

TACF MA/RI Winter Meeting Orchard Managers
 River Bend Farm, Uxbridge MA
 January 27, 2013

Attending:

Yvonne Federowicz, President; Lois Melican, Vice-President; Mike Novak, Treasurer; Kathy Desjardins, Treasurer; Brian Clark, Denis Melican, Rufin VanBossuyt, Charlotte Zampini, John Meiklejohn, Elizabeth Hammond, Science Coordinator Kendra Gurney, Jamie Donald, Rich Hoffman, Guy Shepard, Brad Smith
 Guests: Paul Wetzal, Smith College

10:30 meeting opened	
F1s	<p>Brian Clark has about 20 – 30; Charlotte Zampini thought John Mirick has about 70; Yvonne Federowicz will ask Gary Carver how many he can spare, with some for Kendra Gurney.</p> <p>Rufin has about 20 seedlings that he started last spring plus a few started in 2011. They are pretty small, but he also has about 20 pure American seedlings that are a bit larger, that came from Greg Miller @ Empire Chestnut in Ohio. Yvonne could use a few of these for Westerly.</p>
Demo Planting Committee	<p>After going over the list of future planting sites and partners, the group decided to assign a rating from one to five, with notes on each partner:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OSV – 1 <p>Rich Giordano said OSV board has agreed to plant a couple of trees on the Common this spring. (OSV roasted over 200 lbs. of chestnuts at holiday 2012 programs) It was unanimously agreed that OSV is a priority of the highest order.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GARDEN IN THE WOODS - 1 <p>This was deemed to be a premier site for TACF, given their mission to showcase native plants and their new tree initiative.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ARNOLD ARBORETUM- 1 <p>This would also be a premier site, although it may be more difficult to establish a partnership with this organization.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HEBERT ARBORETUM - 5 <p>This would be a very good site, with lots of potential partners and volunteers, we really need to wait until all of the criteria that a seed orchard requires, will be completed by the City of Pittsfield. This would include a long term use of the property by TACF and a signed germplasm agreement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FREETOWN FOREST – 5 • NEUACONKANUT PARK, Revive the Roots - 2 <p>This would be a great place to try some American seed/seedlings to see how they fare</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guy’s URBAN FORESTRY GROUP <p>(Will wait until Guy is here for more information on this site)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FRUITLAND MUSEUM - 1 Jamie will follow up on this group • CORMIER WOODS - ? hold on this • DANIELS FARMSTEAD – they have been sent a germplasm agreement, however have not responded yet. • SALEM CEMETERY hold • MT AUBURN CEMETERY - call them

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AUDUBON PROPERTIES – We have one demo planting at Wachusett Meadows Sanctuary in Princeton, and have presented a program to a school group at Broadmoor. They have many other fine sanctuaries, but it was decided to wait until they expressed interest, rather than us pursuing them. A lot depends on the sanctuary director. • NIMROD LEAGUE OF HOLDEN – Rufin gave a presentation to about 50 people at a meeting there, and agreed that they have a possible site for mutt nuts. Charlotte said we could also plant some pure Americans there as a demo and to attract deer. • WAYSIDE INN -1 would be a great site and some from the restaurant (Duffy?) was a founding member; Rufin will call them back • SPRINGFIELD COLLEGE - 2 Jonathon Parent asked if we had anything to plant on the Springfield College property in Chesterfield; suggest a demo planting, ask how many they want. • RIVER BEND FARM - 1 River Bend Farm has been on the list for some time * • DOSHI - Private school in Barre with a few acres with chestnut; possibly mutt nuts to start with, then select down, or Americans to test site. Lois & Denis will follow up. • STOCKBRIDGE Denis asked if a demo planting could be planted at Craig Moffet’s Stockbridge orchard, Charlotte Z suggested ¼ mile between a demo planting and the existing orchard; or even better a high visibility site elsewhere on Land Trust property in Stockbridge..
Priorities	<p>Charlotte Z thinks that in terms of priority, Garden in The Woods should be a priority site as they are beginning a tree inventory, and doing testing on the effects of climate change on their property. Garden In The Woods is a huge draw hosting many visitors, as well as offering teaching programs on native plants.</p> <p>Spencer Brooks contacted Kendra. Garden In The Woods has no germplasm agreement yet, but their Board of Directors and Conservation Department are interested and are discussing the issue of the small amount of Chinese germplasm the trees contain. Charlotte has offered to go there and explain the genetics.</p>
Other sites	<p>Ragged Hill Farm in West Brookfield, a neighbor of Rich Giordano of OSV who has recently cleared a few acres where chestnuts sprouts are abundant.</p> <p>Mary Packard from Goshen (genetics@harvard) has 22 acres of woods and will be removing some existing trees to allow young trees to flourish. She inquired if it would be feasible if to plant chestnut there. Paul Wetzel said he would call her and see if she is interested in helping with their seed orchard at Smith College, as she seems interested in the program.</p> <p>Wellesley - Bob Connor, who has 1 acre in Wellesley and 17 acres in Lunenburg in interested in planting some nuts.</p> <p>Bob Owen, of Worthington, MA who was at the meeting, is interested in seed also, Kendra will get an update on this.</p>

