

Watershed Observer



NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN CHESTNUT LAND TRUST - VOLUME 38 No. 2 SPRING 2024

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COMING UP ON THE CALENDAR

APRIL

5 Fri – Spring Stroll Guided Hike – (9am-10am) – Frog Pond, Ridge Loop, Wallace Lane (Rain Date: April 12th)
13 thru 27 All Week – Earth Day-Themed “Story Walk” (all day) at Griffin Meadow Trail/North Side Trailhead

See full calendar on page 11 and on our web site:

www.acltweb.org/Calendar24

Another Successful Annual Meeting in the Books

By Greg Bowen, Executive Director and Miriam Gholl, Community Relations Manager



ACLT 2023 Annual Meeting. Photo by Greg Bowen.

March 2nd was a cold and wet day but that did not stop over 120 ACLT supporters from attending the Annual Meeting and Luncheon at St. John Vianney Family Life Center. The meeting was opened by Board President Dave Farr and included presentations by staff and committee chairs, all reporting on the many accomplishments made in the last year.

Keynote Speaker’s Presentation (shared by Greg Bowen)



Back in December, ACLT arranged to have one of the most knowledgeable people about the Chesapeake Bay watershed agree to speak at the Annual Meeting. Ann Swanson was Executive Director of the Chesapeake Bay Commission for 35 years. The Bay Commission is not only a member of the Executive Council that includes the US Environmental Protection Agency, but it represents both legislators and governors across the region.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)



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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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Ginny Murphy
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From the President's Desk ...

It is always a pleasure to be part of ACLT's Annual Meeting. Ellen and I not only receive progress updates but also reconnect with friends we've known since ACLT's inception in 1986. This year, we were thrilled to see a significant number of new faces, a testament to the fact that our land trust is not aging out like many others. In fact, over the past five years, our membership has seen a substantial increase, and the support from our members and volunteers has never been stronger.

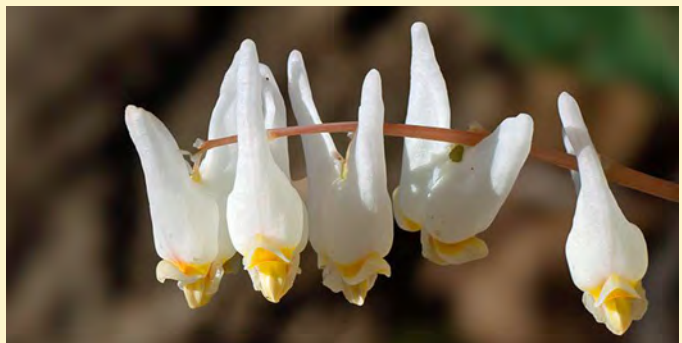
At the Annual Meeting, I presented the State of the Land Trust, and noted that the Trust is in a good place. I believe that is true because we have a healthy balance of staff and volunteers. For the first five years of its existence, ACLT functioned as an all-volunteer land trust. The administrative duties got to be too much for Board, so they hired Peg Niland. As ACLT has continued to grow in lands conserved, land stewardship responsibilities and membership, the Board has cautiously and prudently added staff so that the work that has to be done is done, but volunteers still do critical tasks.

Our Board of Directors is an all-volunteer board that makes all of the decisions of the land trust. This year, our land Manager Autumn Phillips-Lewis shared a remarkable statistic. In 2023, our dedicated volunteers generously donated 7776 hours of their time, a contribution valued at over \$230,000. This is a truly impressive figure for a land trust in Maryland's smallest county, and it underscores the immense value of our volunteers to our operations and success.

This year, ACLT is going through accreditation renewal from the Land Trust Accreditation Commission. Each accredited land trust completes a rigorous review process to join a network of organizations united by strong ethical and operating practices. You will see the full announcement in this newsletter. Fingers crossed, this will be the third time we have gone through the process and succeeded. It is one thing that our Board does to maintain the standards that you expect from us.

David Farr, President

Now is a perfect time to explore ACLT and enjoy the results of your efforts.



