

The Board of The American Chestnut Foundation - Massachusetts Chapter- met at Broad Meadow Brook Wildlife Center, Worcester, on Sunday, January 27, 2002, at 1:00 p.m.

The 14 Board members present were Mike Novack, Mike Delaney, Susan Cormier, Brad Smith, Mike Meixsell, Rich Hoffman, Dave Ugucioni, Rufin Van Bossuyt, Anne Myers, Charlotte Zampini, Dave Gessford, Sandy Gessford, Frank Howard and Gary Jacobs. Board members absent were John Pribilla and John Emery. Others present were Gerry Cormier, Jim Garland and Paul Carreiro.

The meeting was called to order by Susan Cormier, President.

The minutes of the October meeting and a report from the Annual Meeting were approved as presented.

The National Board will meet in Pittsburgh on February 8-10 to work on the germ plasm agreement so that it will be acceptable to all chapters as well as National. Susan and Gerry will be there.

The Annual Meeting for 2003 has been changed to October 17-19 in State College, PA. The 2002 meeting will be in La Crosse, WI, and the 2004 meeting will be in Bear Mountain, NY.

It was noted that the pictures in the latest Bark were mostly taken by Frank Howard.

Treasurer's Report - Anne Myers - The report was distributed. Anne asked for all volunteer hours to be reported to her during the year along with names of others involved. This information is necessary for grants. She needs the date and individual names.

Budget - Anne Myers - The budget was distributed. We have money from the Sudbury Fund for the purchase of drills and \$3,000.00 from the tree fund for planters. There is now \$1,400.00 in the BC3 Fund. The quarterly reports will show budgeted amounts and the actual expenditures. We will be able to mail newsletters for the corporate rate of 15 cents instead of 55 cents. We are working with a figure of \$4.00 per nut.

**It was moved by Mike Novack, seconded by Mike Delaney and voted unanimously that the budget be accepted as presented.**

Board Member Certification and Orientation - Mike Meixsell - Charlotte Zampini was welcomed to the Board. Please let Mike know of any additional members of committees by the April Board Meeting. Nominations are due by the third quarter. There will be no write-in candidates on the ballot. Board members should return their certificates of appointment if they have not already done so. Mike highlighted certain points in the Attorney General's Guide for Board Members of Charitable Organizations, which all Board members have received.

Membership Committee - Sandy Gessford - The January report from National for the month of December showed 4 new members, 28 renewed memberships and 9 expired memberships. We are losing ground as long as there are more expired memberships than new ones. It has been decided to follow up to National's two mailings and a letter from Sandy to expired members with telephone calls.

**It was moved by Mike Novack, seconded by Rufin Van Bossuyt and voted unanimously to contact all who do not respond to mailings by telephone and review the results after three months.**

Gary Jacobs volunteered to call the people on this last report. Board Members agreed to help make calls. Sandy will send out lists for calling each month with no members being asked to make more than two calls unless they specifically volunteer.

Susan will make phone contact with people who show interest at public meetings, etc.

Publicity - Susan Cormier - We qualify for a state sales tax exemption. Susan and Anne have forms, which must be filled out with purchases along with the stores' forms. Gary, Susan and Gerry will man a booth at a meeting of the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions on March 2. This is a state board with members locally appointed. There will be as many as 1,000 attending from the entire state. They also have a fall educational conference on October 6-8 in Burlington. Anne has been invited to speak at a trees in urban landscaping symposium at Tower Hill on February 15.

Education - Frank Howard - Frank distributed a sheet on The American Chestnut Foundation Massachusetts Chapter Presence at the Arnold Arboretum relating it to three goals. We should review this sheet and decide whether this is a place where our presence would be welcome to them and beneficial to us.

Frank is working with a digital camera and on a web site.

Rufin said that Scottish scientists are working on genetically engineered elm trees.

Rich Hoffman suggested that we may want to consider approaching authors who present a negative view regarding the reintroduction of the American chestnut tree into the forests and ask why they came to this conclusion.

Policies and Procedures for Back Cross Orchards - Anne Myers - Fred Hebard requested at the annual meeting that this be put in writing. This contains 1) policy and procedure, (2) germ plasm agreement as it presently exists using Meadowview pollen, and (3) orchard planting and maintenance guide. Anne suggested that we adopt this as an original framework and send it to Fred to see what he thinks of it.

