
* January 19, 2008 MA-TACF Morning Growers & Afternoon Board Meetings

Attendees:

Morning:

Board Members: Lois Breault-Melican and Dennis Melican, Michael Novack, Jamie Donalds, Rufin Van Bossuyt, Guy Shepard, Kathy Desjardin, Gary Jacobs, John Emery, Brad Smith
Others: Brian Clark, Kate Georgi, Leila Pinchot.

GROWERS MEETING

Jamie: Handed out Charlotte's email about orchards and inoculations.

-Started Nanking pollinations, need a new orchard for the Nanking.

-Chapters should generate their own line of resistance. Is this a national policy?

-Priorities: Inoculation: may have to inoculate 4 orchards this year. This involves a lot of work and a lot of labor. Frank Howard is putting forth \$5000 to inoculations.

Rufin: Charlotte suggested that chapter should use the money for next year when there will be many more inoculations.

Jamie: Suggested staggered inoculation.

Leila: Fred uses staggered inoculation for B3-F2 generation; some progeny will have high resistance.

Fred doesn't know if small B3-F1 trees can survive inoculation, even if staggered.

Jamie: Natural blight is coming into several orchards; therefore we need to inoculate soon.

Jamie: Should wait until most trees in a line are large enough rather than inoculating as they grow to the right size. Unless blight is coming into an orchard, in which we should think about inoculating.

Jamie: What supplies do we need for inoculations? Jamie and Leila to talk about supplies for 2008 inoculation. Want to focus this year on growing the existing orchards. Make sure trees are fertilized, that irrigation is available for orchards that need it to grow trees as fast as possible.

Lancaster was hit hard due to drought, Westerly had a tough year, have room for a third line; want to put in an irrigation line. One line of Nanking, Charlotte would like to pollinate another Nanking cross this year.

Gary: Are we going to use Upton Chinese again this year?

Jamie: F1s are a big issue. Low germination. Sent some F1 nuts to University of Tennessee to get better germination rates and hopefully get us caught up with F1s in our orchards. 5-10% germination for F1s.

Michael N: Should make F1 crosses with Upton.

John E: Have you tried cutting open the nuts to help the shoot emerge from the nut.

Jamie: F1 nuts most put out radicle grow to a certain point, turn black and die. Not looking to create a third source of resistance from Upton Chinese tree.

Michael N: Sources of resistance: B3-F3s: possible to introduce into B3F3 population new Chinese to introduce resistance diversity.

Jamie: Hesitant to put a lot of energy into third source of resistance because it isn't clear that a local source of resistance will be different than Fred's sources of resistance. Would prefer to put energy into Nanking line.

Michael N: Limited sample of trees from China, limited sources of resistance.

Rufin: There has been some change of thinking at National. Looking for additional sources of resistance. Looking for tall Chinese trees. National proposal for trip to China.

John E: Handed out sheet titled: Inoculation Readiness at Lincoln and Wayland:
-Describes percentages of each line ready for inoculation at Lincoln and Wayland orchards. Also projects percentages that will be ready by Fall 2008.

Chelmsford and Bedford in Lincoln Orchard may be ready to inoculate this summer. Isn't a lot of blight in Lincoln orchard (but some), so may want to wait, however it may be good to start this spring to learn how to do it and to reduce the number of trees to inoculate in future years. Lower limbs on some trees were lopped off by volunteer – deer then had the chance to get in and rub their antlers on the trees; make it hard to inoculate these trees. Don't have many controls. Lincoln line won't be ready to inoculate for at least 2 years. F1s were mislabeled when given to John; not sure exactly what they are. Wayland orchard: Bad blight problem. Wayland planting is surrounded by woods with chestnut; more blight. Foxboro line only has 32 trees; should be added to another partial tree.

Rufin: Want to inoculate when controls are ready.

Jamie: It's clear that Wrentham and Grafton need to be inoculated this year, especially due to blight in these orchards.

Gary: Wrentham: will have three lines that may be ready to 2009.

