

Spring 2006 MATACF Quarterly Meeting

Afternoon Board Meeting

1:15 PM

Board Members Present:

Brad Smith, Kathy Desjardi, Mik Meixsell, Jamie Donald, John Mirick, Charlotte Zampini, Lois Breault-Melican, Denis Melican, Mike Novack, Gary Jacobs, Rufin Van Bossuyt, Frank Howard, Yvonne Federowicz

Gary Jacobs: keep notes about people you need to follow up with from conferences etc.

Phone calls, copies of seedlings. Regional postcards that only go to a few based on zip codes from member lists? People often need to be asked to do things. Also – associate each member with their closest orchard, so they get a feeling of ownership about it.

National PDFs for workshops – to be printable. Brad working on a nice one for our chapter.

Publicity

JD – interviewed by Lunenburg leger; done by high school intern who did a wonderful job. Publisher jogs by Jamie's orchard, didn't know what it was until Jamie put up sign in orchard. Then publisher sent reporter.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife June 28 – Great Meadows Complex, Weir Hill Road, Sudbury at 7 pm. Refuge in Sudbury on Sudbury River. Chestnut Presentation. Will be constructing a visitor's center. We might consider a demonstration planting. Mike and Gary are giving the presentation. Late June.

Elm Bank in Wellesley – plant sale – May 21st – Horticultural Society. We could do a presentation booth. Charlotte and Frank with Gary backing up.

June 3 – AMC (RI) Moore State Park chestnut walk & talk Yvonne, Denis, Lois

Rufin – national arborists' conference in Minneapolis – presenting

Upcoming plantings – how to get people to come? Associating members with closest one? Most important for new orchards which need more work.

Could do a map for Seedlings of orchards so people could more easily see their local orchards.

FH – best to give volunteers small tasks to do (esp. at first) so they don't worry about overcommitments so much.

Yvonne, Kathy, Brad, Gary – committee for presentations on orchards – membership involvement

Need rough schedule for members

Treasurer's Report

Mike presented Profit & Loss

Mike doesn't want statements on cash basis like Anne had – time difference re. when National gets money vs when they get it to us.

Nonprofit Status: Accountant – Mark Love

People on Board hadn't donated too high a percent of our totals. We got Excels from National; each year's P&Ls, balance sheets, old 990s; what Anne came up with for Schedule As

Accountant took until last week to finish but had several days to spare. We had a large margin to spare so details about exactly when donations came from National didn't matter so much.

National is going to give chapters \$15 from members who get memberships through large donations rather than explicitly membership payments.

Next deadline: "RO" part of "FORM PC" has to be filled out. MA chapter of a larger organization. National has to give accounting. We have two more months approx. to work on that.

501-C-3 issues are all mailed in!

PC is a Massachusetts form; the 501-C-3 is Federal.

Since we have no paid fundraisers we shouldn't have much trouble. Also no employees getting paid more than 50K/yr.

Motion to Accept Treasurer's report: Brad

Seconded: Jamie

Unanimously passed

Secretary's Report

Seedlings Newsletter went out – approx. 800
1000 printed

3 active members

5 Expired members

Approx. 400 contacts

Possible other Foundations to contact: Norcross Wildlife; Sweetwater

Norcross is giving tractor for Meadowview

Envirothon – on a Thursday – River Bend Farm in Uxbridge May 11th – contact Kathy
Planning meeting at Purgatory Chasm – will be planting the orchard there. Planning
crucial.

5-6 groups of students for 45 minutes each – have kids make hole for nuts.

Site should be easy to plant.

Jamie will bring forest soil. Clothespins. Need to test soil for digging ease beforehand.
Paint 1 end of bamboo pole different color for each nut type. Randomize by grabbing
other end. Have kids match colors and write down what nut they got.

National Publicity Staff can help too.

Stewardship programs can be developed by organizations like NEFF for plots of land.
Cost is \$700 and state program pays for it. Licensed forester comes out.

Tax-deferred – “61” – not necessarily requiring logging – trying to expand; different
ways to make money off land without developing or logging. Administered by DCR
(Mass.)

Are groups like NEFF on our mailing list?