**It was moved by Anne Myers, seconded by Gary Jacob and voted unanimously to adopt Policies & Procedures for Back Cross Orchards dated January 23, 2000.**

Strategic Plan - Anne Myers

**It was moved by Anne Myers, seconded by Mike Novack and voted unanimously that we schedule a meeting to discuss the Strategic Plan on March 17 at Framingham State College, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with an alternative date of March 10.**

Charlotte Zampini will arrange for a room.

Susan brought up the need to be thinking about a speaker for our annual meeting in the fall. She suggested Fred Paillet who spoke at the national meeting in 2000 and is now living in Maine. She would welcome other suggestions.

Susan received a letter from Paul Sisco regarding a couple who is moving from East Tennessee State to Smith College who are both biologists and would be excellent members.

The next Board meeting will be on Sunday, April 21, 2002.

**It was moved by Gary Jacob, seconded by Dave Gessford and voted unanimously that we adjourn.**

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra M. Gessford, Secretary

**The Board of the American Chestnut Foundation - Massachusetts Chapter: 4/28/2002  
Met at Broad Meadow Brook Wildlife Center, Worcester, on Sunday, April 28, 2002, at  
1:00 p.m.**

The 15 Board members present were Susan Cormier, Mike Meixsell, Rich Hoffman, John Emery, Anne Myers, Sandy Gessford, Dave Gessford, Dave Uguccioni, Frank Howard, Rufin Van Bossuyt, Brad Smith, Charlotte Zampini, Mike Delaney, Mike Novack and Gary Jacob. Also present were Gerry Cormier, Jim Garland, Bill Cullina, Denis Melican, Dave Jeffries, Yvonne Federowicz and Cheryl Mead.

**It was moved by Anne Myers, seconded by Frank Howard and voted unanimously that the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted as presented and as posted on the website.**

Treasurer's Report - Anne Myers - Anne distributed and reviewed the following reports: (1) Profit & Loss, January 1 - May 1, 2002, (2) Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual, January - December 2002, (3) Orchard & Seedling Costs, Inventory, October 1, 2001 - April 28, 2002, and (4) Time by Job Detail, January 1 - April 29, 2002. It was decided to post a notice on the website that treasurer's reports are available upon request. Anne also distributed the resumes of the two interns that will be working for us this summer. They will map the blooming trees in the state. We have probably completed purchasing for the orchards for this year.

**It was moved by Mike Miexsell, seconded by John Emery and voted unanimously that the treasurer's report be approved.**

Fund Raising - Gary Jacob - There is much information available regarding available funds on the website. This must be reviewed and narrowed down for our purposes. Gary presented five typical ways that groups make money: (1) soft money - gifts from groups, (2) individual donors, (3) fund raising events, (4) program fees, and (5) membership fees. It might be possible to get an intern specifically to do a fund raising event. Mike Novack noted that some companies have volunteers in action (VIA) programs where we might get some help. Gary said that we should not just consider scientific sources. We might go to educational foundations for help with our presentations. Gary will continue to work on fund raising.

Charlotte Zampini reported that Dr. Terry Tattar needs reassurance that we are behind him on his "magic mud" program. She believes that a contribution of \$500.00 would help him with expenses and be a good faith indication that we support him. Gary noted that it would be a good faith step if we could say that 100% of Board members have contributed to the cause. Contributions should be sent to Susan.

**It was moved by Anne Myers, seconded by Mike Novack and voted that we begin support for use of magic mud for biological control with *Bacillus megaterium* by having a small fund raiser among Board members and others.**

Pollination - Anne Myers - Anne distributed and reviewed pollination sheets. Tree coordinators are still needed for a few of the trees.

Membership - Sandy Gessford - The committee met on March 10, 2002, and had good sharing and discussion on various ways to deal with getting and retaining members. Mike Delaney reported on his research into the possibility of obtaining window decals for Massachusetts members which would be distributed to all members. We do not have the money in the budget at this time. The Board was polled as to their preference in having a Massachusetts decal as opposed to a national decal. There was a slight preference for a decal that identifies the Massachusetts chapter. Mike will check with another printer to see if we might get a reduction in printing costs and with National to see if they plan to distribute the decals that they are working on to all members or if they will just be for sale. The membership page on the website has produced two new members. This page does not offer a \$20.00 membership from which we get no funds from National.

