The Bur

Volume 27, No. 2 Newsletter of the New York State Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation Fall 2021

The Life of Dr. Sherret S. Chase

A Remarkable Longtime Member and Former Chapter Director

By Helen Chase, Daughter and NY-TACF Member

After a long life marked by deep intelligence, calm thoughtfulness, and objective rationality, Dr. Sherret S. Chase (Sherry) passed on June 7th, almost 103 years after he was born. Sherry was well-known within the New York State Chapter of TACF for his dedication and wisdom. Having served for many years as a valued member of the Board of Directors, Sherry was a distinguished champion for the science of transgenics as a means of American chestnut restoration. In recognition of his diligence and inspiration to others, our chapter honored him in 2019.

Chapter President Allen Nichols noted that Sherry was another long-time member and supporter who died before planting a truly blight-tolerant American chestnut. He was a patient man regarding the American chestnut. He was content with the scientific soundness of the Darling 58 and believed it would lead the way to bringing back the American chestnut.

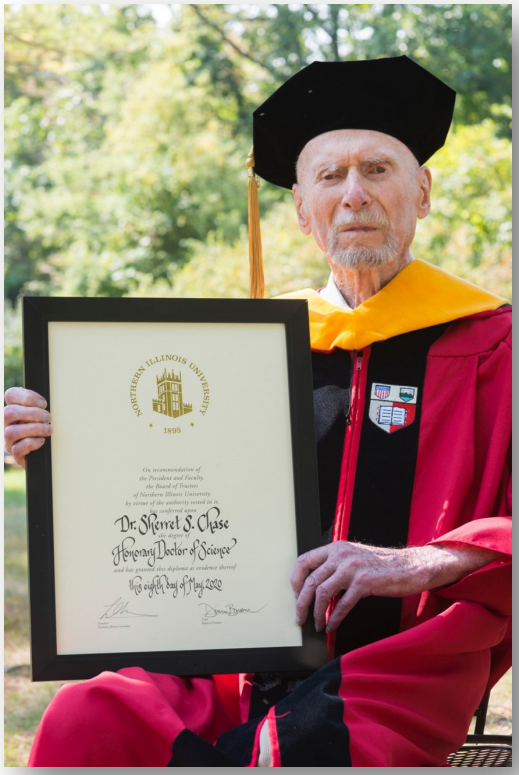
Sherry spent his early school years in Wayne, PA, graduating in 1935. His mother was a Master Horticulturist and gardener. Sherry was inquisitive, with wide interests in the natural world. There is the story that, as a young boy, Sherry was given 12 cabbage plants by his mother to plant in her garden. He planted six with roots up and six with roots down. When questioned why, he said he wanted to see what would happen; the scientific method! His father was a civil engineer (Cornell University), responsible for the design and construction of several bridges in the Philadelphia area.

In 1920, Sherry's grandparents purchased two abandoned farms in the Catskill Mountains watershed of the then brand new Ashokan Reservoir water supply for New York City. The family spent summers there until Sherry graduated high school, then they lived there year-round. Sherry was a Boy Scout from 1931 to 1935 in the new Devon 50 Troop, mounted on US Army Cavalry horses, and performed at Valley Forge for General Pershing in 1931. He was Senior Patrol Leader from 1933 to 1935. He was also a competitive fencer, winning against the first-year West Point team. During the summer of 1933, he traveled to Germany and Austria with the Experiment in International Living. His father died in the autumn of that year.

In the summer of 1936, following his first year at the University of Arizona as a biology major, he and his first cousin Bill Hinton backpacked with the renowned Mundy/Hall mountaineering expedition to the unexplored Coastal Range area of the Klinaklini Glacier in British Columbia. It was the first ascent by everyone in the party to Silverthrone Mountain and he had the naming privilege of Fang Peak. He transferred to Yale University following this experience and studied botany.

He was drawn to the Canadian Maritime Provinces and became Mr. Ernst Heyl's assistant in Newfoundland, exploring and guiding salmon fishing to study the breeding habits of the Atlantic Salmon. He was particularly intrigued with Cape Breton Island, and after graduating Yale University in 1939, he led a group of Putney School students on a bicycling and camping trip around Cape Breton Island and onto the Gaspe Peninsula.

His life's work began at Cornell University, with graduate work in plant cytology and genetics and a minor in philosophy. His major thesis compared different species of the aquatic plant family Najas. The 1930's were a dynamic time at Cornell University in the new field of plant genetics. He found he was drawn to this field, especially maize (corn). He pioneered his non-thesis research in studies on haploidy in corn.



