

Watershed Observer



NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN CHESTNUT LAND TRUST - VOLUME 36 No. 1 WINTER 2022

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SEE EVENT DETAILS ON PAGE 11 AND
ON OUR WEB SITE: [HTTPS://
ACLTWEB.ORG](https://acltweb.org)

January

- 1st – Dec 31, 2022 "12 Hikes in '22"
Virtual Trail Challenge – 12-
month.
- 17th – Full Moon Hike (Members
Only)

February

- 12th/13th - Valentines "Show Some
Love" Unguided Hikes
- 16th – Full Moon Hike (Members
Only)

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

QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?
PLEASE CALL US AT 410-414-3400

35th Anniversary - A Reason to Celebrate!

Shared by Greg Bowen and Autumn Phillips-Lewis
at the 35th Anniversary Celebration held on December 4, 2021

Greg Bowen, Executive Director.

In 1988, renowned Washington Post writer Angus Phillips wrote an article about ACLT. He began with the question: Which would you choose—a brand new car or a small, amorphous share in 450 acres of tick-infested woods? He wrote "If you picked the latter, you're a soul-mate of Peter Vogt" (one of the founders of ACLT).

The article went on to quote an expert who said: "In this part of the world, where people think nothing can be done to stop development, a story like this is news". The expert was amazed and pleased that a fledgling land trust could pull it off.

You see, Maryland agriculture had been in decline for decades, from 6.3 million acres in 1900 to 2.4 million in 1986, due to competition with the huge farms of the Midwest, to the year-round production of fruits and vegetables in the rich soils of the Central Valley, California, and to trade agreements which imported food produced with cheap labor in South America. Maryland farmers were losing hope. At the same time, workers in Washington DC were seeking nice affordable suburban lots in the country. Developers were buying up farmland from financially strapped farm owners and Calvert was on the way to becoming the fastest growing county in the state.

However, on December 4, 1986, 16 people in the Parkers Creek area put pen to paper to form the first community-based land trust in Maryland, with a goal to preserve a huge part of their community. Over 200 families joined them in the cause and the property was preserved. They haven't stopped since.

Even more amazing than that, they didn't buy it for themselves. They decided to preserve lands for nature, for public access, for scientific studies, for cultural preservation. That act of defiance, generosity, and stewardship of the earth turned the tide in this watershed. I suspect that many gave up brand-new cars (or the equivalent) for a small, amorphous share in tick-infested woods.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)



ACLT 35th Anniversary event at Holly Hill. Group photo in the spirit of the 1988 photo in *National Geographic*. Follow this link: (bit.ly/ACLTNatGeo) to see the 1988 image and a copy of the original *National Geographic* article on the ACLT web site under "About/Mission and History".



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

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From the President's Desk ...

We had a glorious sun-filled day for ACLT's 35 Year Anniversary Celebration and Volksmarch on Dec. 4. In addition to the 35 year celebration the event also inaugurated the new Holly Hill trail and the Parkers Creek Heritage Trail. There was live music from "Some Assembly" and good food from Dream Weaver Café & Catering.

Executive Director Greg Bowen and Land Manager Autumn Phillips-Lewis gave brief presentations which are included in this newsletter. The event also featured a Volksmarch as many of the participants hiked to Holly hill. Some even hiked from the South Side trail head.

For those of us who were here at the beginning of ACLT's journey this Celebration is an amazing affirmation of work of hundreds of individuals making today's ACLT vibrant and relevant to the community.

In this issue of the *Watershed Observer* you will discover more about the past, present and future of ACLT. On page 4 in Randi Vogt's article you will learn about the events that put in place an important program that helped ACLT finance its land purchases.

Congratulations to our Executive Director Greg Bowen who was this year's recipient of the Maryland Sustainable Growth Leadership Award. Randi's article acknowledges the award and provides a link to the text of the presentation.

You will meet our new CCC members Clara Brill-Carlat and Mary Hoover on page 3. The CCC members are essential to ACLT's Land and Farm activities.

We mourn the passing of Bernie Fowler, an iconic figure in Southern Maryland, in December 2021. He was an inspiration to all of us. See ACLT's blog post, "Remembering Bernie Fowler" (bit.ly/BFowlerBlog).

David Farr, President



Holly Hill Trail survives the storm. Photo by Bob Field.