Publicity - Susan Cormier - Susan shared a letter received from Marshal Case detailing major grants and gifts to TACF and stating that Tennessee is about to become a full member and Alabama is to become a provisional chapter. Eighteen acres have just been purchased in Virginia near Meadowview and the Price Farm. The annual membership stands at 5000+. A mass mailing from National to Massachusetts Audubon members will be going out soon. We hope to see new members from this mailing. The next newsletter has just gone to press - 800 copies. Susan has asked the printers if they can do better for us than the 10 % discount that we now get. Susan spoke to two biology classes at a private school in Springfield. They planted 45 Graves trees and are caring for them. A man in Vermont has six chestnut beams for sale. The Norton Conservation Committee wants to have a chestnut tree scavenger hunt in June or July with someone from the chapter giving a presentation. Susan has investigated having our chapter listed with a speaker's bureau, but this will not work at the moment. Susan will contact the Massachusetts Environmental Collaborative, which has 50 organizations about sending copies of our newsletter to them. Frank Howard reported that our presence at the Westfield State College water shed is being nurtured. Rufin Van Bossuyt and Charlotte Zampini will be speaking at the annual meeting of the New England Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture in Cambridge on October 8. We have been offered two hours. Charlotte will speak on the history of the American chestnut, and Rufin will speak on current work.

Strategic Plan - Anne Myers - A copy of the revised strategic plan was distributed.

**It was moved by Anne Myers, seconded by Gary Jacob and voted unanimously to accept the Strategic Plan as modified per the meeting on March 18, 2002.**

The fine work on the strategic plan of Anne Myers, Gerry Cormier, Frank Howard, Mike Meixsell and Gary Jacob was recognized.

Copies of preliminary drafts of Charter and By-Law amendments proposed by Mike Miexsell were distributed and discussed at length. We will continue to work on these changes to produce the desired effects. We have already made changes to committee descriptions. All changes must be submitted to the Attorney General's Office and to the Internal Revenue Service. It would be best to make all changes we want in order to submit them all at one time. In regard to a proposed change to the Nominating Committee paragraph of Section 4.5 - Standing Committees - a poll of the Board indicated a strong consensus for voting by secret

ballot but with opportunity for write-ins and taking nominations from the floor. We must also consider having write-in ballots. Mike will redraft the articles and e-mail for responses.

Orchard Committee - Anne Myers - Anne distributed printed material from Fred Hebard regarding breeding protocol.

**It was moved by Mike Novack, seconded by Gary Jacob and voted unanimously to adjourn.**

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra M. Gessford, Secretary

**Minutes for Board Meeting TACF-MA  
Sunday, July 28, 2002**

The Board of the American Chestnut Foundation - Massachusetts Chapter - met at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, on Sunday, July 28, 2002.

Prior to the business meeting, the Chapter met at a UMASS research plot with Dr. Terry Tattar who, aided by his colleague, Dr. Mark Mount, discussed and demonstrated his work with chestnut blight bio-controls. It was an informative and enjoyable session. Thanks go to Dr. Tattar and Dr. Mount for sharing their time and knowledge with us.

Board members present at the business meeting were Dave Uguccioni, Rich Hoffman, Mike Meixsell, John Emery, Brad Smith, Charlotte Zampini, Rufin Van Bossuyt, Dave Gessford, Frank Howard, Michael Novack, Sandy Gessford and Susan Cormier. Others present were Elizabeth Hammond, Terry Tattar, Ellsworth Barnard, Valeria Orozco, Austin Jones, Yvonne Federowicz, Mark Mount, Penny Novack, Gerry Cormier, Paul Carreiro, Cheryl Mead, Richard Palmer and John Zupkus.

Treasurer's Report - Anne Myers - Anne reported that the two summer interns have made substantial contributions making the summer intern program well worthwhile. Anne again urged that all volunteer hours be reported as they are important for matching grants. They are also, in part, an indication of how much it costs to run an orchard. Anne distributed the pollination report for 2002. Volunteers are needed to pollinate F<sub>1</sub>s for next year. It would be a good way to learn pollination. John Emery and Anne have American seedlings. Two seedlings are offered for joining the chapter via our Massachusetts Chapter website. A new pollen coordinator is needed for next year. This job requires knowledge of the tree data base and involves looking at mother trees, communicating with Dr. Fred Hebard at Meadowview, lining up pollinators, and lining up bucket trucks among other things. Anne also distributed and reviewed time by job summary sheets for time from January 1, 2002, and a profit and loss sheet for January 1 to July 22, 2002.

