



# THE BUR

Volume 26, No. 2

Newsletter of the New York State Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation

Fall 2020

## 2020 Marks Our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

By John Neumann, NY-TACF Secretary & Vice President for Education

### Inspired by Nature. Guided by Science.

It was thirty years ago in 1990, when our New York State Chapter was founded by Herb & Jane Darling and Stan & Arlene Wirsig. We are the first state chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation. But that's not all, as 1990 was also the year that Drs. Charles Maynard and William Powell organized the American Chestnut Research and Restoration Project at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF). So 2020 really is a double 30/30 anniversary.

### A productive partnership pioneered an alternative pathway to a noble goal.

That same year, the New York State Chapter and the ESF Chestnut Project entered into a productive partnership - guided by the science of genetics. The partnership has endured over the years and has resulted in the development of the transgenic Darling 58, the world's first (and only) proven blight-tolerant American chestnut trees.

### The century old quest to restore the American chestnut is at hand.

The ESF science based petition (submitted earlier this year) to the US Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service for "Determination of Nonregulated Status for Blight-Resistant Darling 58 American Chestnut" is a major milestone in our 30 year quest. The public comments on the petition have been overwhelmingly positive. In addition, our members (and others) are establishing and nurturing mother tree orchards all across the state and beyond. Add the formation of the ESF American Chestnut Research and Restoration Forest in Syracuse, NY, and we are poised to start a new chapter in the biological and cultural history of the

American chestnut . . . the beginning of its restoration in New York State Forests, private forest lands, around our homes, and to all of its original range.

### YOU can engage in this quest by rededicating yourself to the tasks ahead.

We can each contribute to the effort in our own way. Here are some suggestions:

- Submit a public comment on the ESF petition. See article on right for details.
- Recruit new members to our chapter. You may copy the membership form on the back of *The Bur*.
- Contact our Chapter President, Allen Nichols (607-263-5105 [fajknichols.75@gmail.com](mailto:fajknichols.75@gmail.com)) to order chestnut seeds for planting. Follow his instructions to start mother tree orchards.
- Contact your District Director (see contact info on page 3) and ask about volunteer opportunities in your district.
- If you are able and willing to speak before community groups, contact Vice President for Education, John Neumann (607-865-6497, [jneumann@frontiernet.net](mailto:jneumann@frontiernet.net)) to sign up for our speaker's bureau.
- Make an extra donation to the chapter in memory of Stan and Arlene Wirsig, John Ellis, Craig Hibbon, Mike Webb, or others you may have known, who believed in the science and gave so much of themselves, but who did not live long enough to see the success of our transgenic Darling 58.
- You might also honor our two living chapter founders (and the namesakes of the Darling 58 American chestnut) Herb and Jane Darling, with a 30th anniversary contribution in their names.

## Petition Seeks Nonregulated Status for Darling 58

by John Neumann



Andy Newhouse holds a copy of the Petition

The "Petition For Determination of Nonregulated Status for Blight-Resistant Darling 58 American Chestnut (*Castanea dentata*)" from the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF) to the US Department of Agriculture

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New York State Chapter  
The American Chestnut Foundation  
302 Bateman Road  
Laurens, NY 13796  
[www.acf.org/ny](http://www.acf.org/ny)

Founded in 1990, the New York State Chapter (NY-TACF) is the oldest chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation, Inc., a non-profit 501(c)(3) membership organization. NY-TACF, in partnership with the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry, is working to restore the American chestnut tree to our eastern forests by developing truly blight-tolerant American chestnut trees through biotechnology. Membership information may be found on the back page of *The Bur*.

### Officers

(Terms End at the 2020 Annual Meeting)  
President - Allen Nichols  
Vice President for Science - John Dougherty  
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Emmett Hoops\*                 T. Urling Walker  
Roy Hopke                        Laurence Windhouser  
Ted Kozlowski

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Wayne Cooper                 Alec Newlands  
Thomas Deacon                 John Neumann\*  
Thomas Huff                     William Snyder\*  
Niko Nantsis

\*Executive Committee

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Linda McGuigan – *The Bur* Editor

## President's Message



This spring, when I wrote the President's message, I had no idea how much things would change in a few short months. First, I hope everyone is healthy and staying safe during this trying time. We will get through it. It definitely has been challenging, busy, and a learning experience; with isolation and new Zoom meetings. Speaking of meetings, our annual fall meeting will be online this year (see information on page 7).