Dr. Chase received Honorary Doctor of Science degree from Northern Illinois University in 2020

His research at Cornell was cut short when he was called to military service in the

Continued on page 4

In this issue:

New York State Chapter
The American Chestnut Foundation
302 Bateman Road
Laurens, NY 13796
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*.

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Linda McGuigan – *The Bur* Editor

President's Message

As we head into the fall of the year, we are still battling issues with the Coronavirus. Our fall meeting will be held virtually again this year, but we have planned an in-person orchard tour at ESF on September 25th. See page 7 for more information on the Fall 2021 meeting.

While waiting for government approval to distribute transgenic material, I have looked at what we have accomplished. We received over $16,000 in donations to support the transgenic pollen production program directed by Tom Klak in Maine. AND we had one member who saw the program as so important, he agreed to finance it for the 2021 year, leaving us with the funds to finance the program in 2022, if needed.

While bagging trees in my orchard and hand pollinating the burs with transgenic pollen from either ESF or Tom Klak, I thought of the 30+ years of work it has taken to get to this milestone. This whole program, despite all the hurdles and pitfalls, reminded me of running a relay race. It is a lot of work, in hot weather, working long hours, bagging then hand pollinating the burs in 250 pollination bags. But many other people have put in years of work supporting what I was doing. We have been passed the baton and hopefully, we will be able to pass off our success to the next group of American chestnut enthusiast, who will be able to continue what we have started.

Our chapter members are aware that ESF filed a petition in early 2020 with the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to deregulate the Darling 58 transgenic American chestnut. APHIS is also conducting a thorough safety review of this breakthrough discovery, which if approved, would accelerate the ecological restoration of American forests. The next stage in the review is the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). APHIS will assess the potential positive and negative effects on society and the environment from deregulating the Darling 58 and from alternatives to deregulation. We welcome this review, which signals APHIS's tentative decision to deregulate the Darling 58. We anticipate that the environmental and other impacts of planting Darling 58 chestnuts will be overwhelmingly positive. Completion of the EIS is an important step in the process to deregulate the Darling 58 tree.

Allen Nichols
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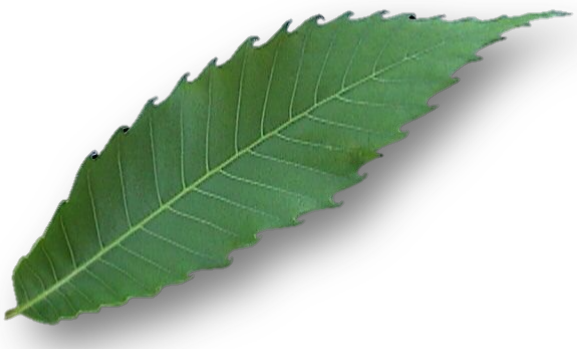


District Reports

Niko Nantsis, District 1

Hello everyone, I hope all is well. I have great news from the Long Island region. I have successfully pollinated many American chestnut trees this past July and will hopefully collect a large fertile harvest this fall. Frank and I planted several American chestnut mother orchards at various locations in both Nassau and Suffolk Counties, where they are being taken care of and where they are growing well. I have discovered many American chestnut trees across Suffolk County, including one that is approximately 30 to 40 feet tall with a dbh of 14.8 inches. As the new college semester begins, I will be a little busy with schoolwork, but I will continue to search for more American chestnut trees across Long Island. To learn more about our progress searching and cataloging American chestnut trees on Long Island, follow "The Search for American Chestnuts on Long Island" on INaturalist.com (https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/the-search-for-american-chestnuts-on-long-island).

I cannot wait to see you all soon at the next Zoom annual meeting this fall and happy chestnutting!

Dale Travis, District 2

In June, eight American Chestnut seedlings were planted at the historic Woodlawn Cemetery in the Bronx. The planting was part of a landscaping class for young interns from every borough of the city, conducted by Herb Landsman of Davey Tree Services. See page 6 for more details.

Another nice event: while inspecting a group of seedlings along the Harlem Valley Rail Trail in Dutchess County recently to check if any of them were flowering this year (yes!), I had the pleasure of meeting a couple from South Dakota. They were intently studying the explanatory plaque near the trees, having already heard about the American Chestnut and the blight. They were eager to learn more about the program. Once they got back home, they became new members of the organization. Welcome, Mike and Kandi!