Around ACLT

Introducing 2022 CCC Members Clara Brill-Carlat and Mary Hoover

Again this year ACLT has the opportunity to be a host site for the Chesapeake Conservation Corps (CCC) Program. The program was the subject of a lengthy article on page 4 of the Summer 2019 issue of the *Watershed Observer* (see bit.ly/ACLTSummer19NL).

Meet our 2022 members from the Chesapeake Conservation Corps

Hello ACLT members,

My name is **Clara Brill-Carlat**, and I'm one of the 2021-2022 Chesapeake Conservation Corps members at ACLT. My one-year Corps term began in late August, and my work so far has primarily involved restoration and trail maintenance projects like removing invasive species, property monitoring, mulching the start of Horse Swamp Trail, and building steps and boardwalks on the new Holly Hill Trail.

Over the next 8 months, I will serve as the Stewardship Coordinator and continue to work with Autumn on many science and land management initiatives. So far during my time at ACLT, I've enjoyed learning how to use weed whackers, saws, drills, and (my favorite) the Kubota. I'm also thankful for all the wonderful volunteers I've met who have been more than willing to stop what they're doing to teach me how to use a piece of equipment or show me an interesting insect.

Other than my time in college, I've lived in Maryland my entire life, so I'm happy to be learning about conservation efforts here. I grew up in Baltimore and recently graduated from Smith College in Massachusetts with a degree in geoscience. Outside of work, I'm enjoying exploring a different part of Maryland, living so close to the bay, and looking for

fossils that have washed out of the cliffs. If you're out on the trails, you might see me running or hiking while trying to practice my tree identification skills. I'm looking forward to meeting many of you and spending the rest of my year at ACLT!



My name is **Mary Hoover**, and I am ecstatic to have been placed with the American Chestnut Land Trust for my year of service with the Chesapeake Conservation Corps! I was born and raised in Omaha, Nebraska, so traversing half of the country to the east coast has been quite the adventure. While the east has a vastly different geography than the Midwest, I have encountered many similarities here that make me feel at home. Surprisingly, the summer heat/humidity in Maryland is comparable to that of Nebraska: both are equally insufferable. Despite the suffocating, late summer moisture levels, I really am thrilled to be in Maryland—particularly Calvert County—where serene, rural landscapes abound and a beautiful view is never more than a short drive away. It is the perfect setting to forge a deeper connection with the earth.

My affinity for the environment germinated in high school while taking an earth science class, and it only sprouted from there. I went on to attend Creighton University in Omaha, where I earned a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science. The most formative part of my college journey, however, was the time I spent abroad in Uppsala, Sweden, where I took several, highly impactful environmental classes and lived in a rural setting for the first time. After living in the city my whole life, I was able to appreciate nature and agriculture in a way I never had before. Upon returning from Sweden, I began volunteering with local community gardens in Omaha, and I developed an interest in sustainable agriculture. For my senior capstone presentation, I researched the USDA Organic label, focusing on ways in which it has become “conventionalized.” After graduating in May of 2021, I moved to Vermont for the summer, where I worked on a sustainable strawberry farm and fell in love with the hard, physical labor it takes to run an organic operation. Fortunately, my work with agriculture continues at ACLT, as I have taken on the role of manager at Double Oak Farm. I am so excited for all that this year with ACLT has to offer, and I look forward to meeting many of you throughout my time here!



Origins of the TDR Program: The story of a “Housewife”, a Young Farmer/Planner, and a County Commissioner

by Randi Vogt, Charter Member and Current
Board Member

Peter and I have been saying to each other for years that Greg Bowen really needs to be recognized for the many, many contributions he’s made to this county (and beyond) over the years, particularly in the field of land preservation. There isn’t another single individual in the county or, I would wager, the state, who has done more for land preservation than he has. So, we were especially happy to hear that he had received the Maryland Sustainable Growth Leadership Award (bit.ly/BowenAward21).

It’s poignant that the very week that Greg received the award, Bernie Fowler died. As Greg noted in his acceptance remarks and in his tribute to Bernie on the ACLT website, Bernie’s passionate commitment to this County was an inspiration to Greg and, as Greg noted, to me (see bit.ly/BFowlerBlog).

Greg also noted that I came up with the TDR idea and that’s a story I’d like to tell. It involves Greg, Bernie and quite a few other people. The idea itself came to me like a flash of lightning, but it took three years and some interesting people and events to get there.

