

April 14, 2007 MATACF Quarterly Meeting

Reforestation Meeting 10:30 Bruce Spencer, John Mirick, Jamie Donalds, Mike Novack, John Emery, Brad Smith, Leila Pinchot, Denis Melican, Lois Breault-Melican, Yvonne Federowicz, Kathy Desjardin, Mike Meixsell, Charlotte Zampini, Rufin, Jim Coull, Jim Garland

Leila: waiting to see what our project develops into, if innovative
Would be good to talk to Tim Phelps to see what specific research topics haven't been developed yet

Jamie: want more site testing rather than germplasm

Rufin: had talked to Bob Paris re. our difficulties in orchards – bluxes etc. – planting Climate etc. adaptation of southern material – Bob was going to email Jamie.
Concern exists about going too fast, putting material out before successful.

Brad: deployment just being discussed at national level now.

Jamie: we had to make a lot of mistakes in orchard planting; if can get experience in replanting early, can benefit

Charlotte: our orchard survival has improved greatly over last few years. So learning is very important.

Leila: looking at just a single or couple of variables at each site will give us better results

Rufin: we wish to look at simpler issues

Jamie: 2 sites; area in Quabbin where hemlock has been cut, and at Moore that is being cleared anyway; plant with different methods; roughly take out vegetation, ignore for 5 years. We have been planting in orchards for 5 years.

Rufin: planting at Penn State where timber had been harvested. Went in and mowed. We want to go in right after timber harvesting, not once growth established.

Mike M: which nuts

Jamie: we have a plentiful supply of BC3F1s – extras even with our planned new orchards

Mike M: Fish & Wildlife might wish demo planting in his area.

Charlotte: we have lots extra nuts even with plans

For demo planting, BC3s better because a few might survive for a while.

Demo orchard – best to see if can scale up to 100 trees to something useful for project, if interest and have land. Try for real (small) orchard.

Under forest conditions, what type of protection do we really need? What survival?

Replicated small plots, put in place, check from one year to next.

Is selective herbicide use helpful? (Yvonne makes face.) Mulching? Cutting competing trees?

Light gaps – selective harvesting. Different experiment. See what survival like.

Bruce: planting trees in fields much worse place.

Tree planting problems: need some soil, access to soil. Don't cut through brush pile. Don't plant within 10 feet of a sprouting hardwood. Esp. red maple. Don't plant too close together. So 1 acre opening is actually quite limited in terms of spots that are suitable within it. If young people planting, need double-checking. Tubes and without tubes, mark where going in. Develop procedures so don't have to go in and cut back.

People get intimidated by brush.

Have looked into areas in Quabbin, have a couple picked out. One off rt. 202. Mixed forest. Recent cuts, upland.

Charlotte: could compare growth rates betw. Orchards and Forest plantings.

Bruce: have 4 or 5 openings, haven't marked spots within them. Perhaps 100-150 nuts. 3 groups of 50 (CZ) – could get real data.

Lois: DCF foresters – we would have to get down any trees that needed to come down. Short staff. So better to go toward Quabbin.

John Emery: Girdling? Bruce: they can become a dangers.

Mike Novack: could also use areas on his land. Could make openings. If let logs lie, can cut.

John Emery: have specific spot in Weston, cut and harvested. Near Regis College. High deer pressure.

Jamie: some techniques might work better in high deer areas.

Mike M: if have plenty of nuts, why not try

Charlotte: labor

John E: try piling brush

Brad: has about 500 useless nuts.

John E: certain spot had many chestnut in past;

Bruce: center of ½ acre gets full sun

Charlotte: look at importance of light using edge effect

Rufin: also root competition

John E.

Charlotte: biggest trees in her orchard are closest to edge

Rufin: opposite in his

Jamie: value in having deer testing area

John E: piling brush around seedlings possible.