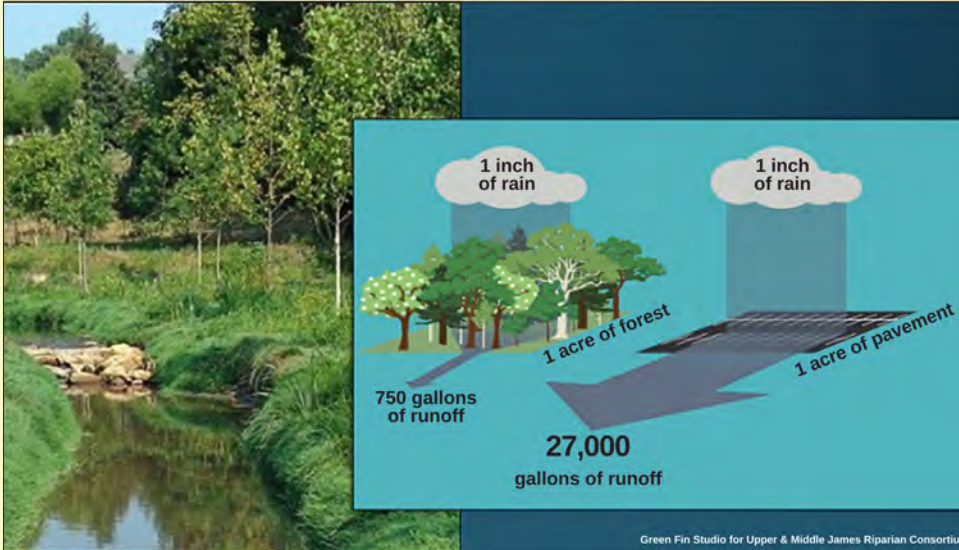
(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Ann and I worked together to decide what information might be the most meaningful to meeting attendees. She was excited about coming, but then a scheduling conflict came up and she had to back out. However, she agreed to allow me to present her slides she entitled “Looking Back, Looking Forward”.

As per Ann’s notes, when you consider the pressure on our watershed, the achievement of many of the goals is nothing short of remarkable. She notes that in the time since she began her work at the Commission, we have cut the pollution by a third while human population grew by half and animal populations grew by one third.

She noted that the reduction of nutrients from wastewater was a “World-Scale Success Story”. Since 1985 the portion of nitrogen loads derived from wastewater has been cut by 57%. Phosphorus has been cut by 75%. Meanwhile, land conserved in the watershed rose from 7.8 million acres to over nine million acres.

Next, Ann listed several remaining challenges to reach Bay goals and recommendations to address them. One of those challenges is to protect the Forest for the Trees. We are losing about 100 acres of forest per day in the Chesapeake, despite some of the strongest tree protection rules in the country. Most of that loss is coming from urban and suburban sprawl.



According to a 2023 Bay Journal article entitled “Tree cover declines, pavement spreads across Chesapeake watershed”, “an area larger than the District of Columbia is being covered by pavement and buildings every five years. Over the same time period, an area the size of Arlington County, VA, loses tree cover, dwarfing watershed-wide tree-planting efforts aimed at replacing cover already lost.” bit.ly/BayJournalTreeCoverArticle

Author Timothy Wheeler concludes that “stormwater runoff is a significant and, according to Bay Program computer models, growing source of pollution degrading the Bay.” Urban and suburban sprawl is an issue that the Bay Program has yet to successfully address.

Sprawl is not inevitable. Of course, it will stop when all that is not conserved is developed. The big question is what habitat and fisheries will be left. At ACLT, we believe that critical habitats should be protected now, to save our ecosystem and economic assets. That is why we are excited that US Fish & Wildlife appears to be moving on with the establishment of the New Southern Maryland Woodlands National Wildlife Refuge and why the Southern Maryland Conservation Alliance is meeting regularly to conserve critical habitats designated by local, state, and/or federal agencies.

Earth Day at ACLT
2 Events in 1 Weekend

Sat. April 20th | 8am:

ACLT Earth Day 5K
April 20, 2024
American Chestnut Land Trust

5K Trail Run & Hike

Sun. April 21st | 8am:

ACLT'S
Earth Day
FAMILY HIKE

Family Guided Hike

Register here:
www.acltweb.org/EarthDay24

Board of Directors Slate of New Members

Every year, a Nominating Committee is formed to find candidates who will fill the needs of the Board, per ACLT's Charter. Before sharing the biographies of the new members and their ties to ACLT, President Farr expressed gratitude to the outgoing Board members: Steve Cloak, Denise Breitburg, Birgit Sharp, and Robyn Truslow. The new member candidates, who were approved by unanimous vote, are:



Melissa McKormick is Principal Investigator, Senior Scientist at the Smithsonian Environment Research Center. Melissa is an active member of ACLT's Science Committee and was instrumental in the efforts to remove invasive phragmites' in Parkers Creek and determining what habitat would be effective in replacing it.



Adam Sampson grew up in Calvert County and has always had a deep, abiding love for nature, which is why the Land Trust is so important to him. He is the owner of Heartwood Construction, which is primarily focused on restoring the log cabins in Scientists Cliffs. He enjoys volunteering with the land trust when he is able, guiding canoe trips up Parker's Creek, helping on Double Oak Farm and maintaining trails. He is a member of the Facilities Committee.



Mark Smith is a retired St. Mary's County Public Schools administrator. He is a Master Naturalist, hikes the ACLT trails almost daily, and is a long-time ACLT volunteer. He is a member of the Governance Committee.