As a result of not having our in-person annual meeting, we will not have our regular chestnut exchange. However, anyone who wants nuts to start wild-type

American chestnut trees can contact me (see below for contact information). We have had a large number of requests for nuts from people who want to start mother tree orchards, with over 850 people on my list to receive nuts next spring. Most of these were the result of two articles promoting our restoration program:

<https://hudsonvalleyone.com/2020/01/13/the-american-chestnut-can-bloom-again-with-your-help/> and

[http://support.qdma.com/site/MessageViewer?em\\_id=8314.0&dlv\\_id=8892](http://support.qdma.com/site/MessageViewer?em_id=8314.0&dlv_id=8892)

In the Spring issue of *The Bur*, I estimated that the 60-day comment period for Nonregulated Status of the Darling 58 would start within two weeks to two months. The comment period has *finally* started! (See information on pages 1 and 6). Please consider making a positive submission.

The largest tree reward for 2019 was awarded to Emily Leonard and her husband for a 16" DBH tree (see photo on right). They decided to give the \$200 reward to their forester, Christopher Prentis (seen in photo), from the Lower Hudson Valley Forestry Services, as he was the one who found the tree.

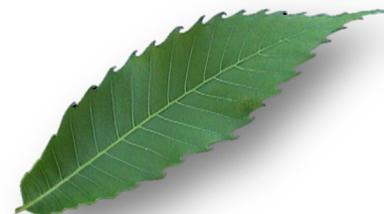


During the summer, I helped Hannah Pilkey and Alex Young with the drone pollination of an isolated American chestnut tree planted many years ago by Gary Sergio (see page 4 for drone pollinations).

Things look very positive for the restoration of a truly blight-tolerant American chestnut in the near future.

This is due to the 30 years of pioneering research by the ESF American Chestnut Research and Restoration Project. Thanks ESF! Our chapter's partnership with ESF has helped make their work possible. Together, we have come a long way. I want to thank all the members who have faithfully supported our restoration program for the last 30 years, as well as the new members who have joined us in this endeavor.

Allen Nichols  
President, NY-TACF  
[fajknichols.75@gmail.com](mailto:fajknichols.75@gmail.com)  
(607) 263-5105



## District Reports

### Frank Piccininni, District 1

Through our collaboration with the local environmental organization, Save the Great South Bay, Suffolk County, and through the tremendous efforts of **Niko Nantsis (my co-director)**, we have grown roughly 350 Long Island wild type seedlings.

We are in the process of planting 30' x 30' mother tree orchards in the following nine locations by September:

Cutting Arboretum (2 - confirmed), Brookhaven National Laboratory/Boy Scouts (confirmed), Baiting Hollow/Boy Scouts (confirmed), Amity Edu Sayville Campus (pending), Geiger Park, Wyandanch (confirmed), Bertsch Family Farm Cutchogue (pending), Yaphank Plot (confirmed), West Sayville Greenhouse (current), and Planting Fields (pending)

Seedlings left over will be distributed to volunteers who will plant single trees in backyards across Long Island for future breeding efforts when the transgenetic material is available.

To find existing chestnut trees across LI, we've created a project on iNaturalist for folks to tag chestnuts. This effort was cross-promoted by Save the Great South Bay. We have 280 observations by 60 separate observers.

We have recruited some professional arborists (who are brave enough to climb trees!) to help with pollination efforts next year.

Niko and I, with the support of my consulting firm (SMPIL Consulting), a local laboratory (York Analytical Labs), and Save the Great South Bay, have begun a research protocol to better understand the phenomenon referred to as "cruddy bark". Canker samples were collected and will be analyzed by WVU. From plots established around the trees, we took environmental data such as a full vegetation survey, penetrometer readings (i.e. a metric for soil compaction), leaf litter depth, soil samples (i.e. a full N series, P, K, Mg, Ca), and densiometer readings. This data will be analyzed through multivariate analyses and spatial interpolation in the hope to better understand the relationship between environmental factors and canker microbial diversity.

We are working on a comment for the open comment period, which we will distribute to other LI environmental groups to encourage them to either write their own or at least sign onto the letter we drafted.

Thank you all for your efforts! It is such an honor to be working with you folks.

### Dale Travis, District 2

District 2 has been busy distributing seedlings. Due to the pandemic, however, many activities have been deferred, such as the New York City Parks Department's suspension of its Ranger Introduction program.

The Rail Trail seedlings are doing fine. The organization plans to plant a few more, and there will be an Education Center with a brief history of the restoration process.