It all started back in the summer of 1973 when our neighbors, Nancy and Welby Smith, invited Peter and me over for dinner. The four of us were deep in conversation about how fast the county was growing when Welby, who owned a video production company, came up with the idea of producing a videotape about growth in the county. He said he’d do it for free if I could get the Calvert County League of Women Voters to sponsor it and do the research. It would be a good project for me because I was chairman of the League’s land use committee and, besides, I was home with our two young boys at the time, a “housewife”. The League agreed and we were off.

For the next several months, Welby filmed and I interviewed many of the major players in the County. It was an extraordinary opportunity to learn what was happening and to learn from the best.

I learned from Delegate Tom Rymer and County Commissioner Bernie Fowler that they were about to launch a major county-wide planning exercise called the “Pleasant Peninsula Plan” or “PPP”. Both of them saw planning as essential for the future well-being of the county. I also learned valuable information from County and State employees, including Maryland Forester Phil Mohler, Agriculture Extension Agent, Bill Gaiser, and farmer, Eddie Allen.

Col. Larry Bowlby, Director of Planning and Zoning, rat-

tled off a long list of land preservation programs he had been researching - large lot zoning, land purchase, easement purchase, development right purchase, clustering and so on. He mentioned a bill introduced into the Maryland Assembly by a Senator Goodman which proposed transferring development rights from one part of the state to another. The bill failed, he noted.

Then, in 1974 there was the Pleasant Peninsula Plan. The planning process was organized in such a way that citizens could join any committee they wanted. I joined the Land Use committee. Peter joined the Environment committee. There were many others including Housing, Health, Economic Development, Education and, of course, Agriculture. Each committee was to meet over a period of weeks and then submit a written report to be used in formulating the actual document. The report from the Agriculture Committee turned out to be especially important to me. It listed all of the land preservation techniques that Col. Bowlby had told me about (and possibly more), but it ended by saying a source of funding would have to be found.

County Attorney Allen Handen deftly handled our contentious land use committee. Half of us were slow-growth advocates and half of us were developers. We got into some pretty heated arguments! But we all sat around a table together and I learned how things looked from a developer’s point of view, which turned out to be an important part of the puzzle.

And that brings me to a fateful meeting in the summer of 1976. Bernie Fowler wasn’t happy. He introduced the meeting by saying that the Pleasant Peninsula Plan had been in effect for two years and nothing had been done about one of its primary goals —to preserve farms and open space. “If we don’t do something now,” he said, “there won’t be any farmland left in Calvert County in twenty-five years.” He wanted answers. The hearing room was packed, mostly with farmers. Y.D. Hance, who was the Maryland Secretary of Agriculture at the time told the group that the State was working on a land preservation program but it was going to be at least two years before they had anything. John Prouty, Sr. said that was way too long; we had to do something *now*.

The farmers who spoke after that talked about the problems they faced—high labor costs, low crop prices, kids and dogs from neighboring subdivisions damaging their crops. Most of all they talked about the money developers were offering to pay for their land compared to what they could ever earn from farming. One man was even angry. He said, “I’m not giving up the chance for a decent retirement just so some city person can come down here and watch my corn grow.” Things were getting tense and sounding pretty hopeless. Then a farmer stood up and said the real problem was that there weren’t any young people interested in farming anymore. Just then the door in the back of the room opened and Greg Bowen walked in with a big smile and that “can do” look of his. I didn’t know who he was but it was clear practi-

cally everybody else did. They chuckled and the tension broke. They all knew Greg was young and very interested in farming.

Bernie then asked for volunteers to form an ad hoc committee to come up with some land preservation options. Five or six people raised their hands, including Greg. The meeting was over.

But I couldn't get Bernie's words out of my head," If we don't do something now, there won't be any farmland left in Calvert County in twenty-five years." All the other voices I had heard over the last three years tumbled in and out of my mind as well, along with all those other bits and pieces of information.

And then one day it clicked. I remembered the PPP Agriculture Committee's report ending with the statement that a source of funding would have to be found. I knew for a fact that the County was not going to put in enough money to buy land, easements or development rights. Bernie had actually pursued that approach. So "who in Calvert County had money?" I asked myself. Banks came to mind, but I couldn't see how they would help. Developers!

That was it! Developers certainly had enough money to buy land. Maybe they would buy development rights as well—or instead. What could possibly induce them to do that? Density. If they could buy development rights from a farmer and use them to increase the number of houses they could build on another property, it could be quite a savings for them. At the same time, if farmers could sell their development rights instead of their land, they'd be compensated and still not have to lose their land. Fairly recently, the county had increased the minimum lot size in the rural area from three acres to five. What if a developer could increase permitted density from one house per five acres to one house per 2 ½ acres with the purchase of development rights? It would all be voluntary, a transaction between buyer and seller with the county playing only a minor role. It was so obvious and so simple.

