

4/25/09 MATACF Morning Orchard Minutes

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Location: Prouty Woods NEFF

Present: Charlotte Zampini, Kendra Gurney, Jim Coulle, John Meiklejohn, Adam Wiskofske, Rufin Van Bossuyt, Brian Clarke, Jamie Donalds, Brad Smith, Mike Meixsell, Kathy Desjardin, Mike Novack, Yvonne Federowicz, John Wnuk, John Emery, Rich Hoffman (later)

Inoculation training – Kendra and Charlotte passed out sample wood pieces, directions

Don't want to get inoculant into ritodome, ridges of bark on tree. Sterilize before each tree. Mike Novack suggested we get separate borers for each strain to help stop cross-contamination, Charlotte liked idea.

ideally inoculate at 4' (dbh 1.5 in. minimum) but want to avoid splash from ground

Have a person going around as the “leader” to decide if trees large enough etc. Could go out beforehand and flag trees to do with tape. Kendra thought about 15 people max would be good, get several teams.

Stirling orchard will be done in early June. Timing is weather-dependant.

Jamie: money has been gifted to the chapter to do inoculation. Need to decide how to use.

Mike Novak: Chinese trees are struggling in his orchard, may never get big enough to inoculate. (Ashfield – Holly)

Adam will send his email; offered assistance at our orchards. Lives in Natick.

June 13th inoculation of John Emery's orchard

Mount Gracie Land Trust interested in getting involved – Mike Novak.

Also Trustees of Reservations

Rhode Island

South Kingstown/MG
20 Americans
20 Chinese
10+F1s
Deer Guard
Bluex
(larger size)

osmocote
Planting mix
(forest soil)

Westerly
Bitrex
bluex
stakes
soil mixes etc.

Glocester
hardware cloth
clips
staples
soil mixes etc.

will need irrigation put in this spring

Another possible RI orchard – head of conservation at Roger Williams Park Zoo

irrigation Berry Hill irrigation from North Carolina has been designing ours
in-line dripper, pressure compensating. Charlotte has the catalog. She might come down next
weekend.

Rufin has sample of hose.

There is a minimum pressure. Pumps? Kendra: if we need orchard supplies, pollination, pump – could
get a grant.

Ask Rudi if they need a pump. About \$500.

John Emery has impermeable mats for around young trees

“Pavement underlaying” worked well for blocking weeds
Lumite or geofabric

tell Rudi about

Ice storm in western MA – first planting at Brian & Mike's – was hit fairly badly.

Rating cankers: Kendra & Fred are wanting to wait a while longer to make final ratings before
removing trees.

Confirming spreading of canker by shaving bark to investigate underneath.

Trees being inoculated may need irrigation due to summer droughts.

If fertilizing, use low-nitrogen. Don't want to encourage growth. Osmocote a little high nitrogen.

John Meiklejohn: would like at Conway a crew to go up, needs attention. (Gerry and Susan had taken
care of.)

Trees being girdled by hardware cloth collars. 4-5 people.
John Emery, Kendra, Charlotte, Mike N., others volunteered.

Mother trees: we do want more:
John Emery needs trees (Clapper) – to Nanking
South Kingstown (Nanking)
Glocester or Westerly – finish line

Reuse possible if doing a different Chinese resistance source

Looking for 8-10 mother trees

Lines of resistance – big range in level of resistance in BC3F2s, even among the best. So there may be need to have more lines American and/or Chinese

Some are good. Others so-so

Kendra: mapping of resistance genes getting further along.

Charlotte: want Meadowview to do pollen viability testing before they send things up to us.

Jim Coule: NEFF deals in sustainable forestry management. Need all types of forest. 23K acres. Also 1.3 million acres in easements. Also have forest stewards. Northern Woodlands magazine – get this if join NEFF. They do patch cutting. Add oak trees.

Ken dra: is New England Growers meeting useful? Yvonne & others – yes – plus let's invite the Canadians.

Forest plantings: have done more. Also comparing pure Americans plus BC3s to compare. Survival varied by height on hillside. Lower better?

Charlotte: would NEFF like to think about forest planting experiments? Jim: definitely.

Hanging soap near things the deer like seemed to keep them away. Perfumed soap the best. Dial. Birds will sometimes eat the soap. Not as effective as Bitrex but practical. One per tree.

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Afternoon Board Meeting

Jim Coule, John Emery, John Meiklejohn, Kendra Gurney, Josh Knox, Charlotte Zampini, Rufin Van Bossuyt, Brian Clarke, Kathy Desjardin, Rich Hoffman, Brad Smith, Mike Meixsell, Mike Novak, Yvonne Federowicz

Josh Knox Trustees of Reservations: guest

Site: water – no outlets, would need a truck, but only 100 yards from yard. Glacial till. Was used for hay. Needed for next year.

We invited Josh back to any of our meetings.

Site is in Monson, MA, south of the Quabbin Reservoir

Treasurer's report.
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Mike passed out report.
Spring ordering of supplies is main annual expense.
Signage expense this year.
Annual meeting cost last year was higher, but an invoice from 2007 got transferred to 2008. But expenses
We have funds for irrigation but no longer restricted. However we do have restricted inoculation funds.

Motion:
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approve treasurer's report: Brad, seconded John Emery. Unanimously approved.

Voss Signs – large group that does signage. - Josh mentioned. Embossed signs.