Allen Nichols, District 4

It has been another very busy year. I sent over 7,000 nuts to over 700 planters to use for mother tree orchards. By the time all the nuts were sent out, it was time to start working on my own orchard, which I pollinated with blight-tolerant pollen. It was a good year for trees to flower and my trees had a lot of them. A few NY-TACF members came over and helped me remove the catkins, to get ready to bag the female flowers. I initially installed 150 pollination bags, which was 50 more than last year, but then found more female flowers so Hannah Pilkey from ESF sent another 100 pollination bags. In the end, I hand pollinated 1,099 flowers (twice!) in 250 bags. I just finished installing wire screen bags, which are required to go over each pollination bag.

With over 3,000 possible fertile nuts, we hope to have close to 1,500 that are blight-tolerant with the *OxO* gene. I want to thank Hannah and the students at ESF who made the wire screen bags, and special thanks to Tom Klak from Maine who sent me extra transgenic pollen to pollinate the extra burs.

Emmett Hoops, District 5

The volume of inquiries continues to increase year after year. Last year was an anomaly in many ways, but still represented an increase over 2019. The message is definitely getting out there!

Reports from mother orchards have been excellent. Where there are deer fences, there are thriving seedlings. This was a good summer for trees in eastern New York: lots of rain and fewer insects due to the cooler weather in July.

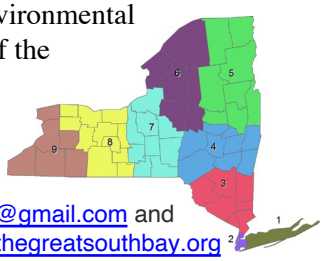
A new group of northeast New York 4H kids planted some American chestnut trees and they really enjoyed it!

Roy Hopke, District 7

We will collect seed from the Sherburne plantation again this fall and plant a few trees at the same time. Al Nichols has provided some potted trees for this purpose.

I gave a presentation to the Southern Tier Sierra Club this past spring. From the comments that were made after the presentation, I have concluded that most people, including members of involved and informed environmental organizations, are ready and in favor of the transformed American chestnut.

Tim Russell, a certified forester. is the co-Director of District 7.



District 1 – Niko Nantsis, nikolaos.nantsis@gmail.com and Frank Piccinnini, Frank@savethegreatsouthbay.org
District 2 – Dale L. Travis, dale@daletravis.com
District 3 – Bill Munzer, billmunzer@gmail.com
District 4 – Allen Nichols, fajknichols.75@gmail.com
District 5 – Emmett Hoops, emmett.hoops@gmail.com
District 6 – T. Urling Walker, watnrotary@gisco.net
District 7 – Roy Hopke, SnowHawke1@gmail.com
Tim Russell, tim@GreenFireForester.com
District 8 – Paul Ackerman, trapnman1@netzero.net
District 9 – William A. Snyder, wasnyderhort@gmail.com

Sherry Chase *(Continued from page 1)*

Army Air Corps on December 7, 1942 (the one-year anniversary of Pearl Harbor). He served as a Second Lieutenant and lead navigator in B-24's in the 15th Air Force, 760th Bomb Squadron, 460th Bomb Group, in southern Italy. He flew over 50 combat missions, including over the oil fields of Ploesti in Romania, and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross during his service. He was in service until September 1945. He left as a First Lieutenant and returned to Cornell to complete his PhD, which he received in 1946. He continued his interest in haploidy, taking his initial research in parthenogenesis and monoploids to his first teaching position, as Assistant Professor and later Associate Professor, at Iowa State University in Ames, IA.

His development of his "Monoploid Method," later referred to as the "Doubled Haploid Method," for deriving homozygous diploid lines of maize, was accomplished at Iowa State University. Monoploids/haploids have only one set of chromosomes per cell and occur in a small fraction of plants. When a haploid plant is recognized, it can be self-pollinated. The offspring will have a dual set of identical chromosomes and will be equivalent to an inbred line. Inbred lines are developed to focus on very specific positive characteristic such as rot-resistance, stiff stalk, particular height at harvest time, etc. Developing inbred lines in the traditional manner generally takes about six years. With the Doubled Haploid Method, the development time is cut in half, or less.