We have succeeded in getting several new members from out-of-state joining as NYS members. Finally, our last two seedlings are being delivered this weekend for planting in District 3.

### Allen Nichols, District 4

For district 4, things have been busy. There were numerous articles written this spring about the progress of restoration using blight-tolerant transgenic American chestnut. These articles brought in many requests from people interested in receiving nuts to plant as mother trees in 2021, with over 850 people on my list already. One article was published in the *Hudson Valley One* <https://hudsonvalleyone.com/2020/01/13/the-american-chestnut-can-bloom-again-with-your-help/> and reprinted in the NY, PA, and Ohio *Outdoor News*. Another article was published in QDMA, Quality Deer Management Association. It was first printed and then put as the first article in their online publication [http://support.qdma.com/site/MessageViewer?em\\_id=8314.0&dlv\\_id=8892](http://support.qdma.com/site/MessageViewer?em_id=8314.0&dlv_id=8892). The QDMA is distributed nationwide and in Canada. We picked up many new members throughout the US and Canada from both articles.

This year has been a first for me to do hand pollinations on trees in my orchard. Andy Newhouse acquired a permit for my orchard to be pollinated with blight resistant pollen! So the early bagging began and I used pollen from the early flowering work Tom Klak did in Maine. Thanks, Tom! I hand pollinated all female flowers twice and Fran recorded the data. Then, in late August I installed wire mesh bags over pollination bags, to secure the burs/nuts from blue jays and squirrels.

### Emmett Hoops, District 5

It's been fairly quiet for the last few months in District 5. I had fewer requests for seeds to establish mother orchards and the school/4H effort, which was due to begin in April, never got off the ground due to school closures. However, there are some bright spots. In May, I was called to visit a property in North Hudson, Essex County, NY. The owners were sure they had an American chestnut. North Hudson is one of the coldest spots in New York State, so I was skeptical. Sure enough, though, they have one of the finest specimens I've seen. We will have some new members from North Hudson!



*Continued on Page 4*

- District 1** – Niko Nantsis, [nikolaos.nantsis@gmail.com](mailto:nikolaos.nantsis@gmail.com) and Frank Piccininni, [Frank@savethegreatsouthbay.org](mailto:Frank@savethegreatsouthbay.org)  
**District 2** – Dale L. Travis, [dale@daletravis.com](mailto:dale@daletravis.com)  
**District 3** – Bill Munzer, [billmunzer@gmail.com](mailto:billmunzer@gmail.com)  
**District 4** – Allen Nichols, [fajknichols.75@gmail.com](mailto:fajknichols.75@gmail.com)  
**District 5** – Emmett Hoops, [emmett.hoops@gmail.com](mailto:emmett.hoops@gmail.com)  
**District 6** – T. Urling Walker, [watnrotary@gisco.net](mailto:watnrotary@gisco.net)  
**District 7** – Roy Hopke, [SnowHawke1@gmail.com](mailto:SnowHawke1@gmail.com)  
**District 8** – Paul Ackerman, [trapman1@netzero.net](mailto:trapman1@netzero.net)  
**District 9** – William A. Snyder, [wasynderhort@gmail.com](mailto:wasynderhort@gmail.com)

## District Reports

Continued from page 3

### Roy Hopke, District 7

Work continues at our Sherburne, NY chestnut plantation. The planting dates back to 1996, however, most of the trees are not that old. Many have died back and are subject to repeated browsing by deer, a problem we have always had. We were able to successfully launch the trees we currently have by employing tree tubes. Jim Donowick (left) and Jay Hager (right) have been busy erecting wire fence circles around sprouted trees after they died back, in order to protect them from deer browse. Jim and Jay have done most of the work in the plantation over the years. The resprouting trees are doing quite well by this method of protection. The leading and best sprouts will be selected and released at a later date. The photo above shows one of the trees that resprouted. Killed back trees will resprout many times without further assistance, if protected from deer. Nevertheless, repeated browsing by deer can/may eventually kill a resprouted tree.



Work has been done injecting trees with a systemic fungicide that seems to impart some blight protection to trees. Possibly, trees we want to keep could be injected to allow them to grow larger and produce bigger nut crops. This could be very important for seed production and reforestation efforts.

The plantation is being utilized by ESF researcher Hannah Pilkey for a drone pollination experiment. The female flowers of the subject trees were bagged before the flowers were ready for pollination. The photo below shows Hannah "up the tree" bagging female flowers with Linda McGuigan holding the ladder. Last month a drone experiment was conducted (see article to the right). After that, the flowers were re-bagged to prevent pollination by stray pollen.



