



September, 2015  
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# TREE URCHIN

Maine Chapter, The American Chestnut Foundation  
<http://www.me-acf.org> [MaineTACF@gmail.com](mailto:MaineTACF@gmail.com)

## President's Message

By Al Faust

Greetings,

The end of summer is upon us, and the Maine Chapter of TACF is preparing for the fall activities of collecting pure American nuts and B3F2 nuts for planting next spring, as well as meeting the public at the Common Ground and Fryeburg Fairs. We have reached a milestone this spring. We have planted half of the planned 54,000 trees in our seed orchards. Those trees have done exceptionally well. Many are over six feet tall and some are over 3" in diameter in four years! In the next few years we will plant the remaining 27,000 trees and begin the selection and culling process.

We planted two test orchards in the spring and our aerial search for survivor American tress in Maine continues. We have learned many lessons from these plantings, and we have several more planned for next year. For more information visit us at one of the Fairs, call one of the directors, or better yet, come out and help us with one of these projects.

Al Faust

Learn more about The American Chestnut Foundation at:  
<http://www.acf.org> and  
<http://www.me-acf.org>.



## George Jacobson to Speak At Annual Meeting

The guest speaker at the Maine Chapter's annual meeting October 17 will be Dr. George Jacobson, Professor Emeritus of Biology, Ecology, and Climate Change at the University of Maine and Maine State Climatologist. Dr. Jacobson, who has a PhD from the University of Minnesota, has contributed to many publications about the history of climate change effects on plant life, especially in the eastern United States. The topic of his presentation will be "Post-glacial Distribution of the American Chestnut and its Relationships to Other Tree Species."

A video of Dr. Jacobson is available online at  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1342HS2Dt2tU>

See Page 5 for more information about the annual meeting.

## Meet Your Directors

### Joseph Conwill

Joseph Conwill, a long-time member of the Maine TACF Board of Directors, has served us ably as Treasurer since 2009. Although he lives quite a distance from the chapter's orchards, he has generously donated his time to help with tree pollination, planting, and inoculation. Joseph has also helped build and maintain the chapter's list of wild American chestnut trees.

Born in New York City, Joseph has deep roots in Maine. He vacationed at his grandfather's farm in Sandy River Plantation since he was one year old; eventually he inherited the place and moved there permanently. He grows apples commercially on a small scale and serves on the Board of Selectmen of Sandy River. One of his responsibilities on that board is as road commissioner.

If you own a copy of *Maine's Covered Bridges* or *New England Covered Bridges Through Time*, you own one of Joseph's books. He has published five books on covered bridges, two general histories and three regional titles. In 1968, he began writing articles for *Covered Bridge Topics*, the historical quarterly of the National Society for Preservation of Covered Bridges, and he has been editor since 1992. Joseph has also written technical articles on bridge construction for the Timber Framers Guild and has served as a consultant with the Historic American Engineering Record's covered bridge program.

Joseph has a unique tie to TACF: he and his wife Nancy were introduced to each other by Bob Lindgren, a former Maine Chapter board member.

## Progress Report

By Eric Evans

The current focus of our breeding program is to harvest seeds (B3-F2) from the most blight-resistant trees in our third-backcross (B3) orchards, and plant them in our seed orchards, which constitute the 5th generation of our 6-generation breeding program. After evaluation and selection for blight resistance and American type, the seed orchards will produce seeds (B3F3 - the 6th generation) for chestnut test and restoration plantings in Maine's forests, starting in about 2020. We have two parallel and separate programs, named for the 1st-backcross tree that was the source of blight resistance - Clapper and Graves (the breeders who made the original Chinese-American crosses). Each program has 20-24 breeding lines planted in our 3rd backcross orchards, and each is producing seeds for 9 seed orchards.

CLAPPER - Last October we harvested over 9600 seeds from our Highmoor and Merryspring orchards. This spring we drew from these to establish 31 new plots of 150 seeds each in our Phippsburg, Searsport, and Stetson seed orchards. This brought our total seed orchard plantings to almost 27,000 - the midpoint of our goal of 54,000 hybrid chestnut trees in our seed orchards by 2020.

This June we made final selections of the most blight resistant trees in the three breeding lines in our Mosher (Hope) orchard and the two remaining lines in Highmoor orchard #4 (Monmouth). Our harvest from these trees this fall could be plenty to fill all our Clapper seed orchards to the original plan of 20 breeding lines.