I typed up my idea, put it in an envelope and drove over to the courthouse. I was looking for Col. Bowlby but he wasn't there so I handed the envelope to a planner named Mike Holstun. I told him I had an idea for how to preserve farm land. He smiled, thanked me and I left. I thought that was probably the end of that.

About two hours later, Mike called and asked if I'd come to a meeting at the Ag Extension Office. He wanted me to present my idea to the ad hoc committee Bernie had appointed. They had been hard at work and were about to present three or four land preservation options to the public for review. Greg Bowen was Chairman of the committee. Other members were Eddie Allen, Douglas Parran, Jean Ridgely and Steuart Vaughan. Bill Gaiser and Mike Holstun were staff. When Mike told them about my idea, the others in the room looked thoughtful. But Greg's eyes lit up.

That was the sum total of my contribution—one typed page. From then on, I was an observer. A few weeks later, I attended the meeting where the ad hoc committee presented its

list of options to the public. They had added my idea to their list.

What a meeting that was! After all of the options were presented, the people in the audience, almost all farmers, were asked to stand up for the one they favored. The vast majority stood up in favor of my TDR idea. Then Jon Weeks, who worked for Ed Howlin, one of our major developers, came to the podium to say his company supported it. Next, Bernie Fowler said the County Commissioners would support it. Then Tom Rymer said he would sponsor the required enabling legislation in the House of Delegates and Senator Ed Hall said he would sponsor the legislation in the Senate.

So that's my part of the story. Greg and others can pick it up from there, if they like. I wasn't involved at all in the huge amount of work that had to be done to actually turn it into an officially adopted, functioning program. Greg was a major player throughout it all.

I look back on those days as being incredibly forward thinking and dynamic. People cared deeply about this county and they were actively looking for ways to hold on to what they cared about most. And they were open to ideas from any source. Bernie Fowler gets major credit for that. Think about how he conducted that meeting in the summer of 1976. If he hadn't posed the problem the way he did, looking for ideas and trusting that the ideas were there, I know I wouldn't have kept looking or even dared to speak up and I suspect that's true of others who were involved.



Bernie Fowler, Calvert County Commissioner 1970-1982

Euphoria of the Common Good

An update from the SMCA

by Alyssa Matanin, SMCA Coordinator

Since our launch in September, (see the blog post at bit.ly/SMCALaunch) members of the Southern Maryland Conservation Alliance (SMCA) have been hard at work building a partnership across the region. With fourteen core members (including ACLT) and 12 affiliate members on board, SMCA is shaping up to be quite the force. The power of partnerships should not be underestimated, but neither should be the power of the individuals among them.

At our annual meeting last March, participants were reminded of the *tragedy of the commons*. In short, it is when each person takes more than they require of a resource under the assumption that their small choice will not make a large impact. This is not the case, however, when you zoom out to find that upon seeing one person take a bit more, the next person, and the next, and the next, begin to take more than their share as well. Eventually, the resource is depleted past its own replenishment rate. It is a sobering but realistic recounting of our past natural resources usage as can be seen the depletion in our fisheries, deforestation, and poaching of species around the world; the list could go on for *a while*. As the dark days of winter creep in, I do prefer to direct our readership to a much more hopeful idea, one building on the tragedy of the commons but going in the opposite direction—the euphoria of the common good, where a whole lot of individuals come together, and instead of taking more than they need, they conserve the earth and share access to land and water—giving more than they take.

In a greater sense, that is exactly what land trusts across the nation do, and what our fledgling Southern Maryland Conservation Alliance is trying to do as well. All of the volunteers here at ACLT join in to give back to the land more than they take from it—their time, their skills, their care and attention. Nothing we do at ACLT would be possible without the collective actions of each individual working to make it thrive. Many of our partners in SMCA are similar to us with a small staff, or none, and total support by volunteers. Land trusts are spaces where individual actions come together to accomplish greater work. We hope that SMCA can showcase the successes of our partners, adding more kindling to the flames growing across the region. We have been holding meetings and creating maps for priority preservation areas, building an online and public presence with our communications committee and creating a support system for our regional land trusts to turn to, offering shared expertise on our land's ecosystems, histories, fisheries, recreation, and people.