SUPPLIES & DROUGHT

Jamie: Planning to continue making purchases for orchards. Need to know soon what supplies are needed: bitrex, fertilizer, irrigation (even for old orchards). Get the word out to all of the orchard managers to know early to send out information. Westerly needs irrigation. Asked Gary for help in getting irrigation systems in.

Michael N: Money is available for irrigation.

John E: During drought his trees grew very little.

Rufin: DCR is making 1.5 million matching grant program. Possibly apply for fencing for Quabbin to protect against Moose. Have to apply by February 5th. Grant is for materials only. Might want to consider a seed orchard at Quabbin. Want to plant seed orchards on land you have long-term control over. Mr. Bicknell in Grafton wants to plant 500 chestnuts. Charlotte will ask Mr. Bicknell if he may donate the use of 4-5 acres for a seed orchard.

Jamie: We should apply for DCR grant.

Rufin: First need to determine dimensions for fence.

Dennis: Gave Director of DCR a copy of "Mighty Giants", sense a request for a fence by TACF would be approved. Moore State Park may be able to plant seed orchards. 60 acres of field.

John: Have to decide how many seed orchard blocks want to plant.

Jamie: Probably better not to have too many small orchards due to management considerations.

Biggest issue addressed by Ann and National is long-term preservation of seed orchard. Need agreement in writing that states long-term use of orchard. Deeded-easement.

Jamie: Had conversations with Leila and Charlotte about converting data into a standardized datasheet.

Leila: Sara is expecting to have her on-line data system ready by April. This is a great time for us to standardize our data, so it is more easily analyzed and to upload into on-line database.

Jamie: Asked Leila to send out worksheet template to the board.

Gary: Suggested list serve specifically for pertinent board information.

Rufin: Orleans B3 seed growing in Ohio.

Jamie: Send them to Westerly orchard.

BOARD MEETING

Attendees: Attendees of Growers meeting and Rich Hoffman, John Mirick, Mike Meixsell

Jamie: Defer assessing Fall Quarterly Minutes due to Yvonne's absence.

Treasurer's Update: Michael N:

-Depreciation: writing off fixed assets that chapter was carrying. Assets such as computers, orchard ladders, other supplies. Handed out Balance sheet, for 2006, 2007, and Income statement for period covering 1/1/07 – 12/31/07. Reports prepared using software GnuCash.

Income statement for year:

-Special donation: \$5000 from Frank Howard. When authorize use of money, will transfer from fund into regular bank account. Income, not accounting donation is about \$6000 and income is just under \$6000. Net loss for period of \$200.

Michael N: For 503c status, 1/3 of donations have to be qualified: have to come from general public, general members, not board members over 5 year periods. If we have too much insider money, we would be considered a private organization.

Gary: Motion to accept report. Jamie seconded. Approved.

Michael N: I burn backups onto CD to store with another board member. Onsite fire safe backup.

Michael gave a cd backup of the data to Jamie for storage.

Michael N: Don't have to file 990EZ with Federal Government because we make under \$25,000. But have to fill out 990EZ for state government. Proposed that because chapter has to fill out the 990EX for the state that chapter also sends it to federal government.

Jamie introduced Kate Georgi, from USDA in RI

Kate G: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (working under Farm Bill) is interested in working with MA-TACF. Worked with Westerly Land Trust. This year we hope to help fund deer fencing at Westerly Orchard. Have had other land trusts express interest in helping MA-TACF. Have funding available, MA-TACF can apply for funding: for land clearing, invasive control, deer management, nutrient management, other aspects of maintenance, some funds available for monitoring.

Jamie: MA-TACF has two orchards in RI. Jim Garland has severe deer problems on his RI orchard – could definitely use help. Perhaps establish seed orchard in RI – could use help with that.

Kate G: There is a lot of enthusiasm and we would love to be able to help out.

Jamie: Need to involve Yvonne in discussion of next steps. Chapter is now looking for seed orchard site.