We will be planting where heavy deer pressure

Bruce: better to promote hunting. Herbivores are menace to forest

People in area need to be educated

Quabbin had been overbrowsed, forest succession had stopped

Jamie: thinning herd not always an option

Charlotte: would like to use John E.'s area to see how severe edge effects are upon plantings

Brad: maintenance a big issue

Rufin: hunters are complaining that coyotes are taking too many deer...

John E: would like to try spring and fall planting.

Mike N: soils differ

Summary:

Quabbin definite; 3 groups of 50 each (CZ) good to have

John E: manpower ? Have enough nuts. Strength of edge effects.

Weston has good forestry group, good people involved

Timing: need a protocol, documentation

Bruce can do weekdays or weekends

Onsite training.

Should only take a couple of days.

Charlotte: may suddenly get hot in May.

Agreeing on process important, need consistent process

Charlotte: consistent with oak plantings?

Bruce: put in oaks without protect. Putting in ground gave a bit more than scattering.

Kathy: we've had an offer from - have student volunteers, help with trail maintenance etc. Apr. 21, 22 - in Walpole. Norfolk County Agricultural School.

Quabbin: 3-4 people.

Charlotte, Jamie, Rufin, Bruce, Mike M, ?, Brad, Mike N.

Tues. April 24, 2007 10 am. Meeting at Shell Dunkin Donuts, Rte. 2 exit 16. Where 202 goes south. Big parking lot.

John E: wants to think about project first. Will set up a tentative time through Jamie.

Brad: surveying flags? Jamie: bamboo poles with florescent paint, tape.

Jim Garland: offered with Westerly

Morning orchard meeting

11:20 am

Present: Bruce Spencer, Frank Howard, John Mirick, Jamie Donalds, Mike Novack, John Emery, Brad Smith, Leila Pinchot, Denis Melican, Lois Breault-Melican, Yvonne Federowicz, Kathy Desjardin, Mike Meixsell, Jim Garland, Jim Coull,

Bruce Goodsell,

Charlotte: handed out Orchard Planning summary

Rufin: Orleans: all people except Town Administrator were for Orleans administrator DPW property. So backed out.

John Emery: knows person with good site in Sandwich.

Bruce: knows Brian ? in Falmouth, chief of Public Works, has irrigation available.

Early May for Westerly

Bruce Goodsell: Land trust has set aside 4 acres for tree farm – juvenile trees for street trees. Orleans mother tree – from sandy soil, Cape Cod mother tree – we hope it will be adapted to the sandy soil of Westerly site.

Holyoke: Jonathan Bates had reported a tree last year; pollinated, good results. Now interested in orchard. Group is called “Nuestras Raíces” – our roots – own and lease land. Trying for long-term lease. Local land trust also interested in land. Slightly uncertain about long-term prospects for land. Along river, 100 year flood plain; part suitable. Ecologist working on river edge. Want native trees planted. Would plant Holyoke line there. Would be 1-2 lines. Loamy soil.

Charlotte: if we get all those spots, will have place for all of our lines. Backing up QUabbin: will be putting those in forest plantings; almost same.

We have been recently planting twice as many from each line plus our survival way up. We essentially have our 40 lines.

Atlantic Union College

Jamie glad to be contact person, could use it for replication spot. Still tentative.

North Hadley Architectural Timber Frame Company property – potential demo site? Tom Harris.

Russ Hensel in Dartmouth – still interested. However we might use hardware cages.

Envirothon – Mt. Wachusett in Gardner – can we do a scenic planting like in Riverbend. Have 269 acres. Have Natural Resources program.

Charlotte: can we get a commitment to maintaining an orchard? School club responsible for it or someone else?

Jamie: ordering materials

Bluex Planters:

Mike Novack has 2

John Meiklejohn has 1
(Charlotte may pick up)
John Mirick brought one

Tags: Charlotte has
But didn't bring

Orleans: should order materials anyway. Rufin will get.