Going forward, SMCA is looking to incorporate large scale conservation and community action projects into our

collective planning processes. We are often divided by watersheds and county lines, but through SMCA we hope to begin to heal watersheds. The Bay will not reach its cleanup goals if some watersheds thrive while others fail. Through our landscape scale conservation efforts, we are working to maintain, and in some cases, create corridors for wildlife among existent natural lands, buffers around vulnerable areas, and built-in green infrastructure with each acre preserved. We hope to rally communities around conservation by including them in these efforts as land owners of easements, citizen scientists, and advocates for the health of their lands. At ACLT, we already have two Friends groups working towards goals such as these, with another to be formed in the coming year. Imagine our potential if we could create a Friends group in every watershed, to build a coalition of informed citizens vying for the health of their lands that can share resources among themselves and make grassroots change in their communities.

Finally, SMCA's plan is to serve as a resource and support system for conservation, cultural, and historic organizations across the region, sharing funding opportunities, trainings, member successes, and partnership building with them and the public. In doing this, we hope to amplify the work of those individuals and smaller organizations, increasing organizational capacity, and building public support and knowledge around the issues that most influence our shared lands.

Andrew Bowman, President of the Land Trust Alliance, in a recent address to its members, cited that “Scientists at



Southern Maryland Conservation Alliance Members.
From L-R, Wendy Stringfellow (Forever Maryland), Mary Burke (Land Trust Alliance), John Turgeon (Maryland Environmental Trust), Buddy Hance (Calvert County Commissioners), Joel Dunn (Chesapeake Conservancy), and Greg Bowen, ACLT.

The Nature Conservancy have determined that protecting, restoring and changing how we manage land globally could contribute more than a quarter of the greenhouse gas reductions needed to reach the goals of the international Paris Agreement...". Land trusts play a vital role in conserving and managing the land, over 60 million acres to date. Individuals play a vital role in land trusts. Individuals are actively part of reducing more than a quarter of the greenhouse gases. At ACLT, and other land trusts, they are the ones out on the land, monitoring water quality, species abundance, and boundaries. They are out every season offering their knowledge to visitors on hikes, on trail maintenance projects, and in outreach capacities. With every partnership we create and each acre we preserve, we are one step closer to reaching our global, national, statewide, and regional goal of meeting 30 by '30 (see bit.ly/SMCALaunch). And in that we are preserving at-risk communities, hundreds of species we cherish, livelihoods rooted in the land, and the heart of Southern Maryland— together, we can create the euphoria of the common good.

Research began in 2020 and continues today. Findings will be 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 a series of public events. Holly Hill's four trail signs and a set of corollary web pages are the first public offering; additional materials will be presented during the months to come (see bit.ly/ACLT-PCHT).

The Parkers Creek Heritage Trail project will help the ACLT carry out its mission to "preserve and conserve the natural and cultural resources of the Parkers Creek and Governors Run watersheds for the benefit of this and future generations." Funding has been provided by the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, part of the Maryland Historical Trust in the Maryland State Department of Planning. The effort is one element within the Southern Maryland Heritage Area.

The project is guided by a number of advisors, some of whom also carry out research and writing, aided by other team members. The group includes ACLT board members Darlene Harrod and Shirley Knight; the retired director of the Calvert Marine Museum, Ralph Eshelman; the retired Calvert County historic preservation specialist, Kirsti Uunila; the retired land surveyor Art Cochran; the GIS and mapping specialist Rachel Bissett; the retired director of the Calvert County Historical Society, Leila Boyer; the retired Library of Congress staff member, Carl Fleischhauer; and others.

Parkers Creek Heritage Trail Project by Carl Fleischhauer

Dozens of hikers inaugurated the Holly Hill trails at the December 4 *Volksmarch* enroute to the 35th Anniversary Celebration. Their passage through hilly woodland and across level farm fields made them the latest generation to engage this land. Native Americans hunted on what is now Holly Hill as early as 10,000 years ago, while Europeans in the colonial period began farming the land, an activity that continues today on 60 of the property's 400 acres.

African Americans lived and worked on Holly Hill during the 19th and early 20th centuries. Census records from 1810 to 1860—before Emancipation—suggest that some individuals were enslaved while several others were free. In Maryland, persons called *Free Blacks* were heavily constrained by law and in common practice. During this period, the farm was owned by members of a Quaker branch of the Dare family. We hope further research will reveal whether the teachings of that abolitionist faith influenced the family's actions.

This and other information about Holly Hill and its environs has emerged during the Parkers Creek Heritage Trail project, an ACLT activity that will interpret the history of the Parkers Creek and Governors Run watersheds for visitors.



