for this purpose. However, it would be insufficient to only protect farmland in a few agricultural hubs around the world. As we've seen in recent years because of the COVID-19 pandemic and other natural disasters, our global food system is fragile. To be prepared for even more prolonged supply chain disruptions and resulting food shortages due to climate change, we must protect local food production, and we must protect land.

Climate change is indeed formidable, but our efforts to combat it don't have to be. The challenge becomes less daunting if we scale back from a global approach to a regional one, namely a Chesapeake Bay approach. In climate-proofing the Bay, three of the most important adaptive strides we must take include implementing strategic restoration projects, incorporating green infrastructure into stormwater management, and accelerating land preservation. Of the three, land preservation is the most all-encompassing: it protects our basic needs, provides lasting green infrastructure for mitigating storms, gives sites for us to conduct strategic restoration, and much more. Remember this fact whenever climate change seems insurmountable and climate doom comes knocking at your door. Remember that every scale of action matters, and *you*, by supporting land preservation, are contributing more than you know.

1. "Mid-Atlantic Forest Ecosystem Vulnerability Assessment and Synthesis: A Report from the Mid-Atlantic Climate Change Response Framework Project," USDA [www.fs.usda.gov/research/treesearch/57325](http://www.fs.usda.gov/research/treesearch/57325)
2. "Maryland sees increase in precipitation, sea level, flooding," AP News [bit.ly/APNews-MDClimateChange](https://bit.ly/APNews-MDClimateChange)
3. "Combining gray and green infrastructure to improve coastal resilience: lessons learnt from hybrid flood defenses", *Coastal Engineering Journal*, 63:3, 335-350, DOI: 10.1080/21664250.2021.1920278
4. "How Trees Help Us Breathe," Nashville Tree Conservation Corps. [bit.ly/NTCC-HowTreesHelpUsBreathe](https://bit.ly/NTCC-HowTreesHelpUsBreathe)

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

This four-step strategy was included in the adopted Plan and the Board of County Commissioners moved quickly to implement it.

**Step 1:** They asked staff to provide an estimate of the total maximum number of houses that the county could accommodate without significantly affecting quality of life, infrastructure, and environmental resources. That number was determined to be 37,000 households. Then the Commissioners asked staff to propose zoning options that would limit housing development to that total number. Many options were considered. A public hearing was held. Residents filled the Calvert High Auditorium, and the vast majority supported the proposed downzoning of properties across all zoning categories. Then in 2003, the Commissioners cut the zoned density in half again, to further reach that buildout limit.

**Step 2:** They tightened their adequate public facilities regulations, to help prevent rapid growth from overwhelming facilities and services.

**Step 3:** They added a new land preservation tool, the Leveraging Program to increase the pace of land conservation.

**Step 4:** They required more farm transferable development rights (TDRs) in the town centers, but waived them for affordable and senior housing as a means to incentivize developers to build the housing really needed.

Because of the time lapse between subdivision application and development, and the number of lots previously recorded, it took 10 years for their efforts to bear fruit, but by 2006, the growth rate finally dropped to a more sustainable number (.9%) and land conservation was outpacing residential sprawl by a 4 to 1 ratio.

Between 1980 and 2006, Calvert had grown 150%. For comparison, the population in the United States grew 31.3% and the population in Maryland grew 33.2% during that period according to usafacts.org. Calvert's largest annual population increase was 6.4% between 1986 and 1987. Between 1980 and 2006, the county grew by an average of 6% per year. Not sustainable.

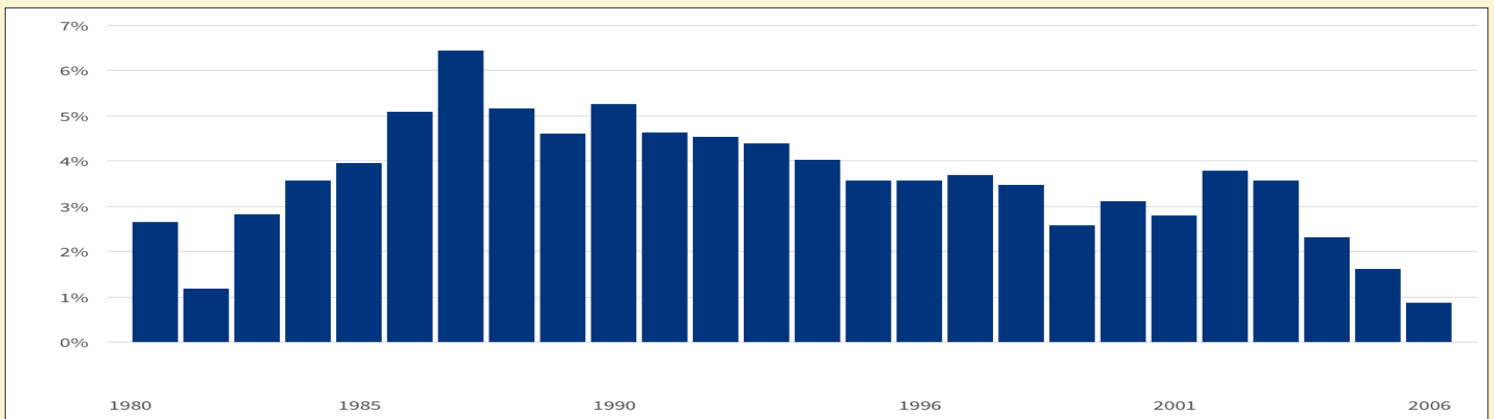
County plans often provide lofty visions that most citizens can embrace, but it takes strategic actions with measurable objectives to achieve the lofty goals. The Commissioners in 1997 took bold, decisive action and prevented a much worse scenario by using planning and zoning as a tool to control the amount, rate, and timing of residential growth.

