

For Immediate Release

**Contact: Delegate Sue Kullen, 410-586-9575
Peg Niland, ACLT, 410-586-1570**

**DELEGATE SUE KULLEN PRAISES AMERICAN CHESTNUT LAND TRUST
FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION SUCCESS**

300 Acres of Calvert Land Recently Named Part of Maryland Rural Legacy Program

Port Republic, Md. (July 8, 2005) —Today, Delegate Sue Kullen (D-Calvert) announced the preservation of three properties totaling almost 300-acres of forest and farmland through their inclusion in Maryland's Rural Legacy Program. After hearing support from Delegate Sue Kullen (D-27B) and the American Chestnut Land Trust, the Maryland Board of Public Works voted in June to approve more than \$1.5 million in funds for forest and farmland preservation in Calvert County.

The addition of properties to Maryland's Rural Legacy Program will preserve approximately 300 acres of land along the Chesapeake Bay and Patuxent River. One privately owned farm of 116 acres, protected by a Rural Legacy easement, is on St. Leonard Creek, a tributary of the Patuxent. The other two properties, 185 forested acres, are in the Parkers Creek watershed.

"With more than 60% of its watershed permanently protected, Parkers Creek is one of the most pristine watersheds on the west side of the Chesapeake Bay," praised Kullen.

These properties will protect the wilderness character of the Parkers Creek Nature Preserve, a Chesapeake Gateways site, and become a part of the 15-mile trail system within 3,000 continuous acres of land managed by the American Chestnut Land Trust.

Delegate Kullen said, "Improving the health of the Chesapeake Bay by protecting Calvert's key forest and farmland habitats are important priorities for me. I am proud to work with the American Chestnut Land Trust to protect our environment for future generations."

ACLT Executive Director Peg Niland said, "The inclusion of these properties in the Rural Legacy Program is significant because it will add to the growing greenbelt across the County and protect the waters of the Parker Creek watershed, and the treasured Chesapeake Bay."

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The American Chestnut Land Trust (ACLT), which has permanently protected approximately 1,000 acres of land, and currently manages nearly 2,000 acres for the State of Maryland's Department of

Natural Resources, will manage the land. With the assistance of the American Chestnut Land Trust, Calvert County was the first county in Maryland to reach its original Rural Legacy goal, and has been successfully building on that accomplishment ever since.

The ACLT was established in 1986 to protect 433 acres of land in Calvert County. It has since purchased an additional 381 acres in the area, and other landowners, including the State of Maryland and The Nature Conservancy, have independently protected an additional 2120 acres in the Parkers Creek watershed and the nearby Governor's Run watershed. ACLT manages the land protected by The Nature Conservancy and the Maryland Department of Nature Resources for passive recreation and habitat protection.

For more information on the American Chestnut Land Trust, visit www.acltweb.org.

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ABOUT THE RURAL LEGACY PROGRAM: The Rural Legacy Program was enacted by the 1997 Maryland General Assembly. It encourages local governments and private land trusts to identify Rural Legacy Areas and to competitively apply for funds to complement existing land preservation efforts or to develop new ones. Easements or fee estate purchases are sought from willing landowners in order to protect areas vulnerable to sprawl development that can weaken an area's natural resources, thereby jeopardizing the economic value of farming, forestry, recreation and tourism. Maryland's Rural Legacy Program was created to protect those special places that represent the state's most valuable agricultural, forestry, natural, and cultural resources. With the goal of accelerating voluntary land conservation efforts, the Rural Legacy Program will save thousands of acres of land surrounding Maryland's cities, towns and villages. Conservation of natural areas through directed growth reduces the cost of public infrastructure necessary to support sprawl development. Furthermore, conservation efforts significantly impact the state's economy by supporting Maryland's resource-based economies of agriculture, forestry, outdoor recreation and tourism. With an increased capacity to accelerate the purchase of public land and voluntary conservation easements, Maryland will, for the first time, be able to protect land at the same pace as development.

ABOUT THE AMERICAN CHESTNUT LAND TRUST: The American Chestnut Land Trust was founded in 1986 in Calvert County, Maryland. It is concerned with the preservation of farmland, woodlands, and wetlands in a county undergoing rapid development. Its primary interest has been the watersheds of Parkers Creek and Governors Run, however ACLT has assisted others in Calvert County to preserve land for future generations through partnerships, land management agreements, and environmental easements. American Chestnut Land Trust, Inc. was granted tax exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code on June 16, 1987.