Interpretive signs at the Holly Hill log barn. Photo by Carl Fleischhauer.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

AND more recently in 2017, after protecting another couple of thousand acres, with the help of partners, we were presented with another major challenge. The 405-acre Holly Hill property was available for purchase. A subdivision or the gateway to the preserve? What would happen? Once again, members raised an astonishing \$1.5 million dollars and with the help of the Maryland Rural Legacy Program, we protected that property too.

Finally, THIS YEAR, we were presented with the opportunity to preserve two more properties- the GRDC-Yowell tract on Governors Run Road and the Yoe property on MD 4. The Board started another big Land and Stewardship Campaign and I am certain we will be successful.

Thirty-five years later, we now have over 800 member families who volunteer, hike, donate and enjoy this community and nature oriented American Chestnut Land Trust with over 3,500 acres of land that we own, lease, or manage.

As I mentioned, one of the goals of ACLT is to understand and protect our cultural history. With a grant from the Maryland Heritage Area Authority, we are working hard to understand the relationship between different groups of humans on our landscape over time in the development of a Parkers Creek Heritage Trail. Read more about the PCHT project in Carl Fleischhauer's article on page 7.

Autumn Phillips-Lewis, Land Manager

To celebrate ACLT's 35th Anniversary Autumn hiked to Holly Hill from the South Side trailhead, roughly following the progression of ACLT's work since December 4, 1986. Today, we hear a lot about the challenges that are facing our planet - Sea level is rising and overwhelming critical marsh habitat for wildlife. Storms are yielding record rainfalls that are eroding stream banks and harming fisheries. Covid is resulting in rural residential sprawl and Southern Maryland is a target. The list goes on.

Anyone who hikes through the Parkers Creek Preserve witnesses the positive impact that the collective effort of so many ACLT supporters has made - Over 3,500 acres of protected forests that store 320,000 tons of carbon and soak up another 18,000 tons out of the atmosphere per year. Clear streams that have nitrogen levels below the recommended level as set by Calvert County. Invasive vines that have been cut by volunteers. Diverse healthy habitats that support a wide variety of

wildlife. And well-maintained trails that allow everyone in our community and beyond to recreate and rejuvenate in nature.

ACLT is also addressing climate change in other ways. We are collaborating with 12 other land trusts and conservancies to protect environmental and cultural resources throughout the five-county southern Maryland region by creating a larger, stronger voice for conservation and strategic planning. Our farm losses in Calvert have stabilized as consumers have started to appreciate the importance of locally sourced foods and over 32% of all lands in Calvert County have already been protected. When looking at both preserved properties and working and natural lands that have not yet been protected, much of Calvert County is still intact. In fact, according to *The Nature Conservancy Resiliency Mapping Tool*: (see bit.ly/ResiliencyMap).

Calvert has some of the most resilient lands in the state of Maryland. You can check out maps online that were created through this resiliency mapping tool to see the extent of the resilient lands in our county. The ecosystem services of our working lands and natural lands are critical as we try to protect the bay and its fisheries and fight climate change.

Alone, many of us feel helpless in addressing a global threat. But together we have accomplished so much and together we will keep making a huge positive impact on our local natural resources.

ACLT has so many amazing donors and volunteers who have accomplished so much. A special group of volunteers worked to create the new Holly Hill trail that opened on December 4th as part of the 35th Anniversary celebration. The trail was completed by the Thursday Trail Adventurers volunteers who spent many Thursday mornings over the past year and a half creating the beautiful new stretch of trail. The trail meanders through beautiful woods and farm fields, connecting on one end to the Griffin Meadow Trail and meeting up with the Prince Frederick to Bay trail on the other end.

With all that has been accomplished in 35 years, our work is not done. If anything, the stakes are higher. The President has set a lofty goal of preserving 30% of America's natural lands by 2030 in order to ensure biodiversity and stable ecosystems across the country. Today, Land Trusts across the country have preserved 56,434,181 acres of natural lands- more than the National Park Service! TOGETHER we can do this. Together we must do this. ***We are part of the solution.***



35th Anniversary Celebration gathering. Photo by Carl Fleischhauer

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

ACLT's Annual Meeting

Saturday, March 5, 2022



Format (virtual or in-person)
to be determined.

Check our website: www.acltweb.org



TAKE THE CHALLENGE

Register Today for
ACLT's 12 Hikes in '22
Challenge!