Fred worried about our soil mix.
Jamie – we have had better results
Making tri-mix more labor-intensive
Our soil very different from Meadowview's
We tend to have more summer droughts than Meadowview also

Westerly: have some materials
Getting address from Bruce Goodsell

Jamie: have had good experience with 18 inch. Better growth. Not spindly.
Same diameter as 11 inch.
Bluex salesman likes chestnuts.
Tell Jamie your needs for orchards.
Hasn't heard from John Meiklejohn, Worthington people. (Charlotte – has been taken care of.)
Osmocote

Jim Garland – has a lot off difficulty with deer, will be Bitrexing soon
Buys sprayers from hardware store, replaces. They clog.
John Emery uses cheap pump ones and does manage to rinse them out.

Irrigation: can water 300 tree orchards off garden hose
Can put irrigation system in at same size
Jamie needs to know dimensions
Within 10 feet, when done planting will measure and tell Jamie

Leila: what controls nuts?
Jamie: may need F1s
Chinese: John Mirick – have 17-18 trees, squirrels do a great job of planting.
Can come up with 1-year-old sprouted Chinese trees.
Charlotte: if National has certain viable crosses that reliably produce F1s, we would very much like them to make more for us as they are so hard to predict and produce.

We've had trouble with germination of nuts that Fred has sent, too.
Leila: Sara has had around 20% germination
Make reciprocal crosses

Jamie: many germinate, get up 5 inchese, then turn black and die.

Fred told Charlotte: some crosses are good
Leila: Sara has some crosses that she knows work better

This sort of refutes idea that lots of cross-pollination occurred

Afternoon Board Meeting: 1:20

Dave U., Denis, Lois, Kathy, Brad, Mike M., Jim G., Mike N., John E., Jamie, Charlotte, Rufin, Yvonne, John M., Bruce S.

Leila Pinchot (New England science coordinator), Emma Le Roch (member)

i.-ii.) Summary of morning activities:
Orleans dropped out, have other opportunities

iii.) Report on MEES Conference
Lois: we had a great reception for our presentation

x.) Environmental Education
Does MATACF want to be a signatory onto NCLB Act?

iv.) Report on New England Flower Show
Interesting contact: archaeologist, Sturbridge Land Trust – proposing that they have an orchard.
People always want to know when they can get a tree.

vi.) Society Row Plant Sale – charge \$25 for booths. Have sold plants, gotten members.
May 20th, 6:30 – 4pm. Wellesley. Brad needs help. Sunday.

Mike M. : Middlesex Conservation District sells plants each year. Near Billerica.

Rufin: Meeting – International Society of Arboriculture. 2008 in Providence. Gets people from all over. Rufin gave a talk.
Mike N. we should have potted trees.
We should start some trees.

Mike M: has a bucket truck model – 2.5 feet; would like a 3-foot chestnut tree... Doesn't have to have chestnut leaves.

Lois: Big E: have been asked to plant a more mature chestnut for a permanent exhibit. Chestnut needed. We will need to plant 2-3.
Jamie: can easily supply 2-3 year old trees – BC3s.
Might get 3 good trees from Jamie, he can get the surviving ones to Lois.
DCR probably hiring 2 people to take care of all the plantings
Mass. Building has lots of space.
Elm is going in too.

Yvonne: chestnut poster presented at RI Natural History Survey Conference in March; made good contacts; Westerly people might have seen us there a few years ago

Acushnet – town might interested in chestnut. Town clerk.

vii.)

Leila: New England Growers Meeting

4 main subjects:

Breeding orchard best practices

Seeding orchards

Insurance & Interns

Data management

Best practices – old ag field in Maine, very high mortality, high winds, lots of dieback

Main message: don't put 16 lines in 1 spot

Also don't want to overwhelm the 1 orchard manager

Dave U. – trees do better on forest, then cropped, then hayed – old study

Jamie: points out that have meetings like that that are valuable

National's general liability doesn't cover state chapters when using interns.