John E and Rufin: Possibly plant provenance test in RI.

Kate G: Suggested demonstration planting.

Jamie and Kate agreed to continue discussion.

Gary: The critical issue to remember is that there has to be somebody to take care of orchard.

Kate G: Land Trusts have very dedicated volunteers.

Rufin: Will MA NRCS branch be interested in working with MA-TACF?

Kate G: Not sure what kind of funding they grant in MA. Will find out.

Jamie: Will provide Kate G. with Jim Garland's information.

John E: Would Farm Bill legislation affect your programs?

Kate G: We don't know yet. Hopeful that it won't.

Kathy: Mike Smolack worked with USDA with his orchard. Already have worked with MA USDA.

Secretary's Report: Kathy Desjardin

-Membership is currently 389.

-Down by 50 members in MA from October, 2006. RI membership has stayed about the same.

-National grand total in October, 2006: 5,848. Dec, 2007 grant total: 5,601.

Jamie: Media affects number of memberships.

Rufin: December 23rd Globe article by Susan Freinkel on chestnuts.

John E: Article focused mostly on genetic engineering of chestnuts.

Guy: Globe articles increased correspondence from previous position hugely. Not so with articles in local papers. Timing is important, try to get article out in the spring.

Kathy: Went to Moore State Park on New Year's Day for organized hike. Advertisement mentioned that chestnuts and chestnut soup would be served. 125 people showed up.

John E: Inoculation effort should include media attention.

Discussion of transgenic chestnut pursued.

Kathy: Received a call from gentleman on Prudence Island (Narragansett Bay, RI) with interest in chestnut and is interested in planting chestnut seed. Have farm equipment. Somebody from

Prudence Island contacted Jim Garland; possibly the same contact.

-Agreed to work with Prudence Island contact to plant some sort of orchard.

Michael N: Suggested it would be a good locale to establish salt resistance test.

Jamie: Possibly plant Orleans trees for salt resistance test.

Gary: Need inland location that serves as control.

Jamie: Discuss experiment with Charlotte.

Mike M: In both areas plant what we think is salt tolerant and what we think is salt-intolerant lines.

Kathy: Goal is to have email addresses for most members. Working with Yvonne on this goal. Easier to communicate via email.

Brad Smith: There is a need to delegate responsibility. Came up board committees in order to accomplish this goal.

Breeding Committee Program (probably chaired by Charlotte),

Purchasing Orchard Supply Committee,

Annual Meeting Committee,

Newsletter and Publicity Committee,

Membership Committee (for letters to new members, exit survey),

Website Committee,

Development Committee,

Volunteer Opportunity Committee,

Seed Orchard/Land Acquisition Committee,

Reforestation Committee,

Education Committee.

Will put together as a proposal and send out to board.

Jamie: Money is not a priority. Need a way to incorporate members, new members, guide membership.

Mike M: Brad's is an excellent suggestion. Need to distribute responsibility. Need for somebody to prepare for grant proposals.

Jamie: Do not want to overburden people; let's try to bring in new members to take on some of the responsibilities.

Mike M: Have list of committees with names.

Jamie: Add to board list. Set chair up, opportunity for other members to become involved. Formal way to include people who are not on the board to become involved.

Gary: Suggested that these positions aren't too intensive. Put in Seedlings newsletter.

Kathy: Send letter to new members with ideas of how they can get involved: committees.

Brad: Membership chair might give a phone call to every new member.

Michael N: In seedlings mention that meetings are open to board and that there are opportunities for involvement.

Brad will send email out with his chapter reorganization plan.

Brad: Would like to join Executive Committee.

Michael N: Should be policy to have previous President an automatic member of the Executive Committee.

Gary: Time commitment?

Michael N: Make it permanent because Presidents tend to stay in the position for long time periods.

Mike M: One has to be a board member to be an officer.

John M: Bylaws say officers must be directors. Directors are elected for 2 years, can have up to 4 consecutive terms. Directors can appoint committees.