And finally.....  
BIG NEWS!!!!

The USDA's public comment period for releasing the blight-tolerant DARLING 58 tree is open!!!! Please make your comments. This has been a long time coming, so let's seize the day! See the article on page 5 to learn where you can submit your comment.

## Drone Pollinations

By Hannah Pilkey, ESF Production Manager

This summer I collaborated with Alex Young, Research Operations Manager of [Dropcopter](#); a company specializing in aerial pollination of crops using drones. Here in New York, Dropcopter typically pollinates apple trees, but for the first time, American chestnut trees were potentially pollinated via Dropcopter's drone. We conducted a study at the orchard in Sherburne, NY, where four chestnut trees were selected to be pollinated. Female flowers were bagged before they became receptive, to keep them from being pollinated by other



Alex Young of Dropcopter seen here with the pollination drone.



Hannah Pilkey holds a container of pollen that will go in the drone.



The Dropcopter drone pollinating an American chestnut tree.

trees in the area. When the flowers were ready, pollen was loaded into the drone. The bags were removed and Alex flew the drone to each tree, where it hovered for a few seconds dispensing pollen. The bags were then placed back on the tree. One control excluded pollinations altogether, to ensure drone pollination timing was correct. Another control had flowers that were hand pollinated, to confirm pollen was viable.

To determine if the drone successfully pollinated the trees, nut yield from each tree will be measured this fall. We expect to see an increase in fruit set on trees that were visited by the drone, in comparison to trees that were not visited. We also anticipate that flowers in bags that were opened during the flight will produce nuts, whereas flowers in unopened bags will not produce nuts. Apart from its usefulness in an agricultural setting, drone technology could one day be important in delivering blight-tolerant pollen to isolated or hard to reach chestnut trees.

A special thank you goes to Alex Young, Allen Nichols, Roy Hopke, Linda McGuigan, Jim Donowick, and Jim's dog Zoey, for their help planning and setting up this experiment.

# The American Chestnut Research and Restoration Project at

## Kaitlin Breda

It is hard to believe the Spring/Summer 2020 field season is winding to a close. The Templeton World Charity Foundation (TWCF)



grant helped our team start to bring the vision of the first American chestnut demonstration forest establishment to life. You can read more about the grant here:

[https://www.esf.edu/communications/view2.asp?newsID=8589#.X1D0Y70Ry5A\\_link](https://www.esf.edu/communications/view2.asp?newsID=8589#.X1D0Y70Ry5A_link). The TWCF grant has already supported purchases directly related to demo forest establishment, molecular and tissue culture lab supplies, field equipment rentals, deer fencing, and chestnut pollinations, to name a few.

We have been anticipating the start of the USDA Public Comment Period (PCP) for months, and it is finally here! The PCP began August 19, 2020 and ends October 19, 2020. My daily workday includes checking the PCP for new comments and compiling this information in a spreadsheet for all stakeholders at ESF and TACF. The American Chestnut Project at ESF currently has eight full-time and nine part-time employees, including graduate and undergraduate students.

## Vernon Coffey

I completed my Master's degree at ESF in 2018, and I've continued to work on the project from my new home in Washington State.



While I can no longer visit orchards and care for the trees in person, there is plenty of work to be done remotely. This includes data management, such as tracking controlled pollinations and plantings. I'm on the team that continues to develop and improve *dentataBase*, the web-based database built by the American Chestnut Foundation to track every tree planted in every state chapter

of the organization, as well as surviving trees found in the wild. Controlled and open-pollinated crosses are tracked, providing a map of genetic relatedness for trees in TACF's orchards. Having this database is crucial in the ongoing project to outcross the blight-tolerant Darling 58 with genetically diverse and regionally adapted surviving chestnut trees, minimizing inbreeding, and producing a healthy population of trees that will be used to restore American chestnut to eastern forests. The *dentataBase* is also a central repository for research data, allowing scientists and orchard managers to collaborate and share information, and streamline compliance with USDA regulations.

## Dakota Matthews

Kristen Stewart and I are in the process of screening new chestnut embryo transformants for the oxalate oxidase gene.



This will allow the American Chestnut Project to increase the number of unique American chestnut backgrounds containing the resistance gene oxalate oxidase; increasing genetic diversity for pollen production.

