

drawing by
Dr. Frederick Paillet

Connecticut Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation

*Promoting the preservation and restoration of the American chestnut species
in the State of Connecticut through the development and propagation
of chestnut trees resistant to the chestnut blight*

March 13, 2009

Officers

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Garrett Smith
Avon

Ellery Sinclair
Falls Village

Dr. Jennifer Allcock
Guilford

A Letter to the Board of Directors

Winter is often a welcome quiet time from the American chestnut perspective. That said, several Board Members have been actively at work and there is some exciting news to share.

Summer Intern

Christine Cadigan from the Graduate School of the Environment at Duke University has accepted our summer internship to research chestnut sprout distributions at Aton Forest and Harvard Forest. She will also be assisting with CT Pollinations and other orchard related work. Sara and I have discussed a secondary project – perhaps open to more than just Christine – sampling for the mega-transect on the CT Appalachian Trail.

New Orchards

At the last meeting of the Board of Directors it was noted that we have two major planning initiatives – additional backcross orchard space to complete our first line of resistance – and planning for the need for significant need of space for our seed orchard. Board Member candidate Jane Harris will present a proposal from the City of Middletown to leverage space in their fenced in “sidewalk stock” orchard as a backcross orchard. The Litchfield Hills Audubon (LHA) has also acquired a site they would like to use for a backcross orchard. LHA has assigned TACF member Tom Traver (LHA Directors and Master Gardener) as the point person. LHA has met with the NRCS for funding – and NRCS was apparently thrilled by the idea of creating an organic mixed prairie orchard. In addition, CT-TACF Director designate Bill Moorhead has been consulting for LHA on the site and has some influence on making sure the right approach is designed. Both of these are highly respected organizations with the capability and interest to be excellent partners. We have also identified at least one demo/ educational orchard at the Isabella Freedman Center in Falls Village where we expect to place several trees and signage.

Elections

We had made the decision to increase the size of the Board of Directors to a total of up to twenty members. The Nominating Committee, Chaired by Jennifer Allcock, went through an exhaustive search and review of candidates – and is presenting three new candidates for your consideration. Jennifer is to be provided the highest commendations for a job exceedingly well done.

Bylaws Review

John Anderson completed a thorough review of the organization’s Bylaws – and has provided us with a version that addresses issues and positions the organization for the future. Having worked with John and Jennifer over the period of several weeks in making the modifications, I’m very comfortable that we have a document that can be approved with minor technical modifications at the most.

Annual Meeting

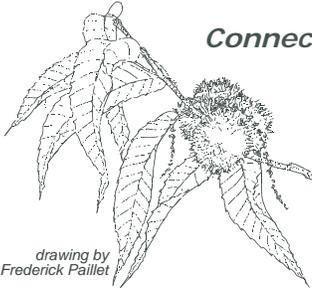
Garrett Smith has once again planned and executed on a fantastic program for our annual meeting. I look forward to an exciting group of speakers and an excellent venue. Thanks go out to Garrett for handling the myriad issues thrown before him and bringing it all together to help educate and provide the right forum for interaction.

Treasury

Jim Gage has carefully monitored the Organization’s funds and dispensed reimbursements with great efficiency. Jim’s 2008 Annual Report and 2009 proposed budget are attached. As required in the Bylaws, I have received Jim Baker’s (Treasurer of the Litchfield Hills Audubon) commitment of assistance reviewing our books. Jim is tasked with forwarding those to Jim over the next few weeks.

150 Drum Hill Road • Wilton • Connecticut • 06897
203.210.7296 • 917.796.4284 • bill.adamsen@gmail.com • <http://ctacf.org>

*The CT Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation (eid: 06-1360461) is classified as
a Public Charity 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code*



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Communications – Newsletter and Bulk Mail

Another beautiful newsletter mailed to membership and prospects – with additional copies for distribution by Directors. Thanks go out to everyone who contributed material to this edition – especially Gayle Kida and Ellery Sinclair. We overcame a significant bulk mail hurdle and in the process were awarded a highly sought after USPS Universal Authorization. The story is long and sordid and I won't bore you with the details. We now understand how to get the best pricing and best mail costs. Next step is to get the production done on time.

