
*** MATACF Morning Orchard Meeting 04-13-08**

Bruce Spencer, John Mirick, Denis Melican, Lois Breault-Melican, Jim Garland, Gary Jacob, Frank Howard, Kathy Desjardin, Yvonne Federowicz, John Emery, Jamie Donalds, Mike Meixsell, Brian Clark, Mike Novack, Charlotte Zampini, John Meiklejohn, Brad Smith, Leila Pinchot, Guy Shepard

Lots of money spent on Osmocote this year. Could be our peak year. Do by end of May?

Leila: data standardization presentation - see separate handout - Leila went over peoples' questions

Additional notes:

"unk" = unknown

"op" is open pollinated

Tree codes

Row & Position or Tag# - has to be unique - whichever is easier for you

Year 2000 pollinations are not in Leila's spreadsheet; we need to find. On Anne's laptop?

Keep all info about dead trees, just make a new row underneath; first replacement is (same code)-R1

Our height/DBH measurements vary somewhat...

Standard is height=feet & DBH=inches

Leila's number is: (203) 907-7429

call before 10:30 pm.

Inoculations:

We are just inoculating Wrentham; we are going to be able to use just the materials from last year.

*Yvonne to send sFTP instructions to Gary

*** Afternoon Board Meeting 1 pm**

Board Members: Bruce Spencer, John Mirick, Denis Melican, Lois Breault-Melican, Jim Garland, Gary Jacob, Frank Howard, Kathy Desjardin, Yvonne Federowicz, John Emery, Jamie Donalds, Mike Meixsell, Mike Novack, Charlotte Zampini, Brad Smith, Guy Shepard, Rufin Van Bossuyt

Others: Leila Pinchot, Brian Clark, John Meiklejohn

Guest: Jim Wood, long-time member from Lexington, MA since 1992.

Jim is on Lexington Tree Committee; got good amounts from town & state for trees. Is also lead for Lexington Tree Nursery.

Spot with accessible water. Person nearby waters. Going to plant 130 trees this year. Future is street and park trees. \$500/tree if pay for everything 2.5in caliper tree. If grow own, much less. \$50/tree. Using tree planting bags. Roots will be contained in the bag.

Jim would like hybrid nuts in at least 2 possibly 3 locations. As American as possible. Lexington getting more into the environment. Have a bylaw about planting replacements for certain trees destroyed during development.

They are looking toward next spring, they have details to work out. Rufin says best also.

Charlotte says we have lots of progeny from current orchards, unknown genetics (op), nowhere to put them.

Gary says easier to water if rows. Unclear if they'd like to do that. John E. says use nut-starting protocol protections.

Charlotte - we can help with that
Town needs to sign a germplasm agreement
Yvonne said don't forget F2 trees will mostly get ugly even if survive blight

Jim says they tend not to log
We have signage?

Need a sign for a demonstration woodlot/orchard

John Emery is very close; deer will be an issue - need high hardware cloth

Lexington people have tags.

Decision: keep track of mother trees and lines involved, get mortality feedback.

**MOTION: Chapter will provide to Lexington Tree Committee excess unselected nuts from our BC3 orchards of unknown origin for woodlot planting; Tree Committee will provide us yearly updates on survival and growth of the trees and signed germplasm agreement.
Jamie, seconded Guy.**

Passed unanimously.

Mike Novack brought up similar issue.
"Azure Green" - occult goods supplier - very community oriented

Future similar situations: how to handle.

We would like a formal request from whomever is to get them.

TABLED for future situations.

In Providence -

Greenhouse space: Has access to space for growing chestnuts.

Does he have an outside space too?

Germinating requires dormancy stage.

Useful for F1s - will determine if they will keep going... Can he get them to survive? Sunscald etc.

Rodent problems if outside. In greenhouse until May.

National Grid is going to renovate, no more meetings here.

Westborough on Route 9? Not open on weekends.

Seed orchard presentation at Moore was great.

NEXT MEETING Moore State Park.

Cookout for Leila's going away part. Saturday, July 19th?

Charlotte can usually get space in Framingham State.

Medway Senior Ctr - Gary Jacob.

Audubon facility in Worcester?