In 1953, Sherry accepted a new position as Research Geneticist with DeKalb Agricultural Association (later DeKalb AgResearch) in DeKalb, IL, where he further developed his Doubled Haploid Method and successfully used it as a practical tool for plant breeding. He was appointed International Maize Breeder and became the Director of International Seed Operations for DeKalbAg. He resigned in 1966 to return to the university. He was awarded sequentially the Bullard and the Cabot Fellowships at Harvard University, where he continued his studies of tree breeding, genetics, and reproductive forest tree biology in association with the Arnold Arboretum. It was during this time, when he and his family moved back to his Catskills roots, that he was able to do something seriously with his interest in the restoration of the American chestnut.

In 1968, he accepted a position as Professor in the Biology Department at SUNY Oswego, NY, where he taught genetics, cytogenetics, and economic botany. He and his wife Kenny (Catherine Ross Compton Chase) were in California with the International Plant Research Institute (IPRI) for three years and then in New Jersey with the DNA Plant Technology Corporation (DNAP) for three years. Then he did retire, moving back permanently to Ashokan, but maintaining consultant status with international companies in Haiti, Indonesia, Thailand, and Puerto Rico, and continuing his personal research nursery using local farmlands. He continued his association with several professional societies, community groups, and public activities. His most significant local achievement was as a founder in 1969 and as the founding President of the Catskill Center for Conservation and Development, where he served for over 50 years.

American chestnuts were still abundant in the forests of the Catskills in the 1920's. They meant so much to my father. We can still walk our trails up the mountain and on the ridgelines and terraced areas of the mountain and see fallen American chestnut trees – limbs and trunks. They have tremendous staying power. In the early 1970's, we were able to locate plenty of fallen trees in the woods, to be cut and split into rails for split-rail fences to be placed along some of our pasture and lake boundaries. We still enjoy one split-rail fence (split by my parents together) in the front yard of the house my parents once owned, which has now gone onto other ownership by friends who appreciate the American chestnut tradition of split-rail fences. Some of our homes were built with American chestnut "bones." We still have their visible presence in the form of substantial beams and uprights. We have furniture utilizing American chestnuts from our woods. We have family stories that share the thrill of a harvest of fallen nuts. The American chestnut has shaped our traditions and our life-style.

In the early 1980's, we planted several "orchards" of now-so-called Mother Trees, getting ready for the future distribution of the transgenic Darling 58. My father, a research cytogeneticist, recognized the science that has gone into developing the Darling 58, which has taken 30+ years of remarkable initiative and creativity. It is solid science, utilizing a naturally occurring gene to provide the tolerance to the American chestnut against the Blight. Imagine a single wheat gene (*OxO*) being used to flight the Blight! Hurrah for research cytogenetics! This single gene is naturally occurring in other wild and cultivated plants, and it is being added to, with no genes being removed from, the traditional American chestnut. This new transgenic tree will be a blight-tolerant traditional American chestnut. There is also hope in using this technique for other threatened tree species – in the Catskills, we are losing our oak, ash, hemlock, and pine to various pests.

My father is passed away at the age of 102 – three weeks short of his 103rd birthday. He remembered American chestnuts being still viable and his family's ability to actually collect the fallen nuts on the ground and to eat them. He remembered when a small cottage was built using timbers and lumber from trees felled on our property. The cottage is still being used – and the smell of the wood is still pervasive. I wanted my father to see the distribution of the new transgenic American chestnut – and with a great deal of hope (because of his age and low vision) to see a proportion of the first generation of the cross-pollinated traditional American chestnuts (the transgenic trees pollinated by the "Mother Trees") within the forest, with those trees now expressing the Blight tolerance. His spirit will be watching.

News About Our Members

Sherret S, Chase, of Ashokan, NY, passed away on June 7th, almost 103 years after his birth. A long-time member of NY-TACF and a former Chapter Director, Sherret was an inspiration to many. You can learn more about his remarkable life beginning on page 1 of this issue.

David Sullivan, of Oneonta NY, passed away on July 31, at age 92. A carpenter by profession, Dave was also a retired Sergeant of the 981st engineer Construction Battalion of the US Army. Dave had been a long-time member of NY-TACF, attending chapter meetings and activities with his friends, Allen and Fran Nichols. Dave located many "native" American chestnut trees and planted many others, all to help preserve the gene pool for restoration. Dave had a "cut your own" Christmas tree farm but had been replacing cut trees with American chestnut mother trees. Like many other chapter members, Dave had patiently been waiting non-regulated status, so he could plant blight tolerant transgenic American chestnuts.

Timothy W. Russell is a new director of our chapter.