Communications Web-Site

We've made some significant improvements to the web-site. A new information architecture provides intuitive navigation and easy adding/updating of pages. We've enhanced the news section which allows "e-mailing" articles to all "subscribed" prospects – currently 620. A stats page implemented in February provides quick feedback on pages and news articles of interest. New features improve the experience with enhanced image (photo) handling, slideshows, content syndication and security. We've been able to essentially eliminate the problems we'd encountered with spammers, phishing and off-topic comments via captcha controls.

Membership Management

The CT Chapter has gone "on-line" with a secure membership management application. Prospects can be added and managed to help ensure enough contact – but not too much. The site contains a contact management solution that captures notes about communication with members/prospects for easy reference. There is a member/prospect search by zip-code proximity – ie all members within 5 miles of zip code "06525." There is a free entry keyword search – "smith" or "woodbridge" – and any search can be downloaded as an Excel Spreadsheet. The membership management system is directly tied to our news/subscription system and allows automatic mailing of news to any new members/prospects. This approach can reduce costs of communications and allow the growth and accuracy of our outreach efforts.

Promotion

CT-TACF Members attended the 2009 Hartford Flower show and talked about the program with show attendees. Thanks to Nancy Cebik for arranging the display area, and to all the members who showed up to "man" the booth. We have the resources to provide "talks" to local libraries and civic groups. Is there someone in the Chapter interested in trying to arrange that type of promotional activity?

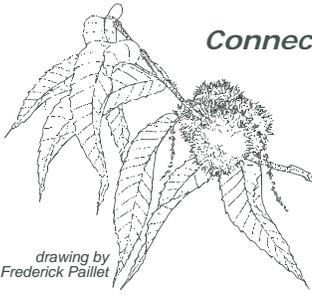
Grants

In what appears to be an exceptionally challenging climate for raising money, we need to be vigilant for opportunities to raise money. I expect to submit two grant requests for funds related to specific new projects. Please contact me if you know of organizations or individuals with an interest in supporting our cause so that I can reach out to them.

Respectfully submitted,

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Annual Meeting Agenda

- 9:30am Opening Reception
- 10:00am Introduction - Chapter President Bill Adamsen
- 10:15am Keynote - Dr. Fenny Dane - Evolutionary history of American Castanea species
- 11:15am Sara Fitzsimmons – TACF Goes to China and propagation techniques used by TACF
- 12:00pm Lunch
- 1:00pm Kendra Gurney - Cold Tolerance for American chestnut.
- 1:30pm Chapter Business (Bylaws, Elections, and then close of Annual Meeting)
- Call to Order
 - Operational Update – President
 - Chapter Business (see web-site or Newsletter)
 - Bylaws Changes
 - Election of Directors
 - Election of Officers
 - Confirmation of proposed 2009 Nominating Committee
 - Other Business?
 - Close of Chapter General Membership Meeting
- 2:00pm CT-TACF Board Meeting - Open to All!
- Attendance and Call to Order
 - Installation of new Directors
 - Review of prior minutes
 - Reports
 - Presidents Report (Q&A)
 - Communications Report (Q&A)
 - Orchards
 - Orchard Manager Reports (Q&A)
 - Middletown Proposal – Jane Harris
 - Strategic Planning
 - Pollinations
 - Pollination Report
 - F1 Project Review
 - Treasurers Report (Q&A)
 - New Business
 - Insurance
 - Other Business?
- 4:00pm Expected close of CT-TACF Board of Directors Meeting

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**CT-TACF Annual Meeting
March 14, 2009**

**Woodbridge Orchard Report
Kendra Gurney (for Phil Arnold)**

1. Current Orchard Status

Line	Type/Year Planted	Average Survival	Average Height
Woodbridge (Calistro)	BC4/2006	72.66%	5.39 ft
Manchester	BC4/2007	73.33%	3.63 ft
Burlington	BC4/2008	91.67%	1.32 ft
FsCl (Meadowview?)	American/2006	100%	3.54 ft
Rocky Hill (CAES)	American/2007	100%	2.97 ft
Rocky Hill OP (CAES)	American/2008	100%	1.30 ft
Hu97-13 (Meadowview?)	F1/2006	100%	3.56 ft
GR119 x A2155 (Meadowview?)	F1/2007	100%	3.00 ft
Kuras #1 x Burlington	F1/2008	37.5%	1.33 ft
StNJ581 (Meadowview?)	Chinese/2006	100%	4.93 ft
Kuras #3	Chinese/2008	100%	1.11 ft

2. Few spaces left, if any. We will be only filling in controls as needed from this point on.

3. Inoculation most likely no earlier than 2010, unless natural blight comes and we need to start on the older lines sooner. It would be best to do the entire orchard at once and the larger the trees, the better.