GRAVES - The development of our Graves system is a little behind Clapper. In June we inoculated our Graves backcross orchards in Lovell and Morrill, and began the selection and culling process in our Veazie, Bradley, and Unity orchards that we inoculated last year.

After we make final selections of the most blight-resistant trees there this fall or next spring, we can collect B3F2 seeds for planting in our Graves seed orchards in Hartland and Winthrop in 2017.

We will inoculate our youngest Graves backcross orchards in Unity and Hope in 2016-17, for planting the final new seed orchard plots in 2019-21.

We expect to begin inoculating our seed orchards next year, at age-4. After selection and culling, we can collect B3F3 seeds for our first test plantings of potentially highly blight-resistant trees starting around 2020. This testing phase will continue for at least 10 years as the rest of our seed orchards go through the same process. We expect blight resistance to improve during that time, as the selections are refined based on initial testing results, and as more lines join the breeding population. Priority for getting trees for testing in the 2020s will go to members and volunteers.

We give special thanks to all our orchard managers, and especially to our seed orchard managers - Glen Rea, Larry Totten, Bruce Probert, and Peter Bohman.

Here is a summary of our seed orchard plantings:  
Number of Plots Planted in Each Seed Orchard Location

Planting Year	Clapper Resistance			Graves Resistance		TOTAL PLOTS	TOTAL SEEDS
	Stetson	Phippsburg	Searsport	Hartland	Winthrop		
2012-14	46	27	22	30	24	149	22,350
2015	17	6	6	0	0	31	4,650
Total incl. '15	63	33	28	30	24	178	26,700
Needed 2016-21	37	7	12	70	56	182	27,300

## Volunteers: Time for Awards?

By Ann Rea

The Maine Chapter does not have a “Volunteer of the Year” award. The truth is it would be difficult to single out any one person for such an award, because we have so many dedicated, hard-working volunteers. The Maine chapter would not exist if it were not for these wonderful people.

First, we should recognize our Board of Directors, who donate their time in so many ways. Our Directors manage orchards, raise funds, give programs, serve on planning committees, and commit many hours to all things chestnut.

We need to thank the orchard managers and helpers who mow, weed, fertilize, and control predators in our orchards. This includes Dalton Herrick-Wagner, Jim and Laurie Fenwood, Mary Bok, Andy Rowe, Andy Reed, Harold Mosher, Dalene Dutton, Steve and Lynn Korth, Bruce Probert, Jim Stedman, Deane Smith, and others.

Many volunteers help us at the fairs and meetings where we engage with the public to tell the chestnut story. Thanks to all of you!

Special thanks to Judy Dorsey, Alan Markert, and Peter Kliem for their special contributions.



*Volunteers at the Basin orchard in Phippsburg*



*Volunteers help plant B3F2 seeds in a seed orchard.*

When we send out a call for help with planting in our seed orchards or inoculating trees in our breeding orchards, many volunteers answer the call. We can't list all your names, but we can certainly express our gratitude.

A cadre of students at the University of Maine has helped the Maine chapter with various projects. Hunter Manley, Jack Clark, Zach Ragot, Danae Shurn, Austin Bragdon, Dimitrje Howe-Poteet, Theo Moore, Ben Greenwood, Tyler Wallsh, Max Miller, Jason Durant and David Sandilands have all given time and talent to the Maine chapter.

Finally, some chestnut spouses deserve our gratitude. Judy Faust, Laura Evans, Kathy Totten, Michele Allen, Cathy Elliot, Sue Owen, Sharon Hudson, and Nancy Conwill especially deserve recognition for their understanding and patience as well as the contributions they have made.

If your name is not listed here, it is not because we have forgotten what you have done. Space does not allow us to list all your names, but you all deserve awards.

Want to volunteer? Go to Mail Chimp at <http://eepurl.com/bfD-s1> to sign up, or fill out the volunteer form in the Tree Urchin.