Secretary Report
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Membership 355

Kathy can get you lists of members in your town if you're in need of help.

Project for Garden Club of America – (Alice?) has chosen the chestnut tree – could help with mother trees, propagation, education. John Emery mentioned inoculation.

Marty Jessell – can he help with planting? has 2 acres. Nearby water, etc. Could be a resource.
Had a request from Nova Scotia. Minnesota, woman found another

ISA Conference July 25th – Rufin isn't sure we have an official spot. Not sure if Meghan Jordan has contacted them or not. We need to be sure that we get a spot.

New member: David Frazier: Pittsfield arboretum (Vincent j. ?) would like to collaborate with us in some way.

Rufin: at Tower Hill, on Sept. 20 there is a celebration – would we set up a display? Open to public for free. Sunday.

Phosphite testing at Tower Hill – Charlotte. Looking for Americans. Pentrabark helps it penetrate through the bark. Maybe fungicide, maybe stimulating plant's immune system.

Has also been used for phytophthora.
Write-up in Journal of Arboraculture. online
Considered environmentally friendly.

Approval of winter minutes:

change: tree that John Emery reported was Wayland, not Sudbury. with correction: Brad moved, John Emery seconded. Unanimously approved.

Orchard Signage:

John Meiklejohn: lots of work done on language. 3 general signs, 4 tailored ones. 1 replacement panel for Moore State Park. Proofs will come first. Total: \$1686. Need a Board vote.

Need downpayment etc.

John Emery: moves that we approve the purchase of this number of signs: 22 panels total = 7 sets of 3 plus one replacement. \$1686. Charlotte seconds. Unanimously approved.

Charlotte: should we pay for signage about \$100 for Greg Buzzell of DCR – at Wachusett Reservoir – would like to put up an explanatory sign. Single Panel. Test of chestnut reestablishment.

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Motion:

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We authorize up to \$100 expenditure on a sign for the test site at Wachusett Reservoir. Brad motions, Yvonne seconded. Unanimously approved.

Kendra: Bill Adamson has put up custom signs done at Staples. Uses own photos.

Kendra: National Meeting:

Brian's first meeting. Talked about communication a lot. Proposed

Restoration branches – fundraising in local area. Wild Turkey Foundation does that.

Will be working on more Press Tools. Meghan has new database of press contacts. Getting boilerplate info about chapter programs.

Meghan & Kendra can help write press releases. Could potentially give a copy to reporters.

Learning Boxes: Gary Carver of MD: laminated binder with info about chestnut species, hands-on things in box. Nature Centers have been very receptive to this type of material. Fundraising or give-away?

Grant proposals – we can get in by May 8th.

NE Regional Meeting

Keeping track of volunteer hours so we can use volunteer labor in matching grants.

Mike Novack – definitely should put that in. Helps people think they are getting leverage for \$\$\$.

If we could put in on web page.

UVM has a “germplasm conservation orchard” chestnut grafting...
Forest plots near Middlebury – cold tolerance – carb storage. Stem cold tolerance. Also could do other things. have trees from TN up to ME. Having certain sugars in stem helps protect from cold damage. Or is the forest canopy helping shield the trees more?

Southern chapters looking for replacement for Paul Cisco.

Rufin: talked to Anne Myers on Thursday. Board doesn't mind travel to National meetings. Need to keep abreast of Executive Board decisions, be sure chapters also get

Yvonne did Powerpoint talk at MG/SKLT – then saw site with group; then we went up to Foster & Gloucester to see field-sited orchards with group. They saw orchards at different stages.

Seed orchard development:

John Meiklejohn – Jamie asked John if he would be an initial contact person for these. Bring things back to the Board. He can give them the basic info.

Mike Novack – if test plots 20% larger, can be reused about 3 times. Can put more trees in and select 2 more, then end up with higher density in a few years.

Inoculation: Stirling, Lincoln, Wayland

Mother Trees – as many as we can find. F1s were distributed.

Technology Task Force (Yvonne)

conference call Monday am

Brad: chestnut Facebook for chapters.

John Emery : tracking – (y) Google Analytics – where are people coming from

Mike Meixsell:

Google Group for tree reporting? For hours reporting

Yvonne mentioned security concerns with our current mother tree reporting page.

Would like to use online services more for this reason.

Mike N.- weed whackers: brush cutters

Josh: 3-tine ones are better, less to sharpen. Some companies not making anymore?

Lightweight push string cutters – only one type available now.

Seed orchard spacing will be much tighter. How will equipment fit? Brian: easier to mow if you can go in both directions.

Mike is still researching these – options will change next year.

Worcester tree campaign: Asian longhorn beetle invasion has caused removal of many spp; City is looking for replacement spp. We may

Distribution committee: BC3F3 seeds to oldest 200 members. Daphne will get us a list of who offer

was made to, who has accepted. Fred has lots of seeds that need homes etc.

Jamie to follow up on Worcester planting.

Newsletter: Brad interested in doing a small update. Would like to do a small update – 1-page. Contact people etc.

John Meiklejohn: reimbursements of supplies: has covered his own supplies. Is Roundup covered? Others have. Keep slips and send to Mike N. There was a price limit.

Rufin: have wood from tree, if people like plaques, think about content. 100 Board-Feet.

Kendra: TN put together display from chestnut wood.

adj 3:26