2. Plans for 2009

1. No planned capital improvements (that I am aware of).
2. Possibly April 11, if it is determined control replacements are needed and available. Kendra and Gayle will determine this in the next couple weeks.
3. Phil (and Robert) will continue with maintenance this summer – no additional help is needed.

3. Concerns/Issues to be addressed

1. None.

**2008 Salem Orchard Report
Oct 20, 2008**

Nuts planted spring 2008 = 67

Survival through fall:

Salem B4 nuts	35 of 47 planted	= 74.4 % survival
Test nuts	7 of 20	= 35.0 %

Surviving from 2006 and 2007 plantings:

Enfield line (2006)	69 of 151 planted	= 45.7 %
Roxbury line (2007)	78 of 109	= 71.9 %
Salem B4 line (2007)	43 of 55	= 81.8 %
Test Trees (2006, 2007)	46 of 110	= 41.8 %

Total trees currently in the orchard = 278, of which 53 are test trees.

Comments:

The 74% survival into the fall of this year's Salem line is average for the first-year plantings in this orchard to date. CT-pollinated B4 tree lines continue to do much better than test trees (F1, open pollinated American, and Chinese trees).

Good rates of stem growth occurred this year, with some 2.5 year-old trees now at 5 feet of height.

A hot wet summer was accompanied by some leaf miner and scale damage, but these pests did not seem to kill any trees. A single spritzing of leaves with Safer Soap solution appeared to control the outbreak.

Vole runs through the root area killed several saplings. Replacing Bluex tubes after weeding/measuring needs to be to a greater depth (2") around the root crown to prevent this from happening in the future.

A final planting of nuts from the fall 2008 harvest will complete the Salem line and will add an Old Lyme Library line, to be planted in April 2009. That will provide for four CT B4 lines that will close out this orchard, with testing of trees for culling to be done in 3-4 years.

David Bingham
Orchard Manager

CT TACF REPORT GREAT MOUNTAIN FOREST ORCHARD

ANNUAL MEETING, SATURDAY, MARCH 14th, 2009

A. CURRENT ORCHARD STATUS

1. Number of trees planted

2007 – 118 / 30 died / 88 living = 73% survival
2008 - 211 / 86 died / 125 living = 59% survival
totals - 329 / 116 died / 213 living = 64% survival

Origins (living trees) w/ average heights

Tolland	107	(average height = 28.24")
Montague	9	(average height = 24.56")
GR119	5	(average height = 30.40")
Canaan	66	(average height = 18.92")
Kuras	9	(average height = 20.89")
Burlington	6	(average height = 21.42")
White Flags (?)	4	(average height = 13.88")
Orange Flag (?)	1	(= 32.00")

2. Open spaces for planting are about 250, not including vacancies from lost trees in '08

3. As present trees are either 1 or 2 years old, we are looking at 5 yrs, 2014 at the earliest for inoculation.

B. PLANS FOR 2009

1. I anticipate no capital improvements, no cost
2. Date for 2009 planting is Friday, May 22nd, 2009, HVRHS VoAg/Tech-Sci students available nearly all day with Dave Moran

Work to be done:

- 12 to 15 transplants of 2007 & 2008 trees to accommodate fence
- Planting 60 nuts supplied by Kendra, materials are on-hand or to be supplied through Gayle
- Fertilize trees w/ slow release mixture
- Rows to be rototilled prior to 5/22 and mowed if necessary

3. At this point no arrangements—other than existing amount of \$1811.00 at Torrington Savings Bank in a designated checking account—have been made for an intern. I will speak with Dave Moran about this and, depending, may ask Doug Palmer (last years apprentice). Assistance especially with weeding and watering might be helpful, depending on the season.

C. CONCERNS/ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED

1. Fabric vs. mulch

GUILFORD ORCHARD MANAGER REPORT – MARCH 2009

CURRENT STATUS:

1) As was reported at the November Board meeting, only 20 of the 98 nuts planted in May 2008 survived. Average height of survivors – 30”. A combination of two factors appears to be the explanation - faulty planting techniques used by the Cub Scouts in the spring and more recent attacks by voles which have set up camp in three large piles of mulch which were dumped adjacent to the planted rows.