Hike ACLT's Trails
Once a Month
For All 12 Months!

bit.ly/ACLT12in22



From the 35th Anniversary Celebration (top to bottom):
Hikers Arriving-Reading Interpretive Sign
Hikers Enjoying a Picnic Lunch
Music by *Some Assembly*
Greg Bowen Addresses Crowd
Dan Boesz Auctioning Original ACLT Hat
All photos by Carl Fleischhauer

Thank you for your support

New Members

ACLT welcomes the following new members since the Fall 2021 Newsletter:

Debra Beaty
Daniel Bernard
William Bollinger
Jody Clark & Terry Welch
Sarah Cannavo
Amy & Andrew Dziengesleski & Family
Melissa & Ricky Eckloff
Maya Huchla & Family
Karen Kalber
Sandra MacGregor
Laura Manville & Brian Valle
Misha & Erik Mixon
Gabriele Parker
Terry & Nina Schroepfer
Cristina Seckman
Timothy Shea
Samantha Smith

Memorial Donations

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

In memory of **Sandra J. Bell:**
Chuck Erskine

In memory of **Paul, Doris & Donald Berry:**
Marsha Berry

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

In memory of **Dan Head:** Daniel & Justina Head

In memory of **John Hofmann:**
Carrie Wilson & the Calvert County Library Staff
Robert & Shirley McCarthy

In memory of **Robert Jaeger:**
Jane Head
Nancy Smith

In Honor of Donations

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

In honor of: **Father Peter Daly and the St. John Vianney Tuesday Happy Hikers:**
Mary St. Pierre

In honor of **The Tomassoni Family:**
William & Cynthia Bushnell

In honor **Peter Vogt:**
Sandy Heilner

Gift Memberships

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

Dan Boesz
Ginny & Patrick Murphy
Brenna & Sam Prestidge

General Contributions and Designated Gifts

2020 Fall Appeal

William & Caroline Arms
Judy Bradt
Denise Breitburg & Mark Smith
Paul & Diana Dennett
Prasad Gerard & Ann Oliva
Miriam & Robert Gholi
Peter Green
Jessica Howard
Penny Moran
Paul Vetterle

General

William At Lee
Sylvia Batong
Angela Bennett
Daniel Boesz
Jessica & Ty Clark
Erik Cribbs
John Fox
Miriam & Robert Gholi
Sandra Jarrett
Nathan Macek
Patrick & Ginny Murphy
Liz Orlandi
Nancy Philipp
Ingrid Reid
Spud Giving Fund
Elaine Strong
Mark & Alice Thomas
David & Jean Williamson

Holly Hill Donations

Thank you to the following, who made a donation to the Holly Hill campaign since our last newsletter:

Fran Armstrong
David & Judy Bonior
Karen & Glenn Edgcombe
Jane Head

Ray Noble
Frank Nutter

2021 Land & Stewardship Campaign

Karl Adler & Danielle Chappell
Karen Anderson
Fran & Bruce Armstrong
Janet Ashby
Julian & Helenmary Ball
Charles Bennett & Gail Hoerauf-Bennett
Marsha Berry
Penelope Bittinger
Frances Blackwell
Dan Boesz
David & Paula Bohaska, In Memory of
Leslie Starr
Angela Bollich
Greg & Tamea Bowen
Jason Bowen
Denise Breitburg & Mark Smith
Marion Brooke
Michelle Brooks
Susan Burch
Mary Burke
Allison Burnett
David Bury
Robert Butts
Frank Caldwell
R Casey
Thomas Coffren
Christa Conant
Mike & Joan Cunningham
Jan & Jim Degeneffe
Paul & Diana Dennett
David & Helen Didion
Sarah Dohne
Kevin Donahue
William Dorsey
Michael & Kathleen Ellwood
Meg Faller
David & Ellen Farr
Stephen Fedasz
Carl Fleischhauer & Paula Johnson
Matt Gambrill
Miriam & Robert Gholi
Eliot Girsang
Peter Green
James Greene
Grace Hanners
Douglas Harbold
Barbara & Michael Harris
Harry Harrod
Felicia Harrod
Rory Harrod
Michele Hawley