### Threats and Opportunities in 2023

This year, I believe that we have a board of county commissioners who are concerned about the financial and facility costs of residential growth and the board has already reversed some of the zoning changes recommended in the 2019 Comprehensive Plan.

However, this year, county Planning and Zoning staff has included in the draft maps the up-zoning of over a thousand acres of land to Residential District. That is consistent with

## Calvert County Population Growth Rates by Year



Source: usafacts.org <https://usafacts.org/data/topics/people-society/population-and-demographics/our-changing-population/state/maryland/county/calvert-county/?endDate=2006-01-01&startDate=1980-01-01>



2019 Comprehensive Plan's future land map, but not consistent with the Plan's text for Residential Zoning and the 2019 Plan does not have any reference to a residential buildout goal.

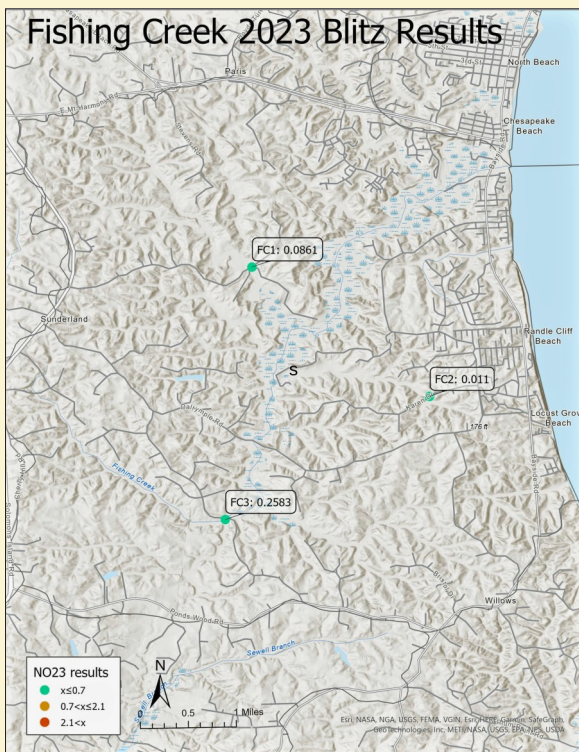
The consultant who prepared that Plan chose to ignore most citizen input. The consultant did retain the lofty visions from previous county plans, but stripped out the measurable benchmarks and actions to control growth. Citizens did fight to keep the benchmarks and a few were put back in the plan. However, in 2022, citizens rallied to elect a Board of County Commissioners who seem to care about our natural resources.

According to Maryland Department of Planning's Dashboard, Calvert has preserved roughly 32% of its lands. According to a Maryland Department of Natural Resources report, roughly 30% of the County lands had been developed as of 2010. That leaves at most 38% of the land that can either be developed or preserved. The zoning of that undeveloped land will determine the future of wildlife habitat, fisheries, traffic congestion, and so on. We don't have to drive too far north to see the consequences of dense sprawl development not connected to towns or cities.

The County Commissioners can once again take bold steps to protect Calvert County. One such step would be to protect the third largest watershed in Calvert—the one with the most wetlands—Fishing Creek. We have recently created a new Friends Group to raise awareness about the importance of preserving this watershed. Many people have crossed

Fishing Creek at its mouth in Chesapeake Beach and some have hiked the beautiful Chesapeake Beach Railway Trail along the Creek. However, many are not familiar with its deep forests and upland streams that are still in good condition according to the spring water quality blitz. By designating these areas Farm and Forest District and as a Rural Legacy area, the county and state could work with property owners and land trusts to protect the farms and forests that U.S. Fish & Wildlife have identified as key wildlife habitat. We are pleased with the staff's draft of the Farm and Forest District, and would like to see its area expanded.