After a site visit to the orchard on November 18 2008 by Sarah and Kendra, a three page report has clarified what occurred and makes specific recommendations for amelioration of both problems.

2) There are currently three + planted rows in this one and a half acre field.

3) Assuming a new crop of nuts is successfully planted in 2009 (95 nuts are planned), inoculation of this crop could occur as soon as 2013.

PLANS FOR 2009

1) Capital improvements: a gas-powered pump (to an existing well) is already paid for, but the cost of installation and connection of the pump to a hose line is currently unknown. Funds to purchase a gas-powered trimmer, planting materials and herbicide have been requested in the CT-TACF budget.

2) Planting date (with Kendra) requested for May 9 – Source of material: Gayle knows

3) Adult volunteers are needed for the planting date and for maintenance activities thereafter – especially for weed/invasive plant control.

4) Mowing: Because the orchard could not be mown last fall, we need to find someone willing to bring a brush-hog and get it mown before May 1.

CONCERNS/ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED

1) Recruitment of a volunteer to serve as Orchard Manager

2) Recruitment of committed adult volunteers.

3) Discernment of responsibilities of and coordination with Town departments. Authority to initiate activities (e.g. removing three piles of mulch) and an understanding of the work relationship between the Orchard Manager and the new Tree Warden.

Respectfully submitted, Jennifer Allcock – Chair, Guilford Conservation Commission and Acting Orchard Manager.

Swann Farm Orchard Report
Oct 20, 2008

In April a second line was added to the Swann Farm Orchard. Volunteers from the Northern Connecticut Land Trust planted a total of 150 nuts including 115 BC4 nuts from the Rocky Hill mother tree. Below is a summary of the survival and seasonal growth of these trees as well as the trees planted in 2007. Only 6 of the 2007 trees have died since last fall with most of the loss occurring during the 2008 growing season to trees planted in the low wet region of the orchard.

Although germination and survival for the 2008 planting was lower than 2007, it's still above 80% for the BC4 trees. The only 2008 trees with poor germination were the F1's with only 2 surviving out of 14 planted.

Type	Survival Rate		
2007 BC4 (Stafford)	90.4%	2008 BC4 (Rocky H.)	82.6%
2007 F1	53.3%	2008 F1	15.4%
2007 American	73.3%	2008 American	90.9%
2007 Chinese	93.3%	2008 Chinese	72.7%

Total trees currently in the orchard = 317 Spaces available for planting = 35
Note: Additional spaces which exist in a poor drainage area are not included

Orchard Maintenance

For the orchard's first two seasons, weed control has been an ongoing problem. Our planned response to this issue is to lay down WeedBlock fabric around each tube spring before the weeds start growing in the spring.

In 2007 excellent results were seen from the application of Sta-Green granular fertilizer and we plan to use this fertilizer for all trees in 2009.

Future Plans

In the spring of 2009 (April 26) we plan on planting only two BC4 nuts from the Tolland tree in addition to an undetermined number of control nuts to replace those which did not germinate in 2008. As in the past the planting as well as orchard maintenance will be performed by volunteers from NCLT.

Innocation of this orchard is expected to occur in about 4 years.

No capital improvements are planned for this orchard.

During the summer of 2007 we noticed that some trees suffered growing tip wilting and die-back. This summer the problem occurred again to a much greater extent. Gayle Kida sent cuttings of effected secondary branches to the Agricultural Experiment Station for examination and possible cause. This examination showed the branches being attacked by a "previously undescribed native species of Scolydid" boring insect. Gayle Ridge from the Experiment Station will be setting up traps in the orchard next spring to further identify this insect. Since the die-back this summer affected both the height and form of the effected trees this problem will continue to be a major concern for the orchard.