Purgatory Chasm

River Bend

Jamie would like to move meetings around.

Treasurer Report - Mike Novack

Insurance money came in as cash value

MOTION:

Approve up to \$500 for Mike to purchase hardware, software to upgrade/replace chapter financial computer systems - Mike, Brian, Yvonne as subcommittee to choose technology.

MOVED Jamie, Seconded Frank, approved unanimously.

Secretary report: Kathy Desjardin

Membership at 382. Talking about electronic communications. Only have 138 email addresses, some are out-of-date from 5 years ago.

So we may not have good communication method electronically. National needs to update its information... Can't send out emails and get everyone.

* National needs to update when they send in renewals.

* We can ask our members by snailmail if they would like to be contacted electronically.

* Send in update to the Bark on our chapter.

* Membership renewals don't seem to have email info options.

Guy: choice of color online or black&white printed newsletter

Email link to newsletter on website, not newsletter itself.

Brad needs more articles and help.

Jamie: contact with membership important. Need to send *something*.

Email is a notice w/link.

Brad will send Yvonne a simple Seedlings.
1 page or so. Using existing emails.

Each of us will get 20 names or so.

Call to see if want emailed Seedlings or hard copies.

Option for people would be to go to masschestnut.org and email their name to Kathy.

Also - sending out 2 page Bulletin newsletter paper will have request for email for future electronic communications.

Yvonne will get bounces back.

Phone calls can be a burden, also people can get irritated.

First will be the paper short from Brad.

Brad will also send an article to National for new Bark.

Dick Skinner from Mendon called; has Chinese trees - could make F1s.

Produced crop last year.

Rufin - we have Upton trees. Charlotte - not a big issue.

Natalie Greene in touch with Charlotte.

Joseph Sowicke - Sandwich - daughter has orchard in Ashville. He has 100 acres in Phillipston.

Enthusiastic.

Orchard Planting: Southbridge to be planted -

Dartmouth - Russ Hensel.

River Bend replanting can't be done this year. Can put in missing F1s, Chinese, Americans. Need irrigation. May 18th.

Dartmouth also to get irrigation.

Only 150 trees.

More nut planting experiments at Quabbin?

Shelters worked much better for Bruce. Similar areas to last year.

Bruce had conical shelters that worked very well. Will try to find out their origin.

Brad - also were ideas about pepper spraying nuts etc. Not that effective.

We still have nuts, 2 full orchards (duplications) plus replanting at Westerly.

We would like at least 3 more mother trees.

National Meeting Notes:

Rufin:

Paul Sisco worked up a statement for press.

Contract with headhunting firm for new President, Rufin on committee.

Hoping to get someone on by end of year, have a transition period.

We went out to Fallingwater - designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. Owned by Western PA Conservancy. - Cooperative agreement w/TACF.

Trip to China in September - Sara. Around 5 people to go. Chestnut blight in wild in China.

Electron Microscope pics - chromosomes forming an X.

TACF to hire accountant.

Larger org - Federal agencies - more detailed audit - need accountant.

Over 6000 members.

Anne Myers still doing fine, getting 2 orchards established. Susan Cormier on Development Cabinet, has resigned but Gerry still active in Ozark chinkapin initiative.

Glen Rea showed photos of grove of chestnuts - largest is 34" diameter. North of Bangor. Far north of other chestnuts. Old stagecoach road nearby.

Annual meeting to be in Chattanooga, TN. \$1million challenge grant. Concept to have individuals sponsor a tree for \$10K. Looking for 100-200 people to sponsor, will have plaque.

Appropriations Bill \$450K 6new staff.

ADD MORE FROM NOTES

Brad - Might Giants Book Event at Arnold Arboretum. Noon or 4 lecture.

An author lives in Jamaica Plain.

Other places to sell the book?

Rufin - could give books to people who have helped us a lot over the years - softcover?

Rufin will compile list, to be used for books and nut gifts

Deer fencing info from Brian to Yvonne to Kate

Yvonne Discussed:

*** MEETING WITH KATE GIORGI – USDA – RI - NRCS 3/20**

- -For minutes, please see appendix at end of these minutes

Long-range planning in VA

Jamie: 1st Board Meeting

What do we want organization to be in future - 10-15-20 years

When do we dissolve the Foundation?

