

TACF-MA/RI Spring meeting
 April 28, 2013
 Orchard Manager's Meeting
 Smith College
 W. Whately MA

Board Members: Yvonne Federowicz, President; Lois Melican, Vice-President; Mike Novak, Treasurer; Rufin Van Bossuyt; Charlotte Zampini; Jamie Donald; Denis Melican; Mike Meixell; John Emery; Rich Hoffman; Brian Clark; Gary Jacob; Elizabeth Hammond; Kendra Gurney, Science Coordinator; John Mirick

Guests: TACF Intern, Bob Prescutti; Gary Novak; Paul Wetzell;

Meeting opened 11:52	
Learning Box	New info to go into Learning Box
Buzz Constable	Has contacted John Emery
Demo Planting Committee	Rufin planted 5 at River Bend, 5 at Garden in the Woods; 5 at Nimrod Gun Club
Seed Orchard Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We need 18 blocks with 3,000 trees in each plot. That is 9 blocks for each line of Chinese resistance. The only way we could do more than two is if the cooperator/Orchard Manager is willing to take charge of the operation. • Charlotte wondered if we could expand our relationship with Garden in the Woods, as they have a farm in Western Mass and are experienced in growing and caring for trees. Paul W could talk with them about the need to continue this partnership. • Jamie asked if we could get help from National and possibly get a large cooperator or company who would have the resources for this. \Mike Novak suggested that development for us is trying to raise volunteers for the work that lies ahead. • Granville workday has been changed to May 1. • Mass Fish & Wildlife would like to establish a seed orchard at their new green Headquarters building, a draft proposal has been submitted to them, they have the land, they have finances available, we would share the nuts they have over 300,000 acres across the state. Rufin has talked with National and they are on board on this. They would start with a one acre planting. The chestnuts would be shared. • The Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) site in Uxbridge is not accessible to the road and may be difficult to water, but if they are willing to sign a germplasm agreement, we could do a seed orchard there. ACE is proceeding slowly because of sequestration, hopefully this will be resolved. Jeff Krause from National might be able to help with this partnership; things had been progressing well. • John Emery had cycled his orchard into a Nanking orchard but has no room for extra trees.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gary Jacob has some land that needs to be manicured, but could be used if it was brushed out. • Seedlings are in 1 year steuie pots. The Southboro Nanking BC3's need to go in the ground within a month – Charlotte will re-pot them. John Emery does have room in Lincoln, and he could plant these with some help. Now there are 4 lines of trees that are just beginning to start. • Tower Hill may not have room for another orchard. • We need another line for Lincoln, and we need one more tree and Nankings and these are going into the Ashfield orchard. Charlotte will take these 70 seeds. • Smith College had 106 seeds planted this morning (4.28.13). • We need a trencher for irrigating at Smith College.
Hebert Arboretum/City of Pittsfield, Mass.	We are nearly ready to sign a germplasm agreement with the City of Pittsfield. The mayor is very supportive. John Mirick is willing to help with the MOU.
Newburyport	Not ready
Colrain	Scott Sylvester is the contact person for this site. We need to nail down the long term details. Yvonne asked if the chapter members can tend another orchard without the land owner taking ownership of all the work and other responsibilities involved, as well for the term of the agreement. It would be great if there was a way to get other groups involved to work on this orchard. Jamie will work on this.
Mt Washington	Ethan Dufault – They are not ready. The site was OK, and he wanted to sell nuts as part of permaculture.
Maine	They have lots of land but not many volunteers. Either university or land trust land might be available. New England Forestry Foundation may be interested in helping,
S. Kingston	Agreement is going well
Easton	The town of Easton has a conservation organization that may be interested in an orchard.
Bristol County Aggie	They were very interested, they have the buildings, equipment, and volunteers
Cooperators	Gary asked if the cooperators would attend our meetings, or would they become an independent entity? Kendra suggested that the cooperators attend one meeting a year. This would apply to Land Trusts also.
Grant Purchase Needs	<p>Brian purchased \$2,000 worth of materials toward the grant, we have approx. \$3000left for this year. We could come up with a list like fertilizer, deer fencing ready to go would be appropriate Jamie has the irrigation ready to go, Brian said he would be uncomfortable ordering fencing as so much depends on the site and site needs.</p> <p>Kendra suggested using the money as a match if someone want to purchase their own fencing. Kendra also said this is a big thing to store. Kendra suggested that we just plan the purchase and we can purchase later.</p>
Roguing	Rufin asked about roguing costs, we need a trencher at Smith, Medway has quite a few trees that need to come out, Brian offered to come with a chipper, if we organize this, Brian can come for the day. We'll need to cut out