John W. Yoe was born in Prince Frederick and raised on the Yoe family farm, which was acquired by ACLT in 2022. He has a degree in Electrical Engineering and worked with Navy and industry pioneers in satellite communications. Since retiring, John has kept current with construction best practices, especially with respect to carpentry, electricity, and plumbing. John is a member of ACLT's Facilities Committee and attends many ACLT events.

Post-Meeting Survey Shows Widespread Approval

At the conclusion of the meeting, attendees were asked to complete a survey rating the following questions between 1 (disappointing) and 5 (exceptional). The average answers are listed after each question.

- Overall, how engaging was the Annual Mtg? **4.68**
- Do you support preserving land on a regional basis? **4.71**
- Do you support ACLT Research? **4.64**
- Do you support SMARTA? **4.35**
- How would you rate Donor Relations Committee efforts? **4.08**
- How would you rate Budget & Finance Comm. Management of Funds? **4.36**
- How would you rate Outreach & Membership Committee Efforts? **4.24**
- Are we adequately sharing information throughout the year? **4.41**
- How would you rate Land Management Committee Efforts? **4.62**

Pictured, Top to Bottom: "Evening on the Path" by Freeman Dodsworth, "Early March Canoes" by Katie Brinkley, "Nature Calls" by Spencer Riddile.



Online Gallery Now Available

The 35 artists participating in ACLT's plein air project, Art for All Seasons, have been busy creating stunning artwork from all around ACLT's lands. Below is a small sampling of the art created thus far. The online gallery, which will continually be updated throughout the year, is available here: www.acltweb.org/art-for-all-seasons-gallery



The 2024-2028 Five-Year Strategic Plan

Incremental Adjustments to Enhance a Functioning Plan

By Greg Bowen, Executive Director

Every five years, ACLT's Board of Directors takes a comprehensive look at its Five-Year Strategic Plan, evaluating necessary adjustments to uphold its original charter and mission amidst evolving circumstances. Most Plan updates tend to involve incremental adjustments to enhance an already effective plan. However, in 2019, the Board opted to make more substantial changes, signifying a shift in direction to address the changing landscape, such as the intensified rainfalls in 2018 and 2019, ongoing habitat loss in Southern Maryland due to urban sprawl, and escalating social unrest nationwide. Below is a summary of key features as listed in the 2019-2023 Plan and the progress that has been made thus far.

- **Embrace a leadership role** in the long-term conservation and stewardship of watersheds in Calvert and Southern Maryland.

ACLT worked with the Maryland Environmental Trust to create the Southern Maryland Conservation Alliance (SMCA) consisting of over 50-member organizations.

- **Address long-term budget issues and staffing needs.**
Our fundraising has allowed us to address staffing needs so far.

- Advocate for **re-institution of land preservation tools and increase Rural Legacy Areas.**
All but one of the County tools for land preservation is restored and the County Commissioners have expanded the County's Rural Legacy Areas. The only item remaining is to open up applications for new Agricultural Preservation Districts.

- **Continue managing** our preserved properties to maintain diverse and healthy ecosystems and evaluate long-term sustainability.
Land Management is working hard to maintain diverse and healthy ecosystems and to address the heavier rainfall that can undermine streambanks.

- **Inform land management practices with science** conducted here and elsewhere.
Our Science Committee has initiated a number of monitoring programs, including forest diversity plots, water quality blitzes, fish studies, macroinvertebrate studies, deer counts, and sea level rise monitoring.

- **Embrace and support our volunteers.**
Our Outreach and Membership Committee regularly holds special events for our volunteers.



Aerial of Parkers Creek from Blue Ridge Outdoors Magazine – Oct 2023.

- **Connect more people** (of all backgrounds) to the land and instill a conservation ethic.

Our Outreach and Membership Committee holds many events to connect all people to the land and through that process we gain more advocates and supporters. In addition, the Board formed the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Subcommittee to promote ideas, programs, and projects designed to increase access to ACLT by diverse communities, particularly those impacted by societal inequities or those who had not traditionally been engaged in nature. The goal is to foster feelings of belonging and safety for all who visit ACLT.

Accomplishing More with the 5-Year Grant

In addition to the above accomplishments, ACLT has been able to hire two very capable people with the help of a five-year grant from anonymous donors. Mary Hoover has the Southern Maryland Conservation Alliance (SMCA) off the ground to help the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to form a new wildlife refuge area in Southern Maryland. SMCA is completing boots on the ground work to identify strategic purchases of critical properties to achieve the goal of preserving up to 40,000 acres for the new refuge. Meanwhile, Mary is forming new Watershed Friends Groups to monitor and advocate for the protection of local watersheds.