Planning for seed orchards: managing orchards is a big concern. 27K trees/chapter

Plots are 150 trees; 20 will make up a block; 9 blocks

4 or 5 blocks in 1 location, rest dispersed. (Sara)

Managing 150 trees – trees 1 foot apart, little weeding, not much mowing

Leila: can organize a trip to Sara's B3F2 orchard in PA. Sara's not yet inoculated. Look good.

Jamie: we need to plan a trip to PA.

Makes sense to have in at least 4 places.

Need to start searching for these people now.

Will have a trickle of nuts from backcross orchards – not synchronized

Data management.

Tree locator forms

Good way to keep track of forms

Charlotte: Mother trees – might be good to look for really special ones

Jamie: current db ones – many have died

We're not actively looking for new trees, but people may tell us.

May be able to find a few that we can use to add more genetic diversity

Orchard data: much easier if we have same format; if haven't received it yet, and have an orchard, please let Leila know.

Distribution of materials – for Charlotte

Height measurements

Inches

Charlotte - Relevant thing is biomass, but we can't measure that.

Leila – prefers that first few years, do in inches

J/C: trees die back etc.

Leila – 6 inches difference in first few years is big difference

Jamie – first year 12-15 inches

Charlotte – height doesn't take into account the root growth. Height is a fairly good estimate. However adding precision is meaningless.

Brad – has always used inches; doesn't mind

Charlotte: may grow a few more inches

Bruce: should be measured in dormant season

Discussion on measuring techniques

Bruce thinks measuring to inch is fairly simple

Charlotte/Jamie/Mike N.: windy sites very difficult; unclear if getting accuracy that the precision seems to indicate by measuring to inch

Say browsed or not; that should be recorded along with height.

Charlotte: 1-2 week different in bud break in field

Moved to table the conversation? Informally

Some people plan to use inches, others unclear

Brad: asked Leila to send us a data sheet of orchards – filled out

Ours was partially used as a model so similar anyhow

Brad: would like mutual visits between states

Leila will go up to Maine on June 16th.

Will try to organize trip.

Inoculating here on June 9th.

7.25 hrs to PSU

What is Mass chapter's greatest success? Greatest hindrance?

What if had \$10,000? \$100,000?

Chipper? Brush? Resprouting... Root grafting. Can kill one you want to keep.

How to suppress non-resistant root stock. Problem.

John E.: insurance?

Mike M: funds – research on chestnut genome – local genetic analysis?

Charlotte – that is a coordinated effort

Charlotte: fencing against deer for seed orchards

Rufin:

Deployment: approved Oct. 2005

Kim Steiner & ? reviewed; contentious issues

National has more control over farms with research.

Early on nuts will go to researchers and members of foundation, eventually members of public

Very difficult to have high security around trees

If have agreement, are they sending people up to harvest the nuts

Appalachian Trail Walk

Work with Jerry Cormier – anniversary of TACF.

Each Chapter would have 1 event in their state. Still in planning stages.

Can ask all our members to come meet.

iv.) Pollination goals:

Clapper: 26 lines with >50 trees

7 lines with 15-48 trees

Graves: 16 lines with >50 trees, most are >100.

Mahogany (Graves) 3

Graves: 6 new ones this year

This may affect our seed orchard lines

Mike N: this should decrease our total number of trees in seed orchards

If we do around 6 trees, we could use F1s, also do regular pollinations

Trees that can be reached with a ladder are good

Dave U.: Tree at former Monsanto spot... Saw an active lesion heal up

Charlotte: probably soil bacillus splattered up onto lesion

We could use more mother trees in western MA

Jamie: northern trees – closer between leafout and pollination

Charlotte got a report on a Southboro tree

New Hampshire: blighted tree north of Lundberg; full of sprouts

Rufin: tree in Upton on Ridge Road – hypovirulence
Ground covered with burs in fall

Dave: worked with hypovirulence with person

Jamie: would like Leila to get more F1s

Yvonne: could get American pollen from RI trees, take up to MA Chinese at John M.'s
Chinese bloom before Americans, so want to move RI American pollen north because of
difference in bloom times between RI & MA

Letter to Senator Kennedy:

John: an occasional letter should be fine, “propaganda” can't be substantial part of our
activities

**Motion that we add our names to letter the Senator Kennedy regarding adding more
Environmental Education to the NCLB Act. Mike N. Seconded: Charlotte**

Passed unanimously.