We are also extracting PGIP genes from Chinese chestnut and red oak. These are possible candidate genes for enhancing resistance in American chestnut, in tandem with the oxalate oxidase gene. Full length sequences of the various PGIP genes will be cloned into new transformation vectors, with the goal of inserting them into American chestnut embryo lines. The new lines will eventually be tested for resistance using small stem assays.



Finally, we are selecting new transgenic American chestnuts to place in the high light growth chamber for pollen production. These new transgenic American chestnuts will produce pollen for the 2021 pollination season.

## Josh Mott

I have been testing the application of CRISPR genome editing on American Chestnut embryos using a carbon-nanotube delivery system. Binding DNA to carbon-nanotubes is a novel strategy for delivering functional DNA into plant cells. The nanotubes protect the DNA from degradation while infiltrating the cell and also from degradation caused by the enzymes inherent within the cell. Plant physiology is uniquely tolerant of internalized carbon-nanotubes and I have observed no reduced growth or malformations with American chestnut embryos. Using carbon-nanotubes as a scaffold, I will evaluate the delivery and expression of CRISPR DNA components within the embryos in order to introduce a small change within a known DNA sequence in the genome.



## Dr. Allison Oakes

I spent the summer collecting American elm tissue from surviving elms throughout Syracuse, NY and transforming the tissue with two genes isolated from Chinese chestnut. This could improve elm resistance to elm yellows, a disease caused by a phloem-dwelling bacteria, and spread by sap-sucking insects. The two genes affect insect feeding and plant wound response, and possible transformation events in elm are currently under selection. The US Forest Service Research Station at Delaware, Ohio kindly provided many thousands of elm seeds from Dutch elm disease-resistant parents to our elm project. These are germinating in flats to be used for further transformations this fall.



For more information about the American Chestnut Research and Restoration Project, visit:  
[www.esf.edu/chestnut](http://www.esf.edu/chestnut)

or join our Facebook group:  
[www.facebook.com/groups/esfchestnut](https://www.facebook.com/groups/esfchestnut)

## Petition Seeks Approval

*Continued from page 1*

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS) marks a major milestone in our 30 year quest for developing a blight-tolerant, fully American chestnut, through biotechnology and transgenic science. Once our Darling 58 gains nonregulated status, distribution of the world's first (and only) proven blight-tolerant American chestnut trees can begin. In doing so, the restoration of the American chestnut, longed for by generations, may begin in earnest.

Submitted by Dr. William A. Powell, Director of the ESF American Chestnut Research and Restoration Project on January 17, 2020, this petition was prepared by Andrew Newhouse, Vern Coffey, Linda McGuigan, Allison Oakes, Kaitlin Breda, Dakota Matthews, John Dougherty, John French, Michael Braverman, and Charles Maynard.

The petition represents a culmination of 30 years of scientific research and pioneering biotechnology by ESF, TACF, and other university collaborators. From the very beginning in 1990 when Herb & Jane Darling, and Stan & Arlene Wirsig of the



Bill Powell plants a transgenic chestnut.

New York State Chapter of TACF asked Drs. Maynard and Powell to start the GE American chestnut research, a productive partnership formed enabling the work to progress and succeed. You may review this comprehensive 290 page petition by visiting <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/brs/aphisdocs/19-309-01p.pdf>.

### Public Comments on the Petition:

On August 19th, 2020, a 60-day period to make public comments regarding the petition was opened on the Federal Register. On the day *The Bur* went to press, there were a total of 1,354 public comments submitted. Overwhelmingly, these public comments are in support of the petition and the Darling 58.

Many of these commenters identified themselves as New York State Chapter members. Others were submitted by biotechnology supporters in other chapters of TACF as well as the larger community. To view the public comments, please visit <https://beta.regulations.gov/document/A-APHIS-2020-0030-0001/comment>.

This is how the Genetic Literacy Project\* described the ESF petition on their website: "To our knowledge, this is the first petition for a bioengineered organism with the goal of ecological restoration, and represents a unique application for this technology to be potentially used for environmental and cultural benefits outside agriculture. The petition requests that the bioengineered Darling 58 event of American chestnut (and its offspring) be granted nonregulated status by APHIS because it does not pose a plant pest risk as compared to its isogenic controls or traditional hybrid chestnuts. Therefore, it should no longer be considered a regulated article."

There is still time to submit your own comments about the petition and the Darling 58 blight-tolerant American chestnut. The deadline is October 19. Consider voicing your opinion. Please do not copy what others have submitted,



Darling 58 transgenic American chestnut

but rather use your own words. For background information or help with writing, visit [www.acf.org](http://www.acf.org) "Alert: Public Comment Period", or go to <https://www.acf.org/science-strategies/biotechnology/documents-for-public-comment-period/>.