Clara Brill-Carlat was hired as Assistant Land Manager to speed up land stewardship efforts, help implement new approaches to address heavier storms such as Beaver Dam Anals, and to help form a new non-profit (SMARTA) to promote safe hiking, biking, and paddling in Southern Maryland, another way to address climate change. In addition, with her help ACLT has been able to meet another goal called for in the 2019-2023 Plan – to create more meadow habitat. Great progress has been made in a county that has lost nearly all of its meadow habitat.

ACLT's 2024-2028 Strategy Plan

Recognizing that there's still much to be done, the Board decided that the 2024-2028 Plan will involve only incremental adjustments to enhance a plan that was already functioning well.

Here are the key features of the new 2024-2028 Strategic Plan:

- Focus on protecting the remaining properties in the Parkers Creek and Governors Run Watersheds.
- Strive for diversity, equity, and inclusion in all we do so that all visitors, members, and volunteers feel like they are welcomed and belong at ACLT.
- Continue to “be the change” needed to address climate change in Southern Maryland.
- Identify ways to maintain current staffing to ensure ACLT's ability to support regional and state conservation efforts.
- Expand the network of Watershed Friends Groups to include all major watersheds in Southern Maryland.
- Pursue “active transportation” approaches (such as hiking, biking, and paddling) to strengthen the region's economy, to further reduce the reliance on fossil fuels, and to improve the health of residents.
- Close the loop, building new trail segments that will allow hikers to walk from St. John Vianney to the Yoe property and from there to the Gravatt property.

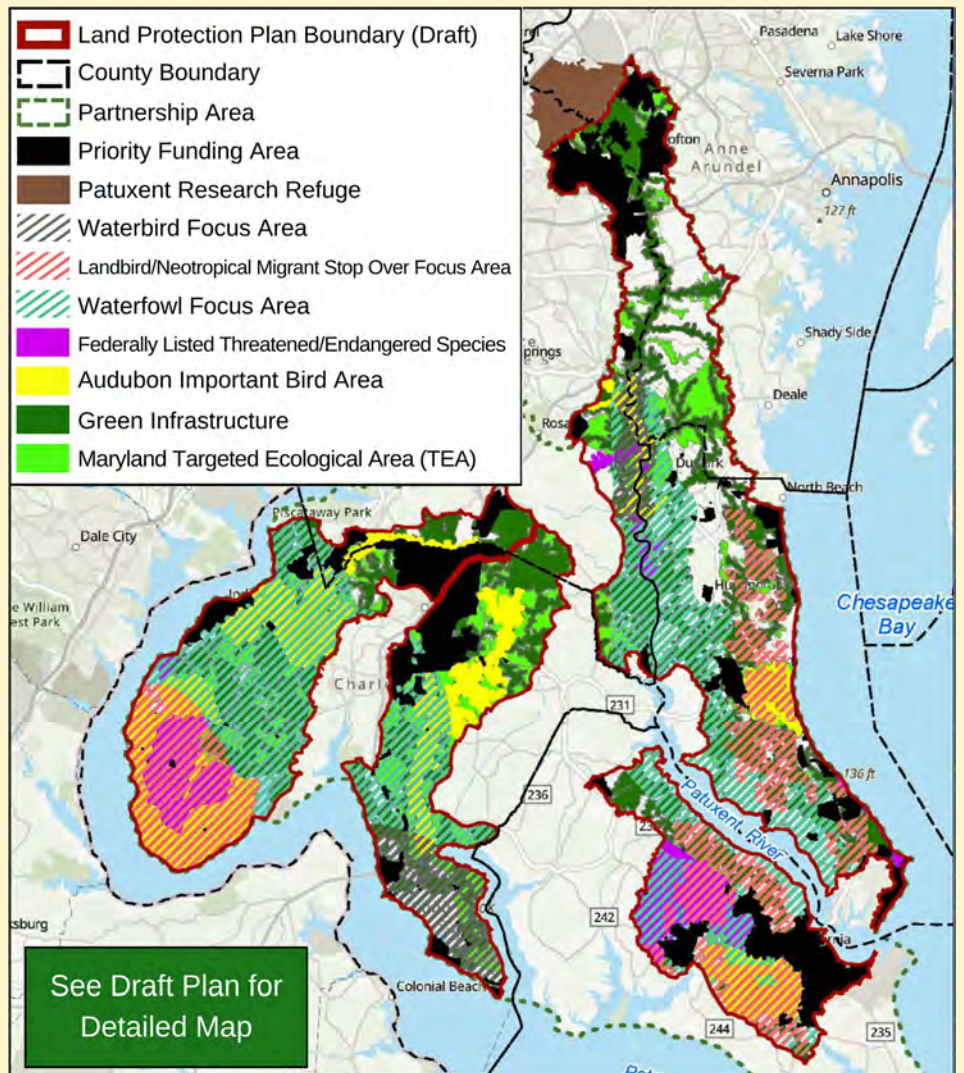
Request for Letters of Support for Southern Maryland Woodlands National Wildlife Refuge

ACLT is excited to announce that the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) has released its draft Land Protection Plan/Environmental Assessment for establishing a new National Wildlife Refuge in Southern Maryland! The draft plan proposes the acquisition of up to 40,000 acres across a 577,420-acre acquisition boundary and can be read here: <https://www.fws.gov/project/evaluating-new-refuge-lands-southern-maryland>

Read ACLT's blog post for more background on the plan here: www.acltweb.org/wildlife-refuge-blog.