Four groups in four rooms divided subjects, everyone rotated around. No one could control it.

Timeline will be distributed from Jamie to us. Product of meeting.

Sense of goals. Jamie met lots of people, enjoyed.

Mike Novack needs items for the cabin on AT in MA for our display by mid-May

Our AT week is June 8-15. We will have some type of event - treats, etc.

May 17 Moore is having Park Serve Day - volunteer opportunity -

Need someone to help organize Girl Scouts to fertilize trees.

May 28 is Festival of Flowers.

Going-away present for Leila.

Possible Seed Orchard at Moore? Talking to DCR.

Possible new BOD roster?

We can have 4 consecutive terms.

A few of us are coming up on ours. Original people will have to skip a year and reduce size of Board or Board can waive that bylaw.

We incorporated in 2001.

Mike Meixsell will report to us in July on this.

Y - this will be an issue every year from now on so we need to deal with it.

Quorum issues, total of Board etc.

Tabled until July.

Any Bylaw changes need to be voted on in Annual Meeting this Autumn.

Adjourned 4:10 pm

APPENDIX: Minutes from 3/10 Meeting with USDA-NRCS – RI
Kate Giorgi

Minutes 3-20-08 River Bend Farm Meeting

NRCS - MATACF - funding & RI orchard possibilities

Present:

RI NRCS: Kate Giorgi

MATACF: Charlotte Zampini, Rufin Van Bossuyt, Kathy Desjardin, Yvonne Federowicz

TACF: Leila Pinchot

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* RI NRCS
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Kate - local NRCS staff have agreed that chestnut is an "agricultural interest" and thus comes under their program

RI NRCS can potentially help with nursery issues: deer fencing, weed control. Funding is their major possible contribution.

Kate works in RI only - each state's NRCS has its own policies.
MA has no NRCS biologist. Kate isn't sure who to contact in MA for similar assistance there.

We can apply directly to NRCS if we have control over land (agreement or ownership); otherwise the landowner has to apply.

RI NRCS needs detailed specifics of our needs so that they can funnel funds to us when these become available.

NRCS unable to pay for the irrigation right now.

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* RI LAND TRUSTS
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Their office works with many land trusts. Most have several ongoing projects with NRCS.

Several have expressed interest in MATACF's work. Kate has not yet publicized our work, these are just groups that have asked her about us.

Many land trusts have very active volunteer groups.
- can help with daily maintenance

POSSIBLE NEW & EXISTING RI LAND TRUST ORCHARDS

- * Westerly
- * Conanicut (Jamestown) Island
- * South Kingstown
- * Prudence Island

Prudence Island is ferry service only, but an interested person with nut-growing experience and orchards is there.

Charlotte mentioned that the geographic isolation of such a place could be interesting and useful for our work (isolated from blight?)

This year: 2 new orchards (2 lines each) plus replacement in Westerly of mortalities (6 ft between rows, 7 ft between trees min?)

(Note from after meeting: we don't have the correct nuts to give Westerly its 2nd line this year, will have to wait for next year.)

Westerly to get deer fencing w/help from NRCS this year.
MATACF to install irrigation.

Leila: best model w/land trusts has been 1 person on Chapter Board, 1 person in Land Trust coordinate with each other.

CT & VT: plant test orchards of American chestnut that land trust maintains to see how the group does.

Kate says that NRCS could help such a setup expand into the full orchard, rather than the initial setup.

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* FOLLOWUP ITEMS:

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Rufin will send details of different electric fencing to Kate.
Yvonne to update the "WANTED" live chestnuts poster, send to Kate. (done)
Kate needs list of what we need in an orchard site. (Leila sent.)

CONANICUT, SOUTH KINGSTOWN & WESTERLY - Lots of work to do

(As of 4/10/08: Harvey Perry of Westerly contacting Mr. Lathrop, landowner near orchard w/water

supply, re. having irrigation materials delivered directly to Mr. Lathrop's house.

Westerly replanting needs coordination.

YF trying to contact people in Conanicut, soon S. Kingstown, and Kate re. other orchards.)