Announcements - Susan Cormier - Sandy and Dave Gessford have moved to Connecticut but are continuing with the Massachusetts Chapter and Board. Board member, Mike Delaney, has moved to Washington, D.C. to take a different job. There are two Board vacancies at the moment. The National annual meeting will be held on October 18-20 in Wisconsin. Chapter members are urged to go. Our Chapter annual meeting will be held in November.

Membership Report - Sandy Gessford - Thanks, in part, to National for doing a bulk mailing to Audubon members in the state, we have 79 new members since the last quarterly meeting, several of those joining at a level above the regular membership rate.

The minutes of the previous meeting, which are posted on the website, are accepted and filed.

Grants - Anne Myers - Anne has been learning grant procedures and is in the process of defining grant goals. She is looking into grants for an educational and speakers program, summer workers for next year and further funding for Dr. Tattar's research program.

Dave Uguccioni - Dave is doing F<sub>1</sub> and American/American crosses and has a tree showing some resistance. The Army Corps of Engineers will site some trees on their land in Holland. There are 20-25 trees there now. Dave has signed an agreement with them saying that the trees remain our property. If we need to move them, they will assist us. There is additional land available there. Dave would like the Chapter to accept this and perhaps sign a Meadowview agreement with them. Rufin Van Bossuyt will also look at the site, and Dave will write up a proposal.

Anne reported that another site has been offered, but this sounds like a more suitable site. She also asked for help with row preparation this fall.

Publicity - Susan Cormier - Thanks to Nelson Calkins, the display at Heifer International was a success this year. A couple in Sterling has over 150 acres, and a planting has just been put in there. September 14 and

15 is the Cracker Barrel Fair at Anne's Wrentham site. Frank Howard reported that the Norton Conservation Commission had a treasure hunt for chestnut trees on commission territory. Reporters were there and took pictures - good publicity.

The fall newsletter will have to go out earlier than usual as bulk mailing makes it slower. News and articles must be in soon.

Dr. Ellsworth Barnard, of Shelbourne, reported that there are nuts sprouting where there have been no trees for 3/4 century. He gave Susan permission use some quotes from his book.

Susan asked that everyone seriously consider filling the position of Pollen Coordinator. She also said that it is time to consider finding a new president. In addition to setting up and presiding at the quarterly and annual meetings, the president is automatically a member of the National Board that meets twice a year.

Nominations - Mike Meixsell - Mike distributed an election ballot to all Board members that also contained three proposals to amend.

Anne Myers requested a meeting of orchard and planting - all people who are actively physically working on orchards - before the next quarterly meeting. She will look into setting one up at Wrentham during the Cracker Barrel Fair.

Terry Tatar reported that there are American trees with easy access in Worcester that the owner, Mr. Tougas, will donate to a conservation site. Anne Myers has sites in mind.

Anne would like to provide room on the Board for any people who are qualified and enthusiastic. Susan asked that we actively bring forth names now.

**It was moved by Mike Novack, seconded by Mike Meixsell and voted unanimously that we adjourn.**

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra M. Gessford



The Board of the American Chestnut Foundation - Massachusetts Chapter - met at Broad Meadow Brook Wildlife Center, Worcester, on Sunday, October 27, 2002, at 1:00 p.m.

The 13 Board members present were Jim Garland, John Emery, Susan Cormier, Mike Meixsell, Mike Novack, Gary Jacob, Anne Myers, Rufin Van Bossuyt, Dave Gessford, Sandy Gessford, Brad Smith, Rich Hoffman and Guy Shepard. Others present were Yvonne Federowicz, Gerry Cormier, Timothy Dolan, Mark Larson, Cheryl Mead, Michelle Matteo and Paul Royte.

Two recently elected Board members were welcomed. Anne Myers presented Jim Garland, and Rufin Van Bossuyt presented Guy Shepard.

President Susan Cormier introduced those present who were not Board members. She also mentioned that the Chapter has received matching gifts from previous employers for the donations to our summer fundraiser from Nelson Calkins and Rufin Van Bossuyt. She urged that we keep in mind that if an employer or past employer participates in a matching gift program, we should take advantage of this additional contribution for our work.

As of September 2, 2002, Jim Garland and Guy Shepard were confirmed as new members of the Board. Susan submitted the e-mail votes she received for confirmation by the Board.