USFWS launched a 45-day public comment period on March 8, 2024 with the release of the draft plan. Comments can be emailed to fw5southernmarylandplan@fws.gov

Public support is important to USFWS, so please consider reviewing the plan and submitting a personal comment! If you would like to express support for the plan but do not want to write your own email, we have created a form with a simple template for you to show your support. By completing the form, an email will be automatically sent to USFWS. Access the form here: <https://www.acltweb.org/USFWS-letter-of-support-form>.



Calvert Farmland Trust

Shared interests, teamwork, collaboration, and a new path for a win!

By Greg Bowen, Executive Director

The Calvert Farmland Trust (CFT) has always been one of the most innovative land trusts in the state. Back in the 1990's, its founding members were concerned that residential sprawl would destroy good farm communities, so they developed a plan to:

- buy critical properties,
- preserve the land by selling transferable development rights, and
- resell the land to conservation buyers, thereby recouping their money.

They would also try to do all these transactions on the same day, at the same settlement table, with an option in the original contract to assign an interest in the property to another party. By these contractual conditions, they reduced or eliminated carrying costs, multiple settlement fees, and temporary loan costs between the purchase of the property and sale of the property to a conservation buyer.

Their program was very successful in the 1990s and into the 21st century, but then it ended when the Calvert County Commissioners put a moratorium on the creation of new Agricultural Preservation Districts in 2010 due to a glut of available TDRs caused by the Great Recession of 2007.

CFT had never used the state's Rural Legacy Program, whereas ACLT has on numerous occasions. When a beautiful, 216-acre forested tract on Mackall Road was rumored to be for sale in 2023, CFT and ACLT decided to meet and develop a strategy to protect the land. The property is in the middle of 2,000+ acres of preserved lands. It is in the Calvert Creek Rural Legacy Area and in the US Fish & Wildlife's area of interest in its draft plan for a new refuge.

ACLT was able to show CFT how the Rural Legacy Program could be used to buy, preserve, and resell lands back to conservation buyers just like TDRs. Next, both land trusts met with the property owners to show how they could benefit financially by selling to a land trust.

I am very pleased to report that CFT has a contract for this 216-acre property with a plan to re-sell it to conservation buyers. The property consists of two tracts (a 40-acre tract on one side of Mackall Road and a 176-acre tract on the other). If there is an interest in submitting a bid on one of the two properties it can be done by emailing CFT at Calvertft@gmail.com.

These are the kinds of preservation transactions that might finally curb rampant sprawl within the Southern Maryland Conservation Alliance's (SMCA's) critical lands and in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.



Value-Added Benefiting Local Farmers and Watermen

By Brian Spinner, CCCC Intern

Agriculture is the largest commercial industry in Maryland, employing 350,000 people and bringing in some \$8.25 billion dollars annually according to the 2017 United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) census.

Value-added agriculture as an industry was estimated to be big enough to support roughly 74,000 jobs and contribute \$20.6 billion annually to Maryland's economy according to a 2018 Business Economic and Community Outreach Network (BEACON) report.

Upon reading the last two paragraphs I could expect one to think, "That can't be right! How can the value-added agriculture industry *possibly* be valued higher than the *largest* commercial industry in Maryland?" The truth is, it doesn't make sense. At least it doesn't make sense without understanding value-added agriculture first.

"Value-Added Agriculture (VAA) has been defined as altering a raw agricultural product in a way to increase its worth to the customer, which brings more revenue to the farmer" (Value-Added Agriculture in Maryland, 2020). In 2022 the total value of *raw* fruits was worth \$23.1 million. The total value of value-added fruit *products* was \$50 million. Value-added included the sales of jams, jellies, and canned goods. In the creation of a raspberry jam, raw raspberries are altered. These alterations increase their value. And this increase in value brings in more revenue to the farmer. The act of crafting and canning the jam is a value-added agriculture practice, and the jam itself is a value-added product. Value-added agriculture creates a win-win relationship between satisfied customers and profitable farms. Though true, "win-win" is a vast rhetorical understatement that fails to put this multi-billion dollar industry into scope.