Richard Bailey
Orchard Manager

**CT Chapter of TACF
2009 Draft Proposed Budget**

	2008 Budget	2008 Actuals	2008 budget -> actual	2009 Proposed Budget	Δ Budget 2008 -> 2009	Δ 2008 Actual -> 2009 Budget	Responsibility
Income							
Memberships	\$ 3,840	\$ 4,560	19%	\$ 3,840	0%	-16%	Membership
Contributions	\$ 2,000	\$ 6,710	236%	\$ 4,000	100%	-40%	Marketing
Grants	\$ 3,000	\$ 10,000	233%	\$ 4,000	33%	-60%	Grants
Interest	\$ 300	\$ 327	9%	\$ 250	-17%	-24%	Treasurer
Total Income	\$ 9,140	\$ 21,597	136%	\$ 12,090	32%	-44%	
Expense							
TACF Meeting Attendance	\$ 690	\$ 464	-33%	\$ 550	-20%	18%	President
Finance	\$ 100	\$ 44	-56%	\$ 100	0%	129%	Treasurer
Annual Meeting	\$ 100	\$ -	-100%	\$ 610	510%	n/a	Education
Other Meetings	\$ 100	\$ 177	77%	\$ 250	150%	41%	Education?
Newsletter	\$ 1,650	\$ 1,727	5%	\$ 3,200	94%	85%	Communications
Posters & Print	\$ 410	\$ -	-100%	\$ 500	22%	n/a	Communications
Website	\$ 120	\$ 246	105%	\$ 260	117%	6%	Communications
Marketing	\$ -	\$ 798	n/a	\$ 600	n/a	-25%	Marketing
Orchard Supplies	\$ 1,400	\$ 1,405	0%	\$ 1,580	13%	12%	Tree Breedeng
Orchard Services	\$ 730	\$ 548	-25%	\$ 1,550	112%	183%	Tree Breeding
Orchard Equipment	\$ 1,250	\$ 426	-66%	\$ 600	-52%	41%	Tree Breedeng
Internship	\$ 2,000	\$ 189	-91%	\$ 1,500	-25%	694%	Tree Breeding
Deer Fence	\$ 6,000	\$ 10,801	80%	\$ 3,000	-50%	-72%	Tree Breeding
Total Expense	\$ 14,550	\$ 16,826	16%	\$ 14,300	-2%	-15%	
Net Income	\$ (5,410)	\$ 4,771	-188%	\$ (2,210)		-146%	

These numbers -->
 from 2008 year-end
 statement

Note: Orchard Services in 2009 includes \$800 for Woodstock bucket truck.



Bill Adamsen <bill.adamsen@gmail.com>

Minutes

Bill Adamsen <bill.adamsen@gmail.com>

Sun, Jan 11, 2009 at 7:12 PM

To: William Adamsen <Bill.Adamsen@gmail.com>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: PHILIP ARNOLD DR <arnold.philip_dr@sbcglobal.net>

Date: Sun, Nov 16, 2008 at 7:37 PM

Subject: Minutes

To: bill.adamsen@gmail.com

Minutes Ct ACF 11/15/08

Present; Adamsen, Arnold, Gregg, Kies, Bingham, Gage, McGee, Allcock, Smith, Bailey, Kida, Sinclair

also Gurney, Fitzsimmons, Van de Kamp, Ostroff

Call to order 10:10am

Minutes 3/29/08 approved

Presidents report; The last news letter of 1500 copies was completely distributed at a cost of 1 dollar per copy. A new mailing is to go out by 1/15/09. Achievements this year; Guilford orchard, Fencing at Great Mountain. A list of mother trees in Connecticut, Host events, Radio, TV, The Hartford Flower Show.

We have 265 Ct. ACF members. We recieved 16,500 dollars in restricted grants.

Regional Science Coordinator Report; A questionnaire for orchard managers was passed out and should be returned to Kendra. High lights og the ACF annual meeting can be seen on the attached handout.

Jack Ostroff will look into insurance issues for the Ct. ACF Board.

Sara Fitzsimmons presented a talk on her TACF 2008 trip to China to access their chestnut program. Edible chestnuts are a big business in China. They hope to go back for further work.

Treasuers Report; See attached handouts from Jim Gage. Letters of thanks were sent to the 3 grantors to Ct. ACF. Current balance 18,215 dollars.

Tree Breeding and Pollination Report; See handout of Gayle Kida attached. The nut harvest was small this year and planting in the spring will reflect that problem.

Orchard Managers Reports. The 5 orchard managers gave updates on their trees and problems encountered in 2008. Lessons to be learned were discussed.

Annual meeting sites were discussed for the end of March 2009. A central site is preferred. Wesleyan or Yale will be looked at as a site.

Phil Arnold will check on Yale.

Jennifer Allcock is heading the nominating committee and will try for regional diversity.

Adjourned 2:30pm

Respectfully, Philip B. Arnold M. D.

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Bill Adamsen
917.796.4284 (m)