Communities change, sometimes for the better and sometimes for the worse. Good county comprehensive plans and zoning regulations can maintain or improve quality of life as change occurs. I believe that the current Board of County Commissioners want to do just that. They are going to need help and support.



ACL's Board is very concerned about the zoning process that is currently underway and has formed a committee to review proposed changes and make recommendations. We will keep our supporters updated in the coming months.

In the meantime, we strongly encourage you to learn more about the proposals:

- Visit the County's Zoning Update web page at <https://bit.ly/CalvertZOUpdate>
- Sign up to be alerted to upcoming meetings at <https://bit.ly/NotifyMeCalvertCo>
- Watch a video to learn how to use the zoning map to determine the proposed zoning of your property: <https://bit.ly/HowTo-ZoningMap>
- Follow ACLT on Facebook: [facebook.com/AmericanChestnutLandTrust](https://facebook.com/AmericanChestnutLandTrust)

## ACLT 2023 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October—December 2023  
Please check website for  
up-to-date information.  
<https://bit.ly/ACLTEvents23>

### NOVEMBER

- 4 Sat – Fall Foliage Guided Hike  
at North Side Trailhead (10am-  
11:30am)
- 25/26 Sat/Sun - Wreath-making  
Weekend (volunteers and  
their guests) at North Side  
Trailhead

### DECEMBER

- 2 Sat – Annual Wreath and  
Greens Sale at South Side  
Trailhead (11am-1pm) at South  
Side Trailhead



## ACLT's Annual Wreath & Greens Sale

*All wreaths made from greens  
gathered locally*

**DECEMBER 2ND | 11AM-1PM  
SOUTH SIDE TRAILHEAD  
1985 SCIENTISTS CLIFFS ROAD  
PORT REPUBLIC, MD  
RAIN DATE: DECEMBER 3RD**

## Thank you for your support

### New Members

ACLT welcomes the following new mem-  
bers since the Summer 2023 Newsletter:  
Melissa Barrett  
Debra Cheng  
Shelly & Joe Coleman  
MaryPat Collins  
Matt Degenkolb & Family  
Robert Desverreaux  
Jack Felsher  
Elizabeth Grady  
Sandra Gwynn  
Paul Kachurak  
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Jessalyn Merkam  
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Allison R. Shulman  
Kathleen & Jack Smith  
Samantha Waby  
Allison Walton  
Amy & Michael Werblow & Family  
Alexis White

### Memorial Donations

Thank you to the following who made a  
memorial contribution since our last news-  
letter:

In memory of **Rita Kirby Amtmann:**  
John & Sherry Kirby

In memory of **Robert W. Davis, Jr.:**  
Lawrence & Hannah Langfeldt

In memory of **Mary & Ralph Dwan:**  
Mary C. McGahey

In memory of **Judy Imoos:**  
Patricia Peak

In memory of **James Kleyle:**  
Karen Kleyle

### In Honor of Donations

Thank you to the following who made an “in  
honor of” contribution since our last news-  
letter:

In honor of **Randi & Peter Vogt:**  
Nora Khalili  
Debra Zanewich

### Gift Memberships

Thank you to the following who donated a  
gift membership since our last newsletter:  
Emily Desverreaux  
Cheryl Place  
Amy Werblow  
R.T. West

### Sustaining Membership

Congratulations to those who have reached  
the level of Sustaining Membership:  
Reverend Peter James Daly

### General Contributions and Des- ignated Gifts

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Sarah Houde Pottery  
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Jeffrey Lewis, Realtor  
Steve Oberg, Attorney



Maerten's Fine Jewelry  
No Thyme to Cook  
PEARL  
PAX Real Estate  
Patuxent Wine & Spirits  
Tractor Supply Co.

### **Chili Cook-off Chefs**

Rachel Riley Broderick  
Sara Dugan  
Sue Dzurec  
Ted Haynie  
BL Johnston  
Mary Klausner  
Jeffrey Lewis  
Elizabeth Orlandi  
Lisa Ruetschle  
Robyn Truslow

### **Chili Cook-off Judges**

Buddy Hance  
Sue Kullen  
Gary Loew

### **Auction Item/Experience Donors**

Karl & Danielle Adler  
Ann Alsina  
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Jeff Buyer  
Rose Crunkleton  
Jan & Jim Degeneffe  
Paul & Diana Dennett  
Tom Dugan  
Mike & Kathy Ellwood  
Ralph Eshelman  
Pat & Abbey Griffin  
Jane Head  
Reed Hellman  
Sarah Houde  
Jesse Howe  
BL Johnston  
Marty Kilpatrick  
Scott Knoche  
Dee Lawless  
Jeffrey Lewis  
Keith Linville  
Matt Neff  
Ray Noble MD  
Saroja Raman  
Brett Raynor  
Robyn & Eric Truslow  
Marcia Van Gemert  
Tay Vaughan  
Randi & Peter Vogt  
Buck Waller