Letter should refer to the specific draft we saw to make sure that we.

Being Socialized to animals and plants is actually important at a certain stage of
development.

xi.) Publicity: now is time to schedule any long-term project to capture
bagging/pollination/harvest/planting

Kathy: Envirothon – there will be publicity there; Marty videotaped our annual meeting

Xii.) Treasurer's Update

Mike and John

Mike presented updated 1st Quarter sheet

Donation came in from Grange in Mike N.'s area, he suggested that we do a presentation
for them.

John M: volunteered to take 2006 info and put into form that an accountant would use
Compare to previous one – want columns that show this.

Consumable supplies show going up – can see.

2005 provisional due to Mike's fire

In notes area of Balance Sheets, John says lots of important guidelines for our org.
financial policies can be stated.

Depreciation policy: he recommends that any item more than \$500 that is non-
consumable be depreciated and included on the balance sheet.

Irrigation supplies are consumable and not counted.

Small consumables that are leftover. Are they “material” – is it just a few bags? Any amounts not consumed might be immaterial and not included as assets.

Someone looking at our financial statements might look at our grants. Our grants “normally” dispersed in year in which received, don’t have to make separate accounting unless granting agency asks for this. In 2005 the Sudbury went to irrigation. However, to be scrupulous BETTER to track where grant money went.

Fire loss: if lost computer and related equipment. If compare 2005/6, have to note.

Since John did this once, can now do going forward.

No good software for a non-profit of our size.

Mike M: why not software for a form 990? Mike N: old Quickbooks didn’t do what we need – wasn’t really for nonprofits...

If we were bigger, some software might save time, but for us easier to do it this way.

Everyone thanked John Mirick for making a very understandable report.

Places like Sudbury Foundation will like this report.

Yvonne: should this go on our website? Answer was yes. Many nonprofits do.

Motion: We adopt the method of reporting and accounting demonstrated on the PDF handed out today April 15, 2007. “Financial Statement”. Operating Statement, Balance Sheet, and Notes. Mike M. Seconded, Brad. Passed Unanimously.

The one on the State website is the official one. Yvonne needs to use that on our website instead of the version she got from Anne Myers, left on this computer.

Mike N. has to do Form 990, Form PC. State Govt wants to see federal form even though Fed. Doesn’t want it filed because we are too small (<25K\$) They want to make sure we are not running a sham fundraising.

Secretary’s report Kathy Desjardin

Feb. 468

March 442 members – always getting new members, old ones expiring.

Genzyme Corp. would like to know if we would lecture for them.

Envirothon: if can do demo planting or other presence

At Mt. Wachusett Community College. May 10.

Inoculations:

Brad: Tower Hill, Lincoln

John – disadvantage – spreading inoculations over 2 years –

Pluses or minuses

Charlotte: critical if controls are right size
Need about 10 F1s
John E: does not have 10 F1s of right size
Virtually all 2003 trees in Lincoln will be ok in Lincoln
But not Wayland – so would prefer to wait year
Decision made just to go with Tower Hill

Brad: keep in back of mind annual meeting

Motion to approve minutes from last meeting: Brad, seconded Charlotte. Passed unanimously.

Listserves for announcements
Current membership – general announcements – Yvonne needs database list of emails from Kathy

Kathy passed out Seedlings for event handouts
Send Brad pictures from events

Mike N. Proposal to ask Brian Clark who owns Ashfield-Holly to join our board.

\$160/year to mail nonprofit; had a delay this year because of cost structure with post office – we found a cheaper method

**Summer Meeting:
Saturday July 14th**