Tim is a Certified Forester, with a Bachelor's degree in Forest Resources Management from ESF. He owns and operates Green Fire Forestry & Wildlife Services in Pitcher, NY where he lives with his daughter Eleanor and his wife Amy. In addition, Tim has agreed to serve as a Co-Director of District 7, working with Roy Hopke, the long-time District 7 Director, and to assist with the Sherburne Plantation.

Cash Reward for The Largest American Chestnut Tree in NY

$200 for Largest Tree Found in NY State
$100 for Largest Tree in Districts 5, 6, & 7

A $200 reward will be given to the person who finds the largest healthy American chestnut tree not previously recorded by the NY-TACF. A $100 reward will be given for each of the largest trees found in districts 5, 6, and 7, which are north of I-90and west of I-87. The tree must be found in NY State in 2021 and the property owner must allow NY-TACF access to the tree for pollination and/or seed collection. It must be identified by NY-TACF as a pure American chestnut.

What to look for: Open burs on the ground. The burs will be light brown with long sharp spines and measure around 3" across. The leaves are slender; 6 to 9" long with pinpointed teeth that have a fishhook profile, like a beech leaf, except longer and more pointed on each end.

For further information, contact President and District 4 director, Allen Nichols at 607-263-5105 or by e-mail, fajknichols.75@gmail.com

American Chestnut Planting at Woodlawn Cemetery, Bronx, NY

By Dale Travis, NY-TACF Member and District Director

Photos by Sigrid Freundorfer

Eight American chestnut seedlings were planted on June 11 at the historic Woodlawn Cemetery in the Bronx. Woodlawn Cemetery is the final resting place of many well-known New Yorkers, including Duke Ellington, Irving Berlin, Miles Davis, and the Woolworth family.

The planting became part of a landscaping class for young paid interns there, conducted by Herb Landsman of Davey Tree Expert Company, a member of TACF. The planting was arranged and attended by Meg Ventrudo, Executive Director of Woodlawn Conservancy, a new member of TACF, and Dale Travis, District Director.

These young interns from all five boroughs of New York City were eager to learn about the American Chestnut. Aware of its importance and history, each one wanted to be involved in the planting - touching the soil, patting down the mulch, watering the seedlings. A particularly limber one did amazing cartwheels and backflips around the trees after the planting, so happy to have been part of this historic moment. To have these young people involved and interested in the project, and to carry this interest forward, is very gratifying.

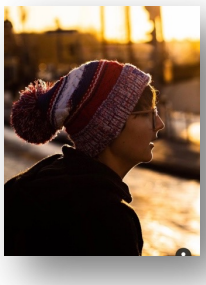
The American Chestnut Research and Restoration Project

Erik Carlson
Graduate Student, Ph.D. Degree

Recent progress has been made with transgenic American chestnut lines that express the *OxO* gene using a promoter (a gene regulatory sequence) from poplar. The promoter activates *OxO* only when the tree is wounded or infected. The best of these lines, known as WX162, was identified and its pollen was successfully used in controlled pollinations in the last growing season.

The first outcross (T1) is an important step for new lines, as it leads to much quicker propagation and vigorous seedlings. The offspring produced by WX162 are the first seedlings from a transgenic line since the Darling 58 and we are excited to see it get off the ground. Plants from this line are currently being multiplied in tissue culture and subjected to high light growth treatments to produce pollen for future crosses. Implementing diverse gene expression strategies will help reinforce the OxO blight defense system, bolstering resilience in future American chestnut populations.

Taylor Luken
Graduate Student, Master's Degree



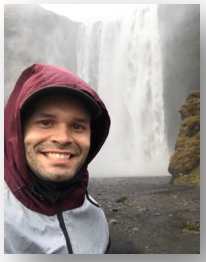
Research done by the American Chestnut Research and Restoration Project prior to my joining the team at ESF looked at multiple differentially expressed genes in *Cryphonectria parasitica* canker tissue on both Chinese chestnuts (*Castanea mollissima*) and American chestnuts (*C. dentata*). Asian chestnut varieties show a range of tolerance to the blight, some being almost impervious to infection, and this research provided enlightened insight into the different genes that may be contributing to that immunity. Figuring out how to harness facets of that polygenic, or multi-trait, fungal defense system in Asian chestnuts for use in American chestnuts could be important for accelerating and diversifying the restoration efforts.