### **Special Thanks**

ACLT Board of Directors Members:  
David Farr  
Ronald Klauda  
Cheryl Place

Darrell Roberts  
Robyn Truslow  
Sue Dzurec, Decorator  
Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum  
2 For U Band

### **General Donations**

Jerry Adams & Harriet Yaffe  
Scientists' Cliffs Association  
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Jessica & Ty Clark  
Kathy Daniel & David Braun  
Paul & Diana Dennett  
John Fox  
Glynn & Dagmar Frank  
Jim French & Martha Holleman  
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Mary St. Pierre  
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James Greene, Jr.

### **Land & Stewardship Campaign**

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Douglas Harbold  
Charity & Matt Humm

### **Monthly Donors**

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Judy Bradt  
Denise Breitburg & Mark Smith  
Paul & Diana Dennett  
Miriam & Robert Gholz  
Toby Gohn  
Jessica Howard  
Sandra Jarrett  
Penny Moran  
Edwin & Monica Noell  
Chris Riollano  
Elaine Strong  
Paul Vetterle

### **Spring Appeal**

Chesapeake Garden Club of Calvert County  
Torben Huger-Jensen  
Dale, Kara & Willow Hutchins  
Mary McGahey & Todd Sheldon  
James & Emily van Zee

### **Water Quality Testing**

Susan Alexander  
Dawn Balinski  
Black Swamp Land Trust, Inc  
Bob Estes  
Kyle Greene  
Ted Haynie  
John Koelbel  
James Levin  
Frank McPhillips  
Ryan Niemi  
Kathleen Smith  
Southern Maryland RC&D Board, Inc  
St. Mary's River Watershed Assoc. Inc.

### **Workplace Giving**

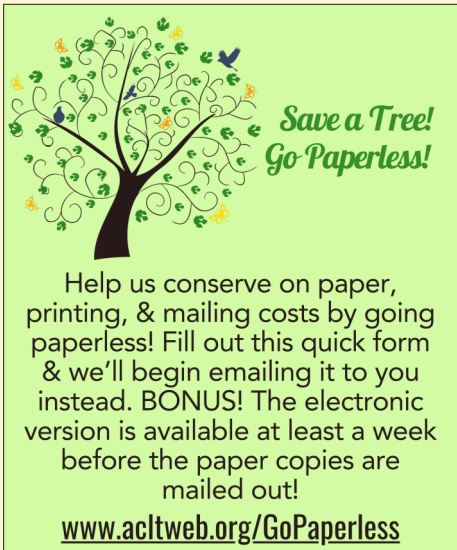
Jason Prowinski

### **Friends Forever Society**

Dan Boesz  
Peter Daly  
Kathy Daniel & David Braun  
Mary Dwan\*  
David & Ellen Farr  
Millicent Gay\*  
Jim\* & Susan Greene  
Robert Jaeger\*  
Steven & Jackie King  
Jane Klemer\*  
Shirley Knight & Bonnie Carter  
Gary & Sandra Loew  
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Caroline Van Mason\*

\*Deceased

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



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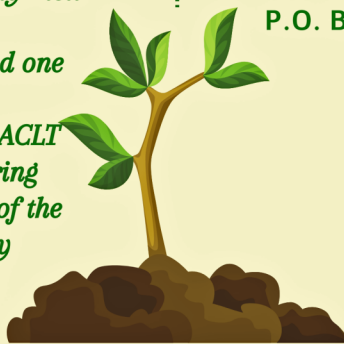
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In order to use your donations as efficiently as possible, we use USPS Bulk Mail and this statement is now required in the address. Thank you for understanding!

## Help Us Grow!

Thanks to your support, ACLT has grown into a vibrant land conservancy with a bright future. As demonstrated in this newsletter, we are making progress on several fronts - preserving more land - fighting climate change - staying engaged with the community - plus lots of exciting projects underway! We want to share our good news with everyone - current and new members and donors alike! We're asking for your help by ...

- *talking us up to your friends and family - tell them why you support ACLT*
- *inviting them to hike with you or attend one of our many events*
- *inviting them to volunteer with you at ACLT*
- *following us on Social Media and sharing our posts or sharing your own photos of the beauty of ACLT with friends and family*
- *Giving the gift of an ACLT membership (go to [www.acltweb.org/membership](http://www.acltweb.org/membership))*



Help us continue our mission! Please donate by scanning the QR Code above or mail a check made payable to ACLT to:

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Or donate online at [www.acltweb.org/donate](http://www.acltweb.org/donate)

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