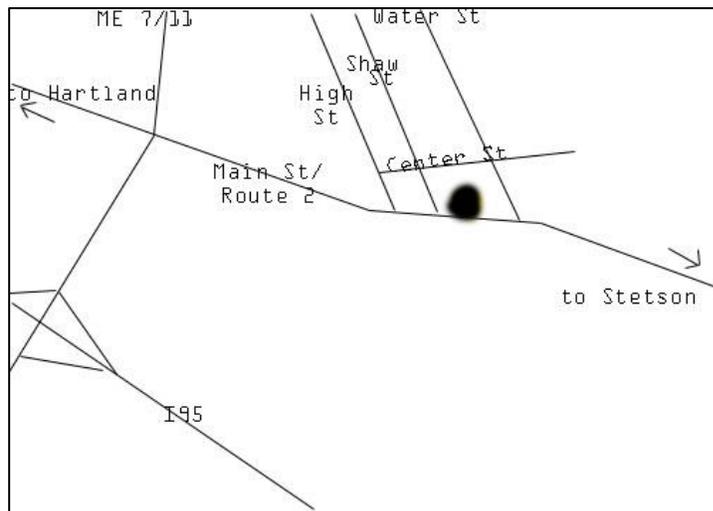
## Notice of Annual Meeting

The Maine Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation  
will hold its Annual Meeting at the Newport Cultural Center  
154 Main Street, Newport, Maine  
October 17, 2015

8:30 – 9:00 am. Coffee and pastries

9:00 – 10:00 am. Business Meeting:  
Call to order  
Minutes of the Last Meeting  
Treasurer's Report  
President's Report  
Election of Officers and Board of Directors  
Other Business  
Adjournment of Business Meeting

10 am. Guest Speaker: Dr. George Jacobson



From I-95, take Exit 157, and turn towards downtown (a left turn if coming from the south, a right turn if coming from the north). At the next intersection, turn right onto Route 2. Proceed towards downtown, passing West Street, High Street, and Shaw Street on the left. The Cultural Center is on the left just before the bridge downtown, less than a mile from I-95.

There is a parking lot behind the Center. The district court parking lot and Public Works lot are also available. Use the entrance at the back of the building; the meeting room is on the second floor.

Membership Form  
Maine Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation

Your membership in TACF supports all the Foundation’s breeding, research, education, and publicity projects. For TACF membership support levels of \$40 or more, \$15 is forwarded to the Maine Chapter. Please consider making an additional contribution to the Maine Chapter to support our mission to produce blight-resistant Restoration chestnut trees most adaptable to Maine’s forests by selecting a Maine Chapter Sponsorship Level in the right-hand column below. Thank you.

Membership in TACF includes a subscription to The Journal of The American Chestnut Foundation and enrollment in the Maine Chapter.

TACF and ME-TACF are 501©3 non-profit organizations. Except for the member services (valued at \$15) of your membership dues, your gifts are tax deductible.

Please send this form and your check(s) to:

Joseph Conwill, Treasurer, PO Box 829, Rangeley, ME 04970.

For additional information, you may contact TACF at [Mainetacf@gmail.com](mailto:Mainetacf@gmail.com) or 207.945.6945.

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

JOIN The American Chestnut Foundation  
TACF Membership Support Levels

*Enclosed is my membership support of:*

\_\_\_\_\_ Silver Leaf, \$1,000  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Bronze Leaf, \$500  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Chestnut Leaf, \$300  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Regular, \$40  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Student, \$15  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Other, \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make membership check to:  
TACF

Maine Chapter Sponsorship Levels

*Enclosed is my contribution to the Maine Chapter of TACF:*

\_\_\_\_\_ Chestnut Sapling, \$5,000+  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Chestnut Burr, \$1,000-4,999  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Chestnut Blossom, \$100-999  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Chestnut Leaf, \$1-100  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make Maine sponsorship check to:  
Maine Chapter -- TACF



## Coming Soon

September 12	Tree Farm Day, Baileyville. Presentation by Brian Roth
September 17	Maine TACF board meeting, 5 pm, Viles Arboretum
September 19	New England regional meeting, Urban Forestry Center, Portsmouth, NH
September 25-27	Common Ground Fair. We will have an ongoing exhibit and a presentation by Brian Roth.
October 4-11	Fryeburg Fair. We will share exhibit space with the White Mountain National Forest.
October 17	Maine Chapter Annual Meeting, Newport Cultural Center, Newport, ME (see page 5).
October 23-24	TACF annual meeting, Pennsylvania State University.
April 15	Order wild seeds from the Maine Chapter.

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Return service requested

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