Discussion of term limits ensued.

Brad: Motion: Any immediate past president be automatically made a member of the executive committee.

Board approved motion.

Brad: Proposed that the board 50-100% subsidy the President's (or designee) TACF meeting travel budget. Would include travel and lodging expenses, not food.

Jamie: Recused himself from voting on the issue. How will this affect Rufin, who travels to most meetings? Ann Myers in the past proposed that the chapter reimburse travel for any MA-TACF director. Was never adopted.

Gary: Suggested annual cap for travel budget.

Rufin: Spends about \$1000/year on budget. Will most likely decline reimbursement. But other members may be more inclined to accept travel expenses.

John M: Rather than reimbursing at decided percentage, assess expenses at point of time and approve budget as needed.

John M: Motion: Board authorized the executive committee to use available funds to defray reasonable travel expenses to attend February 16 – 18th, 2008 retreat meeting in Virginia.

Rufin seconded. Board voted affirmatively.

Gary: Motion that Board authorize the executive committee to use available funds to defray

reasonable travel expenses to attend 2008 Spring National Board meeting. Michael N seconded. Board voted affirmatively.

Jamie: Preparation for inoculation, Discussed the issue during the growers meeting in the morning.

Charlotte's intention is to use Frank's donation next year when it will be useful. Sounds like will probably inoculate only 2 orchards, perhaps 2 orchards and one line from Lincoln orchard. 2009 there will be many more orchards to inoculate; will make sense to use Frank's money for that purpose.

Spring orchard planting: have enough nuts to plant 2 two-line orchards.

Rufin: Have a commitment to plant another line at Stockbridge this spring. Site has done ok without irrigation.

Michael N: Reiterated from previous meeting that he will report on lawnmower models.

Michael N: 25-Anniversary Appalachian Trail event: Upper-Goose Pond (East Lee) is only reasonable site in MA for sheltered spot near AT. Michael stays at the cabin for one week in the summer.

Should coordinate their week and the AT event. Chestnut sprouts abundant in the area; could put up signs.

Brad: National is organizing a large opening event in Georgia. Suggested that they use the event as a fundraiser. Will contact Arnold Arboretum to organize Mighty Giants Book Event.

Discussion of buying copies of the Mighty Giants for gifts ensued.

Jamie: Pollination goals for spring: Charlotte would like to pollinate 3 – 4 more lines: possibly Nanking.

Rufin: DCR marching funds grant: apply for grant for fence for Quabbin orchard fence to protect against moose. Application due February 5th. Need to price fence. Will gather information for cost of fencing (with Bruce Spencer).

Brad: Seedlings is an 8-page spread of report of last year. Needs details on some activities. Will work with Jamie.

Dennis: Proposes that Leila (Regional) and Rufin (National) provide update at future meetings.

Rufin: Summarized Marshal Case's last Update of Operations

Jamie will set date for April meeting

Adorned 4:07 pm

Motions Granted:

1.Motion to accept Treasurer's Report

2.Any immediate past president be automatically made a member of the executive committee.

3.Board authorized the executive committee to use available funds to defray reasonable travel expenses to attend February 16 – 18th, 2008 retreat meeting in Virginia.

4. Board authorize the executive committee to use available funds to defray reasonable travel expenses to attend 2008 Spring National Board meeting.

*** Action Items: ***

Jamie and Leila to discuss inoculation supplies

Leila to send data template to board.

Jamie to give Jim Garland Kate Georgi's contact information.

Jamie will coordinate with Yvonne to send out Kate Georgi's contact information.

Kathy: will work with Yvonne to work with Prudence Island contact; possibly plant seed. Will get him in touch with Kate Georgi.

Westerly irrigation supplies to be ordered

Brad will send out chapter reorganization plan.

Michael N will report on new lawnmower at next meeting.

Brad will contact Arnold Arboretum to organize Mighty Giant Book Event.

Rufin will gather information needed to write grant for Quabbin fence.

Brad and Jamie will discuss Seedlings.