The aim of my research is to explore genetically engineering American chestnuts to incorporate and express resistance-conferring genes from its close relatives. Because I will only look for genes from trees that American chestnuts can cross with through traditional breeding, my work is in the realm of "cisgenic" research as opposed to "transgenic" research, which takes genes like oxalate oxidase (*OxO)* from the more distantly related wheat.

I am working with a laccase-like promoter (a switch to tell the gene to turn on) and gene from *C. mollissima* that is thought to protect against blight by bolstering lignification at the site of the wound. The promoter is more effective at keeping the gene itself "turned on" in Chinese chestnut than it is in American chestnut, so cloning this promoter and gene to place in American chestnut embryogenic tissue could result in trees with an increased ability to fight fungal spread. I will first work with the promoter-gene combination in a model species to assess the cloning method and analyze expression before working to place it in American chestnut tissue.

Cisgenic research opens a door to swifter restoration, as trees with cisgenic genes may go through the regulatory processes quicker than transgenics. It also offers a look at an alternative—both for American chestnut and for other forest species under threat—to the complex, often decades-long processes of traditional breeding methods used to strive for desirable traits to aid in conservation.

Josh Mott
Graduate Student, Master's Degree



An interesting gene implicated in a number of growth and developmental processes in a diverse number of plant species is BABYBOOM (*BBM*). The *BBM* gene has a role in inducing the formation of embryos in plants. A hurdle in American chestnut embryo culture is the induction of embryogenesis in recalcitrant tissues (tissue that is not responsive to treatment); hence, identifying a means of returning the tissue to an embryogenic state is of value.

Using sequencing data, I identified a BABYBOOM homolog (a related gene) already present in American chestnut. This has widespread implications, as the *BBM* gene could potentially function as an endogenous (internal) means of selecting transgenic American chestnut cells (as opposed to our current method of using antibiotic selection) by selecting the embryos that form after overexpressing *BBM* in non-embryogenic tissue. To this end, I have cloned the American chestnut BABYBOOM gene (*CdBBM*), alongside green fluorescent protein (*GFP*) into a plasmid vector (a circular piece of DNA) and confirmed its sequence and expected integration using a method known as sanger sequencing. I am currently propagating American chestnut leaf tissue and will transform the leaves with the plasmid to confirm the embryogenesis activity of *CdBBM* in American chestnut.

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

or join our Facebook group:
www.facebook.com/groups/esfchestnut

New York State Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation, Inc.

31st Annual Membership and Business Meeting

Field Tour (In Person):
September 25, 2021
1:30 PM – 3:30 PM

Meeting (Online):
October 16, 2021
11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

This year again, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the Delta variant, the annual meeting will be held online. However, a tour of ESF's orchard will occur in person at the Lafayette Road Experiment Station. If interested, meet at 452 Lafayette Road, Syracuse, NY 13205 on Saturday, September 25 at 1:30 PM. ESF currently requires masks when gathering in groups. For questions, email Linda McGuigan at lpolin@esf.edu.

To join the meeting on October 16 at 11:00 AM, download Zoom (https://zoom.us) to your computer or smart device and click the following URL: https://psu.zoom.us/j/92907862743. It is advised that you test out the link any time between now and the meeting. To join by phone, please call (301) 715-8592 and use meeting ID: 929 0786 2743.

Meeting Agenda

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

Membership Meeting

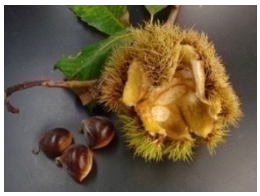
11:00 AM	Welcome by *Allen Nichols, President*
11:10 AM	District Director's Reports
	District 1 — Niko Nantsis/Frank Piccinnini
	District 2 — Dale Travis
	District 3 — Bill Munzer
	District 4 — Allen Nichols
	District 5 — Emmett Hoops
	District 6 — T. Urling Walker
	District 7 — Roy Hopke/Tim Russell
	District 8 — Paul Ackerman
	District 9 — William Snyder
11:30 AM	Science Reports by ESF Staff and Students
12:30 PM	Q&A Session
12:45 PM	Break

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.

1:15 PM	President's Report – *Allen Nichols, President*
1:25 PM	Annual Meeting Minutes – *John Neumann, Secretary*
1:35 PM	Treasurer's Report - *Fran Nichols, Treasurer*
1:40 PM	Nominating Committee Report/ Election of Directors – *John Neumann, Nominating Committee Chair*
1:45 PM	Open Discussions, Q&A, and Proposals
2:00 PM	Meeting Adjourned



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, 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 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.