You may submit your comments at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/08/19/2020-18135/state-university-of-new-york-college-of-environmental-science-and-forestry-petition-for-open-comment>.

For those who prefer to mail in their comments, send to:  
Docket No. APHIS-2020-0030,  
Regulatory Analysis and Development,  
PPD, APHIS, Station 3A-03.8, 4700  
River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD  
20737-1238.

\*[The Genetic Literacy Project](http://www.geneticliteracyproject.org) (GLP) is committed to aiding the public, media and policymakers in understanding the societal implications of genetic engineering, promoting science literacy, and ensuring that we have transparent, ethical and science-based regulations so society can fully benefit from biotechnology innovation. The GLP slogan is Science Not Ideology.



# New York State Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation, Inc. 30th Annual Membership and Business Meeting

October 17, 2020  
11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the annual meeting will be held online.

To join the meeting, download Zoom (<https://zoom.us>) to your computer or smart device and click the following URL <https://psu.zoom.us/j/93133556677>. It is advised that you test out the link any time between now and the meeting. To join by phone, please call (646) 876-9923 and use meeting ID: 931 3355 6677.

## Meeting Agenda

The **Harvest Exchange** will not occur in person this year. To exchange nuts, contact chapter president Allen Nichols ([fajknichols.75@gmail.com](mailto:fajknichols.75@gmail.com), 607-263-5105). Allen will receive and mail out nuts as requested.

### Saturday (10/17)

- 11:00 AM Welcome by *Allen Nichols, President*
- 11:10 AM District Director's Reports
  - District 1 Niko Nantsis/Frank Piccinnini
  - District 2 Dale Travis
  - District 3 Bill Munzer
  - District 4 Allen Nichols
  - District 5 Emmett Hoops
  - District 6 T. Urling Walker
  - District 7 Roy Hopke
  - District 8 Paul Ackerman
  - District 9 William Snyder
- 11:30 AM Collaboration between ESF, NY-TACF, & TACF – *Lisa Thomson, TACF President*
- 11:40 AM ESF's American Chestnut Project & Diversity Breeding – *Bill Powell & Jared Westbrook*

- 12:20 PM Science Reports – ESF Staff & Students
- 1:20 PM Producing Transgenic Pollen – *Tom Klak, Maine Chapter of TACF*
- 1:40 PM Mother Tree Orchards – *Tom Huff, NY Chapter of TACF*
- 2:00 PM Q&A
- 2:45 PM Annual Meeting Adjourns

### **Business Meeting**

*Required for Board of Directors Members  
Recommended for NY-TACF Members*

Minutes, treasurer's report, and nominating committee report can be accessed at <https://www.acf.org/ny/board-of-directors/>. Please review before the meeting begins.

- 3:00 pm President's Report – *Allen Nichols, President*
- 3:10 PM Annual Meeting Minutes – *John Neumann, Secretary*
- 3:20 PM Treasurer's Report – *Fran Nichols, Treasurer*
- 3:25 PM Nominating Committee Report/  
Election of Directors – *John Neumann, Nominating Committee Chair*
- 3:30 PM Open Discussions, Q&A, and Proposals





THE BUR  
 New York State Chapter  
 The American Chestnut Foundation  
 C/O Fran Nichols  
 302 Bateman Road, Laurens, NY 13796

Cut here ✂



Join the New York State Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation  
 Visit [www.acf.org](http://www.acf.org), call 828-281-0047, or mail the form (below) to:

The American Chestnut Foundation Inc.  
 50 North Merrimon Avenue, Suite 115, Asheville, NC 28804

Enclosed please find my \$40 membership in support of NY-TACF.  
 I also make an additional gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the New York State Chapter.  
 A total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

All memberships to TACF include TACF publications, a car decal, membership to one of the state chapters as well as opportunities to participate in local chestnut activities. Visit [www.acf.org](http://www.acf.org) or call (828) 281-0047 for more information.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed     Please bill my credit card (Visa/MasterCard/Amex/Discover)     This is a gift

Please make check payable to The American Chestnut Foundation

Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_ Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ CVV# \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

NY Chapter membership includes the Newsletter *The Bur*. The NY Chapter helps guide research at ESF and maintains plantings to keep the American Chestnut gene pool. TACF & NY-TACF are 501 (c) (3) non-profit organizations. Except for the membership services portion of your contribution (valued at \$15) your gift is tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.