	<p>the canker area and burn these, we can chip the rest, but we don't want to chip them in place. Gary said we may be able to get something from the town. Charlotte suggested that if we had enough people we could drag the branches to chip and have a separate burn pile.</p> <p>What do we do with the chips? Sell for biofuel. If we get the trees down we can use the nuts next year Who can take this on? Gary will start ordering this and Denis volunteers for doing this task. Burn permits are only good until May 1 and this cannot be considered agricultural land. Chipping If we could get in here and cut out the inoculation we could come back next year</p>
Seed Distribution	<p>From Tower Hill and some F1s and some Chinese and some F1s. could be made available for Bristol County Aggie. Kendra will provide 20 F1s for Maine. We will need more Chinese as we are using them for controls in each seed orchards there are 10 per plot controls in each seed orchard so we need more Chinese.</p>
Forest Planting Committee	<p>Jim DiMaio has 2 locations. The Hamilton Rod & Gun Club will take 120 mutt nuts. Mike suggested that he has some land available for forest planting,</p> <p>Rufin left nuts out for squirrels as he had nuts stolen by wildlife before and he has found seedlings out in the woods. Was it animals?</p>
Inoculations	<p>Weston, Littleton, Stockbridge is iffy ,as is Princeton</p>

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Guests: Josh TACF Intern; Gary Novak; Paul Wetzell; Katherine Eggleston

Meeting opened 1:40	Meeting was held at the Aida and Archibald McLeish Center at Smith College. Five years ago a proposal was made to create a learning center here including dancing, poetry, wooly adelgid study, now also a chestnut study. Building was built last spring and the college took the :living building challenge to make a building carbon neutral, not toxic materials, no PCBs, many of the materials are locally sourced, energy for the building comes from solar panels, water from the well, composting toilets, Paul Wetzell (host) thanked Brian Clark for all his help in getting the project ready.
Treasurers Report	Treasurer’s report was passed out. We have a pending bank error of 20 cents and they are in the process of taking care of this. We got the grant money for things purchased in 2012. We purchased a case of Mighty Giants books and records show what we have donated and what we have sold. This does not include the postage amount which is listed elsewhere. We’ve taken in more money than we’ve spent so far, but the insurance bill will change this.
January minutes	Michael made a motion to approve the Winter Meeting minutes, the motion was seconded by Brian and passed.
TACF Annual Spring meeting at Meadowview	<p>A fundraising /philanthropy campaign for restoration was started and Rufin was appointed to a governance committee. They’re probably going to get away from the cabinets and go with committees in the future, as there are now many Chapter presidents, etc. on this large board (38 members.) There’s an executive committee and there may be changes in board representation especially with 16 – 17 chapters.</p> <p>Philanthropy – we have lots of science folks, and grass roots chapter members who have direct input and voting rights, but we’re sort of weak in the philanthropic concerns compared to other organizations. Fundraising is a large chunk of our mission, as is making connections.</p> <p>There’s a school of philanthropy that studies how successful groups raise funds. Everyone realized that the chapters are important as that is how the work gets done. One problem is that some presidents are only elected for a year and, therefore never get a chance to know what’s going on. Jamie wonders if this focus will take away from chapter representation in favor of people who have money. John Mirick said there are governance models that</p>

	<p>have different priorities. To be sure there is a lot of local input. Kendra said if the structure changes more to committee work there could be a chapters committee who could represent grass roots members in local chapters. The financial focus could end up compromising our true mission and focus more on money than local input and power.</p> <p>If there are any meetings on local fundraising in your neighborhood, we should attend and learn about this. Kendra said that National has 2 people with fundraising experience, so basically they need help from chapters to ID people they can look to for money.</p> <p>Development is raising money but we are short on volunteers. We may need to create contacts with groups who can supply man hours of labor. Yvonne said we are trying to do this with each seed orchard.</p>
Strategic Plan Committee	<p>No progress to report so far. Pennsylvania did a full day retreat, and one of the benefits is not so much the document but thinking forward about where we need to go..</p> <p>August and September are good times for a meeting like this. Lois, Yvonne, Brad, Kathy, and Kendra. will try to make a date for this.</p>
TACF Project Grow	<p>This is a new national project that Bryan and Gini have developed consisting of a one hour webinar presentation. They'd like to work with the chapter for a year to make the chapter more efficient at fundraising. They hope to get 5 or 6 chapters on board to act as examples to other chapter to see if it was successful. VA is signed on, no one in NE yet. The goal is so that National can provide better support to the chapters.</p>
Summer meeting	<p>Brian Clark is happy to host the summer meeting, Gini could be invited to our Summer Board Meeting. We can do this the 4th weekend in July.</p>
Secretary's report Presentations	<p>Our membership stands at 307 members. There hasn't been a huge change. The new insurance policy came in; bank statement coincides with the Treasurer's Report.</p> <p>Chestnut Hill Garden Club presentation was very well received, a large donation was made to National after this talk.</p> <p>Tower Hill Botanic Garden tabling day was good.</p> <p>Kathy has a new box of brochures and copies of the Journal.</p> <p>May 11 there is a planting in W. Brookfield (get nuts from Kathy)</p> <p>Rufin led a walk in Orleans and had 20 people.</p> <p>Elizabeth met with some Moose Hill Audubon Society members and they are considering a small demo planting.</p> <p>Gary made a motion to approve the Secretary's Report, this was seconded and approved.</p>