In order to fully understand these figures in relation to the implications of the value-added agriculture industry, I needed to go to the primary source. I ventured to Chesapeake's Bounty in St. Leonard to speak with owner William Kreamer. While waiting for Will, I browsed the goods through my value-added lens. Seafood offerings including canned oysters and full fish filets sat next to the entrance. Jams and other canned goods occupied a back shelf, a variety of local grains in value-added "trail mix" form sat above these, and an array of oils occupied the space above those. While surrounded by value-added products, Kreamer described the benefits derived from altering raw food items. "Processing gives us the ability to capture excess in the local food cycle and bring those products into a different form, whether that's quality or to make things easier for consumers, while adding shelf life."

Kreamer informed me that during peak tomato season, farmers are greeted with so much excess that many tomatoes

become "seemingly worthless." Kreamer demonstrated Chesapeake's Bounty's method of capturing this excess by pointing to the salsa in the fridge. In the creation of this salsa, tomatoes and other ingredients were used to create a *shelf-stable* product, ultimately building a market for tomato farmers in the middle of winter.

Value-added agriculture *extends* the window for available products. The same can be done for local watermen as well. Seafood items are often harvested during a particular season, yet farmers rely on consumers and sales year-round to make a living. Through freezing and canning, the revenue-earning window becomes extended for local watermen. For example, Kreamer purchases large amounts of shrimp and freezes the excess to be sold throughout the cold seasons, creating a bigger market for shrimp boats. Yes, there are shrimp being caught in the Chesapeake Bay.

The dairy industry is another one heavily dependent on value-added agriculture. Farmers process butter, cheese, half-and-half, ice cream, and other dairy products. By processing raw dairy, farmers can craft a wide variety of products that last longer on a shelf and eventually in a fridge. This drives in more profits for dairy farms and sends customers home with a product that has increased value.

Through value-added agriculture, farmers and watermen diversify their offerings and expand their own markets, ultimately broadening the local food market and economy. When excess garlic is turned into garlic powder, or when excess meat products are used in dog treats, the local economy is broadened. Kreamer informed me that "every time money changes hands, there's a value taken away from it in a sense. We are keeping [the value] here: you pay us, we pay the farmer, and it keeps going like that. For example, the watermen – we are 100% of their income each year. They are harvesting on the local waters, they get their entire paycheck from us, and all that comes from the people that shop here." After being immersed in this local food market, the BEACON numbers began to make more sense as I saw how value-added products create sales and keep money within the local economy. I saw the supply the Bounty offered, and I wanted to learn more about what drives demand for these value-added items.

I still needed to figure out exactly what it is about these products that draws customers in. Value-added products increase the overall range of options for the customer. It is crucial to note that value-added agriculture allows for creativity regarding food. Many of the greatest entrepreneurial feats within food are products of value-added. Ketchup, coffee, seasonings, baby carrots, apple sauce, the list could go on and on. Kreamer was able to inform me about this in the context of his business. Cauliflower can either be purchased as a full organic head or chopped and stored in vented produce bags. Kreamer found that when cauliflower was chopped and sold in bags, people bought it more frequently. Altering products also changes the experience for the customer, making food easier to transport, more



Value Added Products at Chesapeake Bounty.

convenient, tastier, and ultimately more *valuable*. “Not everyone is a chef, some people want things already made,” Kreamer told me. By purchasing the chopped cauliflower, the customer is able to skip the cutting board due to one simple change. Similarly, a craving for fish or oysters can be satisfied without having to filet or shuck if a local food market has already completed this step. Ultimately, these changes save the customer valuable minutes in the often time-consuming food preparation process. Many value-added products are designed to last longer. The same vented bags used for the chopped cauliflower were first used by Kreamer when working to increase the life of mushrooms offered.

Kreamer found that in addition to increasing the shelf life of mushrooms, the bags made the mushrooms more appealing to customers and brought in more sales. Altering the storage mechanism for mushrooms made this product last longer while making it easier to store and transport.

Products remain fresh as well as nutritious since value-added products present many major nutritional benefits as well. Crafting a healthy diet for oneself or one's family is a lot easier when shelf and fridge-stable products remain available all year round. The vitamins and minerals provided by organic tomatoes and other goods are no longer seasonal.

Another very appealing aspect of value-added agriculture is the work being done on the local food level. Value-added agriculture often goes hand in hand with businesses similar to Chesapeake's Bounty. These markets and lifelines for farmers offer plenty of raw form agricultural products. But when dealing with excess they are quick to think of creative solutions to increase their customers' experience. These markets are quick to add value through value added products.