Jane Head
 Pat Hofmann
 Mary Hollinger
 Charity & Matt Humm
 Janis Hurst
 Cloria Hutchins
 Regina Johnson
 BL Johnston
 Edward Jones
 Paul Kachurak
 Jeanette Kaufmann & Rich Noon
 Judith Kay
 Kelly Generator
 Victor & Deoborah Kennedy
 Cheryl Kerwin
 Carol Khalili
 Nancy Klapper
 Ron & Kathy Klauda
 Karen Kleyle
 Shirley Knight
 Scott Knoche
 John Koelbel
 Troy Kravitz
 Warren & Mary Krug
 Joann Kushner
 Liz & Bruce Laher
 Bert & Dayna Lane
 Gary & Sandra Loew
 Jody Longhill & James Borrell
 Michele Lyons
 Beth Mangano
 Catherine Manley
 Michael & Jane Manning
 Martha Maratta
 Shellie Marinaccio
 Burt Mason
 Gary Mason
 Bruce McDonald
 Mary McHugh
 Matthew McKinnon
 Frank & Janel McPhillips
 Eileen & Jim McVey
 Kathryn Mead
 Barbara Miller
 Kathleen Miller
 Douglas Nahas
 Frank Nutter
 Stephen Oberg
 Liz Orlandi
 Gary Pendleton & Karyn Molines
 Lauren Pitts
 Cheryl Place
 Alice Plater
 Platt Platt
 Amy Plummer, In honor of Robyn Truslow
 Norman Prince
 Valarie & David Redden
 Cheryl Reese
 David Rice
 Bob & Janet Robertson

Elizabeth Ross
 Nancy Smith
 Barbara Smith
 Corrina Smith
 Oliver Smith
 Sydney Sowell
 Penn Staples
 Peter & Jennie Stathis
 Carol & Harry Teich
 Scott Thompson
 Robyn & Eric Truslow
 Michele Tucker
 Guy Tuscano
 Robert & Marie Ulanowicz
 Laura & Perry Umphries
 Emily vanZee
 Peter & Randi Vogt
 Volker Vogt
 John & Patricia Wahl
 Fay Walton
 Meyra Waul
 Patricia Weaver
 Linden Welch
 Wilson White
 Steve & Robin Whitman
 Jesse Willhide
 Alvin Wills, Sr
 Yvonne Wills
 Jim & Susan Yoe
 John Yoe
 Debra Zanewich
 Nancy Zinn
 Karen & Len Zuza

Workplace Giving

Andrew Fulginiti
 Kristin Gray
 Daniel Hayes
 Marc Pound
 David Ward
 Marilyn Anzlovic
 Emily Passera
 Kasey Venn
 Jason Prowinski

American Chestnut Land Trust Calendar of Events

January through September 2022

JANUARY

1st – Dec 31, 2022 “12 Hikes in ‘22” Virtual Trail Challenge – 12-month.
 17th – Full Moon Hike (Members Only)

FEBRUARY

12th/13th - Valentines “Show Some Love” Un-guided Hikes – Look for rocks w/hearts along trails
 16th – Full Moon Hike (Members Only)

MARCH

5th - ACLT’S Annual Meeting (**Format TBD**)
 12th - St. Patrick’s “Leprechaun Hunt”
 18th – Full Moon Hike (Members Only)

APRIL

23rd Earth Day Live 5K
 23rd - Earth Day-Themed Guided Hike
 April 30th/May 1st - Earth Day Highway Clean-up (ACLT Volunteers)
 16th – Full Moon Hike (Members Only)

MAY

15th – Full Moon Hike (Members Only)
 TBD - Last 2 weeks - Mountain Laurel Guided Hike (Based on Bloom Time)

JUNE

4th - Tails & Trails – Co-hosted by animal rescue organization
 14th – Full Moon Hike (Members Only)

JULY

13th – Full Moon Hike (Members Only)
 TBD – Early Morning Hike

AUGUST

11th – Full Moon Hike (Members Only)
 27th - Guided Early Morning Hike – Farewell to Summer

SEPTEMBER

10th – Full Moon Hike (Members Only)
 10th - Sip & Save – Annual Beer-Tasting Event
 17th – Parkers Creek Challenge



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

NONPROFIT
STANDARD MAIL
PERMIT NO.
548
PRINCE FREDERICK
MD

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

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

Come Join Us!

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 _____

Regular Membership

___ Land Saver—\$35.00

___ Habitat Protector—\$500.00

___ Land Protector—\$60.00

___ Trustee of Land—\$1000.00

___ Land Conservator—\$150.00

___ Sustaining—\$5000.00

Corporate Membership

___ Land Saver Corporate—\$150.00

___ Land Protector Corporate—\$250.00

___ Land Conservator Corporate—\$500.00

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.