<p>Internship</p>	<p>Legal issues, if you are a paid worker, you cannot volunteer to work for the organization. This is federal labor law.</p> <p>Another issue is board members vs. interns. We are not in a position nor is it a good idea to have board members who are also interns or paid employees, this involved technical and legal issues.</p> <p>As board members we have responsibilities to the mission of the group. Trying to benefit financially is a conflict of interest. We could get audited, or possibly face a drop in donations. Likely the original board was not aware of this when they wrote out bylaws.</p> <p>Mike Novak said a nonprofit is not prohibited from doing it, but it makes this much more complicated and filling out the forms much more difficult.</p> <p>Brian asked if we should change our bylaws to reflect this, however the board has discussed this and decided not to change the bylaws because of the “may” word.</p> <p>Jamie wonders how the board feels about this. We will not compensate board members for work that other board members do for free.</p> <p>John Mirick suggests we come up with some wording on this for the next meeting. Form 28283 is 14 cents per mile reimbursement that members may use if they choose.</p>
<p>Funding for intern work</p>	<p>We have about \$1,000 in this account. Josh has mentioned that he is still interested in doing part time work. If there’s anyone who need help, but if he gets a job this could change.</p>
<p>Summer intern</p>	<p>At Bristol Aggie a girl expressed interest in being an intern for us. She will be going to Unity College in Maine next year. Her teacher Brian Bastarache expressed a lot of confidence in her, she is doing a lot of great projects.</p> <p>The supervising of the intern could be an issue. She is Kathryn Cummings.</p> <p>John Emery needs help with pollination. Kendra cannot be in charge of a person, but she can handle time sheets, etc. for the chapter. Possibly we need a point person for this task. Possibly Kendra can handle the paperwork and send this on to Yvonne. The total amount is \$1,000. Are we clear about the amount of work? Do we have a lot of roguing and inoculation that will keep the person busy? Mike Novak suggested that we make it \$2,000. As we are taking in enough money to be able to afford this. We are supposed to be using this money for our mission.</p> <p>Jaime made a motion that we allocate \$2,000 for intern work this spring and summer. This was seconded and approved. Brian has a time card that everyone can use. This will be administered by Kendra and the member of the person responsible for the project. This document will be sent out to everyone to use.</p> <p>Yvonne suggested that both interns be invited to each work project. Time elements and location could make a difference here. We need to find out Kathryn’s availability.</p> <p>A motion was made that we offer Kathryn Cummings the chance to be an intern with us this summer. This was seconded and approved.</p>
<p>Seed orchard legal agreements</p>	<p>We’ll have to do something with MassWildlife, probably an MOU;</p>
<p>Spring Spending</p>	<p>Let’s allow the executive committee to handle funds into autumn. Brian asked if we can authorize \$175 for a trencher.</p>

Leaf Assay Meeting	Kendra said they've discovered a leaf assay for blight resistance, you can do about 20 trees at a time. This will not replace our practice of inoculating trees, but it is a tool that can be used to explore but not a new go to philosophy. So far this has only been used on clonal populations. Kendra and Brian and Charlotte would like to try this. Brian talked about how this was done and he got the impression that it was dependent on lots of conditions. Mike suggested that we use this on Chinese trees and see how it works on stressed trees.
Heath Fair	We've been invited to speak at a small agricultural fair and we can have a space that will be left up for the entire time the fair is set up. The fair lasts Friday night, Saturday and Sunday afternoon. Saturday is the busiest day. The dates are in mid-August. 16 – 18.
Database of images	We'll work on this
Note Card Order	We got a quote from George 100 note cards and envelopes is \$200 for 100 cards, for \$200 there is much more, these are for us to use. We probably would use 20 per year. 100 note cards and envelopes \$298. 200 note cards and envelopes \$455. Design is \$25. George Fed ex 250 sheets – 500 cards is \$417. If we need cards for chapter business we could get these from Judy for probably less money. Can Susan O'Reilly or Susan Barns help get these printed for us?
Wachusett Meadow	Has more opportunity for talks. Elizabeth thought that each Audubon would want a demo planting, but this did not work out. We did get one more Audubon sanctuary that wants to join. Wachusett Meadows has a Friday seminar series and they want to keep up with the latest chestnut news so they'd like a talk each year.
New England Grows	We met with a representative of the MA Tree Wardens Association who would like TACF to speak at their annual meeting
Land & Water Conference	The Land & Water conference went very well. Gini has a database about different philanthropic foundations that do these type of things. Yvonne will ask Gini about this group. .
Master Gardeners	We should be keeping a list of the Master Gardeners' Symposiums. We should also be keeping lists of events and create a spreadsheet of events for future programming use.