Value-added agriculture creates a win-win situation for local food industries and the statewide food industry as a whole. It benefits the consumer as well as farmers and markets like Chesapeake's Bounty. Consumers are able to choose *convenient* local options that *strengthen* the surrounding economy. Suppliers are able to use value-added methods to tap into the local economy, and in turn, strengthen their business. Value-added agriculture grows local food businesses through higher value products making it easy for consumers to make decisions that benefit local farmers and watermen.

Maryland.gov. (n.d.). *Maryland at a glance*. Maryland at a Glance | Agriculture. <https://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/01glance/html/agri.html>

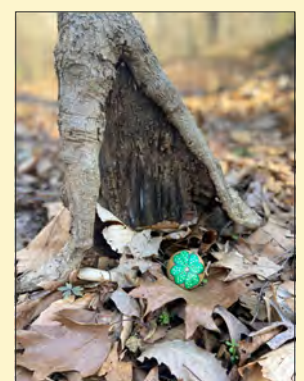
Value-Added Agriculture in Maryland An Economic Analysis. Grow and Fortify. (2022, February). <https://www.growandfortify.com/>

Leprechaun Hunt

By Miriam Gholl, Community Relations Manager

The luck of the Irish was certainly with us on March 16th for the Annual Leprechaun Hunt. The weather was ideal, and we were pleased to see a record-breaking turn-out. Just under 300 attendees enjoyed “hunting for clues in a field of shoes”, nature exhibits, a guessing game, tablet games, and a craft. In addition, Master Naturalists Paul Kachurak and Mari-Ann Sweeney offered guided hikes around Griffin Meadow Trail.

A special thank-you to the 18 volunteers who helped make the event a success.



Top: 1. Hunting for Clues in a Field of Shoes. Middle (l-r): 2. The Story Walk on the Griffin Meadow Trail. 3. Posing as a Leprechaun. Bottom (l-r): 4. Volunteer Parran Collery handing out gold coins to two kids who were dressed for the event. 5. Of course there were lots of painted rocks hidden on the trails.

Photo Credits: 2. Nicholas R. Doner. 3. Kelly Collins. 1. and 4. Miriam Gholl; 5. Amy Werking.

Thank you for your support

Accreditation Renewal Underway Stakeholder Notification/Public Notice

The land trust accreditation program recognizes land conservation organizations that meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever. The American Chestnut Land Trust (ACLT) is pleased to announce it is applying for renewal of its accreditation.

“Accreditation fosters self-examination of a land trust’s operations and subjects them to review by an independent commission. Accreditation is designed to help land trusts streamline operations; become more effective in land conservation; and serve as a vehicle to give the land trust enhanced credibility and respect. To achieve accreditation, the land trust must document adherence to the Land Trust Standards and Practices.” – Ted Graham, former ACLT President – Winter 2009 Newsletter

The Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance, conducts an extensive review of each applicant’s policies and programs.

A public comment period on ACLT’s renewal application is now open. The Commission invites public input and accepts signed, written comments on pending applications. Comments must relate to how ACLT complies with national quality standards. These standards address the ethical and technical operation of a land trust. For the full list of standards see <http://www.landtrustaccreditation.org/help-and-resources/indicator-practices>.

To learn more about the accreditation program and to submit a comment, visit www.landtrustaccreditation.org, or email your comment to info@landtrustaccreditation.org. Comments may also be mailed to the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, Attn: Public Comments, 36 Phila Street, Suite 2, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866.

Comments on ACLT’s application will be most useful if submitted by September 20, 2024.

New Members

ACLT welcomes the following new members since the Winter 2023 Newsletter:

Nathaniel & Danielle Arndt
Barry & Alice Barefoot
Jessica Brooks
Catie & Justin Carignan & Family
Ashleigh Coppola & James Porter
Thomas & Emily Currier
Jeanette Flaim
Susan Fleming
Kris Hamilton
Dan & Virginia Johnson
Theodore Kowaluk & Family
Melissa McCormick
Daniel Murphy
Chris Riollano & Jeff O’Neil
Dennis & Jill Spencer
John Stillwell
Vicky & Tom Travis
Anja Zander & Michael Gonsior

Memorial Donations

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

In memory of **Tina Boesz:**
Sandra Pace

In memory of **Lois Dennett:**
Mary & Paul Blayney

In memory of **Dan Head:**
J.J. & Daniel Head, Jr.