**It was moved by Gary Jacob, seconded by Mike Novack and voted unanimously that the e-mail votes electing the two new Board members be confirmed.**

Treasurer Anne Myers distributed and reviewed three report sheets:

- (1) Profit & Loss
- (2) Individual Times for Each Volunteer
- (3) Time by Job Summary

She mentioned that that memberships, restricted funds and funds we raised accounted for less than 50 % of funds managed this year. We will start the 2003 year with approximately \$2,359.35. Members were asked to check their volunteer times for correctness and report any time not recorded. This is necessary for grant applications.

**It was moved by Gary Jacob, seconded by Mike Novack and voted unanimously that the treasurer's report be accepted.**

The minutes of the previous meeting were mailed to all Board members and published on the website.

**It was moved by Gary Jacobs, seconded by John Emery and voted unanimously that the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted.**

Publicity - Susan Cormier - All recent activities have been listed on the front page of the Fall 2002 newsletter. Charlotte Zampini and Rufin Van Bossuyt gave a presentation on the past, present and future of the American chestnut along with discussion at a meeting of the New England Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculturists with about 70 in attendance. There may be an opportunity for a TACF presentation at a meeting of the international group in Montreal in August. Rufin and Guy Shepard have generated several newspaper articles. Frank Howard and Anne Myers are working on the website. It was suggested by Brad Smith that it would be helpful if we could have a brochure that is more Massachusetts oriented than the one from National. Susan said that Dale Rosenberg, National Membership Director, had mentioned at a workshop for sharing strategies to increase membership at the recent annual meeting of TACF that she could produce a limited number of state specific inserts for our use. Brochures concerning our November 17 annual meeting are in the mail.

Annual Meeting Luncheon - Sandy Gessford - Attendees at the annual meeting on November 17 will again bring their own bag lunches with the Board members supplying drinks and dessert. as this was successful last year. A sign-up list was circulated among Board members.

Annual Report to Attorney General - Susan Cormier - It is a requirement that all officers be residents of the state or be represented by a resident agent. As the Gessfords have moved to Connecticut, it is necessary to appoint a resident agent in order for Sandy Gessford to remain as secretary/clerk. Frank Howard has accepted the position of resident agent.

**It was moved by Anne Myers, seconded by Mike Novack and voted unanimously that Frank Howard be appointed resident agent.**

Susan Cormier will make a brief presentation on the national annual meeting at our state annual meeting.

Mike Meixsell distributed election ballots and a proposal to amend TACF-MA Articles of Organization. Discussion on the amendments followed.

**It was moved by Anne Myers and seconded by Gary Jacob and John Emery to table the amendments to the corporate Articles of Organization in favor of developing Board policies that address each of these issues and that a committee be established to address this.**

**It was moved by Mike Meixsell, seconded by Gary Jacob and voted unanimously that we amend the previous motion to add that the president will appoint an ad hoc committee to review the charter and by-laws and bring proposals back to the Board of Directors.**

**The original motion as amended was voted unanimously.**

Orchard Preservation - Anne Myers - The following sheets were distributed and reviewed:

- (1) A Plan for Management and Development of Open Pollination Chestnut Sites
- (2) Pollination Report
- (3) Pedigree of Clapper, Graves and Nanking Sources of Resistance - from Paul Sisco

Anne hopes to have the plan for management with any revisions adopted at the January Board meeting. We harvested 2,147 backcross nuts this year. Anne wants to see us adopt a policy of putting all control bags on before pollen bags are opened. Trees with 0 or 1 nut in the control bags are acceptable. We need 100 nuts from a tree for a complete line.

Last year we budgeted \$4.00 per nut to plant. This year, we cannot manage even \$3.00 per nut. We need to stay frugal in costs and get site people to help us. We may have to budget \$2.00 per nut this year. We need to go to Phil Prichard to get money from the Sudbury Foundation.

Pollen and Orchard Coordinator - Anne Myers - Anne will continue to do the tree data base but will not continue as pollen and orchard coordinator. We need someone to take the job this next year if we are going to do Graves. We could consider doing it regionally. We can do a hand count of trees in January and perhaps someone will come forward to fill this job and deal with Fred Hebard. We also need some orchard managers.

Mike Novack will look at Brian Clark's Ashland property.

**It was moved by Gary Jacob, seconded by John Emery and voted unanimously that the meeting be adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra M. Gessford, Secretary