Lois – could put a program on for DCR foresters on chestnuts. Will put on our
“prospects” list.

Jamie has list of foresters. Suggestion that Kathy send “Seedlings” to ppl on the list.

Orchards – discussed in AM – have decided on 7 orchards for new nuts.

Mother trees:

Quabbin is a re-do

If promising-looking trees, can do - don't need a big effort

Glocester, RI good to re-do as squirrels got a lot of them

Possible Groton tree – Jamie will follow up

Smithfield, RI – tree lead Yvonne will follow up

Setting up mother trees is generally a last-minute procedure.

Chasing down leads important to do in advance – get tree ID'd

National Meeting Update

Lots of good news! Organization becoming healthy financially.

New coordinator for our area?

Paul – South; Sara – PA, OH, IN

Pew Family Foundation has 2 family members interested in chestnut. Gave grant of over 300K. \$15K for science review. Rest is going to support New England person. VT is forming a chapter too.

Meadowview Farm lease – right off highway – had 30-year lease, may not renew as area is becoming more highly valued. 5 or so yrs left. Price Farm was donated in memory of husband; 3rd farm also. Also new buildings. Construction may start in May. HQ would be at Price Farm.

Susan and Gerry are officially starting the Ozark Initiative. Chinquapins; Ozark and Allegheny, which also get blight – preserving it. Chinquapin may have some blight resistance. Also – interbreeding between chestnut and chinquapin. Some “pure” Americans seem molecularly to have chinquapin traits.

Anthology book – Jimmy Carter writing introduction; Yale U. Press likely. Yale Press editor has great interest in chestnut.

National membership over 6500 members. Deployment – when will National have trees with good blight resistance, what to call. Some people might have trouble with having hybrid out in forest.

Also – disagreement over germplasm agreement. Some wish to protect for money for research, patent. Many want in public domain. Have gotten Federal money. What control does national have over state chapters... Don't want to lose control over product too early because nurseries start selling, like American Elm, and it doesn't get widely distributed enough.

Forest Service is getting 50% of first generation of nuts. “Protectors” of money for research one side, public domain other side.

Rufin chosen as chairman of nominating committee.

Need research about how to get chestnut back into forest – not much research has been done. New president for TACF after Marshall retires; nominating committee might be involved.

Philosophy of TACF will be influenced by these choices.

5000 nuts next year; 30,000 in 3 years.

Don Wilike is now the legal counsel.

Jamie: how is this not like a cultivar? Charlotte – “cultivated variety” – not necessarily genetic clones. So we are creating a “variety” – have cultivated a wild tree to make it wild again.

Oaks are declining perhaps because not well-suited for sites on; might have grown there because chestnuts used to grow there. Oaks dying too young on Appalachians.

Charlotte – good to get trees to grow as fast as possible now.

Interns – good educational experience – how much work do they get done? Bruce

Spencer – could he work for us 2-3 days/week. Maybe 1 day/week.

Checking out trees, asking questions about orchards. Has experience with hardwoods.

Could have Bruce in as speaker at our meeting.

Bristol-Myers-Squibb: were interested in putting in orchard. Had worked with Jamie and Kathy. John put together a plan about what we'd be doing. There were 2 camps there; 1 pro, 1 against.

Garden plantings of F1s: suggesting that members plant 2 different F1s in their yard so they can cross-pollinate. Unclear as to why...

Inserting additional Chinese diversity could be important in future. Could help insert new sources of resistance in future.

Upton Chinese Trees Video and Possible Use for Resistance

We have many F1 nuts from them. 3 Chinese trees flower consistently.

We have several types (directions) of F1 crosses from last summer; John Mirick's Chinese, Brown U. Chinese, etc. We could plant clusters of trees – 4 or so together. Mike suggested up to 16 to account for mortality etc.

Mike N. may have space for some of them/know people who do.

Brad showed video of Upton State Forest Chinese trees made with his daughter and her dog, which was much appreciated.

Rufin & John noted that sometimes sprouts seem to come directly from stumps and sometimes not; sometimes they are further out.

Next Meeting: July 15th, 2006 – Saturday.

Meeting adjourned at 3:59 PM