In memory of **John Hofmann:**
Zachary Seigal

In memory of **Jim Hollowell:**
Gary & Sandra Loew,
Patrick & Ginny Murphy
Norman & Helen Prince

In Honor of Donations

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

In honor of **Joy Bartholomew & Mark Edmondson:**
Andrew Edmondson
Alice Edmondson

In honor of **Martin Berlett:**
Andy Berlett

In honor of **Dan Boesz:**
Sandra Pace

In honor of **Mary Ellen Boynton:**
Jessica Boynton

In honor of **Nancy McK. Smith:**
Dr. Modesto & Mrs. Amadea Rivera

Gift Memberships

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

Andy Berlett
Denise Breitburg
R.T. West
John Yoe

Sustaining Membership

Congratulations to those who have reached the level of Sustaining Membership:

Bob Field
Lou Amtmann

General Contributions and Designated Gifts

Hiking Challenge

Elaine Barton
Kimberly Blair
Joseph Cormier
Peter Cowles
Don & Jean Denton
Brian Doyle
Maggie Doyle
Autumn Garner
Tim Glaser
Therese Hayden
Kasey Hildreth
Tammy Irons
Ellis Jones
Melissa Kallfelz
Diana & Ben Lawless and Family
Gary & Sandra Loew
Joseph Manning
Mark Mouriski
Angela Popernack
Trish Urnosky
Fay Walton
Heather White
Pamela Willet
Carola Wilson
Leah Bennett

Double Oak Farm Program

Calvert Environmental Trust for Youth

General

Helenmary & Julian Ball
Jonathan & Sanya Chapman
Kathy Daniel & David Braun
Jon Farrington
Jessica Howard
Melanie LaCount
Bob & Carol Lavoie
John Moody
Corinne Pearce
Eileen & Mitchell Ray
Suzanne & Craig Shelden
Lisa Stadler
Frederick Tutman
Kathryn Wilber
Jim & Susan Yoe

Land & Stewardship Campaign

Angela Bollich
Nathan & Jessica Novotny
Cheryl Place
Warren & Carol Prince

Workplace Giving

Eric Truslow through Constellation Energy

Water Testing Donors

Bob Estes
Kyle & Jessi Greene
Ronald & Kathy Klauda
The McPhillips Family

Year-End Campaign

Marsha Berry
Denise Breitburg & Mark Smith
Margaret Buckler McCarthy
John Burke & Judith Ayres Burke
Kimberly Cianciolo
Paul & Diana Dennett
Samuel & Barbara Dyer
Carlton & Marion Green
Nettie Horne & Susan Haynes
Alex Levin
Amelia Lowe
Nathan Macek
Charles Martin & Helen Cummings
Margery McIver & Leo Horrigan
Penny Moran
Beth & Ralph Nolletti

Monica Silbas
Michael Terrin & Bess Keller
James & Emily Van Zee

Monthly Donors

William AtLee
Judy Bradt
Paul & Diana Dennett
Miriam Gholl
Toby Gohn
Jessica Howard
Sandra Jarrett
Penny Moran
Edwin & Monica Noell
Chris Riollano & Jeff O'Neil
Elaine Strong
Paul Vetterle

Friends Forever Society

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

ACLT 2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(through August 2024)

Please check website for up-to-date information:

www.acltweb.org/Calendar24

APRIL

- 5 Fri – Spring Stroll Guided Hike –**
(9am-10am) – Frog Pond, Ridge Loop, Wallace Lane (Rain Date: April 12th)
- 13 thru 27 All Week – Earth Day-Themed “Story Walk”** (all day) at Griffin Meadow Trail/North Side Trailhead
- 20 Sat (Rain Date Sun) – Earth Day 5K Run/Hike** (9am) – Parkers Creek Loop
- 21 Sun – Earth Day Family Guided Hike** (8am-10am) – Griffin Meadow & Turkey Trail

MAY

- 12 – Sun – Mother’s Day Guided Hike** (10am-12pm) – Ridge Loop
- 31 Fri – May Meander Guided Hike** (9am-10am) – Double Oak Farm

JUNE

- 9 Sun – Mountain Laurel Guided Hike** (10am-12:30pm) – Laurel Trail
- 16 Sun – Father’s Day Guided Hike** (10am-12:30pm) – Double Oak Trail to Raft

JULY

- 21 Sun – Full Moon Guided Nighttime Hike** (8:30pm-10:30pm) Parkers Creek Loop

AUGUST

- 18 Sun – Sunrise Beat the Heat Guided Hike** (6:30am-9am) – East Loop to Oriole Trail
- 24 Sat – Guided Evening Hike/Farewell to Summer** (Time TBD) at Turkey Trail, North Side Trailhead



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

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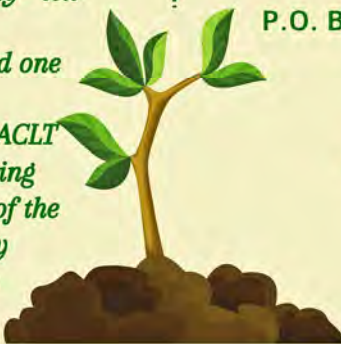
Why does it say "Or Current Resident" in my address?

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!

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)*



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

P.O. Box 2363, Prince Frederick, MD 20678

Or donate online at www.acltweb.org/donate

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.