Replacements	Yvonne needs one replacement for Roger Williams Park
Site Selection	Kendra suggested that membership should be a criteria in our selections. It is easier if the people we give the seedlings to are members, and there are different types of memberships available, such as an Institutional Member for \$100 as well as the regular \$45 membership. She suggested that this could be a good way to figure out if people are truly interested. The Board agreed to make and keep a list on this.
Progeny Testing	This is a statistical forest evaluation, coming from Meadowview. The first site here is in Hollis NH, where 300 – 500 trees will be planted in a block design. If anyone would like to be on the list they need to apply one year in advance at harvest time each year and then priorities are assigned. There are not many of these orchards here, but with these new criteria, upkeep may be easier in the future. The goal is to see how the trees do in the wild using some type of grid or design. This needs an orchard contact person, as the list of data we need requires a cooperator over many years.
Reciprocal Crossing	In a B3 orchard when trying to produce seed orchard seeds, there was a thought that they should all go into one plot, - now we are considering one mother tree with circular breeding. Sara Fitzsimmons and Kendra agree that if you know both parents, for the moment if we are not doing circular breeding don't worry about this. Kendra suggests planting one plot per mother, including reciprocal crosses.
Grant Money	
Smith College	Paul Wetzel reported that Smith College has all the electric fencing (described as a 3 dimensional electric deer fence) as well as cover crop that will be planted this spring. We have Clapper seedlings in stewie pots, we have Tower hill and Wayland and more nuts from these, they should go in this spring – fill in at South Kingstown so that all the trees are the same size. Kendra, Charlotte and Yvonne can decide this. Smith would like to know how much work this will be so that he can get students. We are direct seeding Clapper seedlings there. Kendra suggested planting all as nuts.
Granville	John Meiklejohn has the fencing and will schedule a date in the spring to install it.
Other grant info	As we don't have another fence we could purchase the material for the next seed orchard. We'll see how the money goes this spring we are still waiting for \$5,000 from the grant.
Lines	Wayland is down to the final selection, these are Graves. We have no Clappers that are ready yet. Lincoln has 3 trees from 3 lines, not a whole lot of nuts. Lincoln and Grafton could be put in Granville. Smith can use seed from Wayland and Tower Hill in 2 plots. Charlotte wondered how many lines of each, and how many plots should we get ready 23 Lincoln – 4 lines in the orchard – Topsfield, lots of nuts, Bedford 7 24 Lincoln – 2 lines in the Lincoln orchard that has enough Grafton – has more, we can select down when we do the selection, there are potentially some from there that could go into these orchards
Granville Seed Orchard	Saturday 4/6 with a rain date of 4/7 was set for a work party to set the deer fence.

work day	The posts are in already. Jamie Donald, Denis & Lois Melican, Elizabeth Hammond, have volunteered, and orchard manager John M will send out an email before this date. We'll also need help to put the four lines in the ground sometime in May. Buckwheat and winter rye have already been planted.
Smith College Seed Orchard	Paul Wetzel said that Smith College does not need help doing the planting, although Jamie Donald said it's helpful to have a few people there, who have done these plantings before. He'll let us know when the work will be done.
Volunteers	Mike Novak mentioned a group called Greenagers who take on fairly large scale projects such as working on the Appalachian Trail. He wondered if they might be a help in our planting efforts.
Mass Fish & Wildlife	This organization, with a brand new "green" headquarters under construction represents a perfect long range partnership for us. They currently have a small demo planting of five 6' tall B3F3s at the Westboro HQ, and an established orchard in W. Boylston. MassWildlife has a better funding source with money from the tax on sportsmen nationwide divvied up between the states by the USF&W and that money could be used for seed orchard expenses and possibly reintroduction into their 180,000 acres of conservation land statewide.
Army Corps of Engineers (ACE)	ACE is meeting this week to work on the seed agreement, John Mirick said there were some issues that Jean had about kiosks in, and whether they could induce vandalism in the orchard, and their board had some questions about the amount of storage we would need for things like fertilizer, spare fasteners or deer fence. We agreed that signage is up to them, although we have not have problems in orchards with signs. This is not an issue, we don't need to force them to have a sign, although signs are usually helpful for visitors with questions. The absence of language in the agreement is not necessarily a problem. Jamie just asked how interested they are, and how much enthusiasm they'll maintain. Kendra explained that they have any volunteers who would be interested in helping and already do many programs for and with the community.
Hebert Arboretum, Pittsfield MA	Jim McGrath, Director of Parks & Recreation for the city of Pittsfield, and Bob Presutti, an arborist, are interested in planting a seed orchard, and they are working on the germplasm agreement signing. There are science teachers from the nearby school who are interested in a long term partnership. They have a very active volunteer program RSVP who would also be involved in the care of a seed orchard. A chestnut restoration committee will be formed, with Bob as the initial chairman, with this shifting to others later. A seed orchard and its long term care and monitoring would be its goal. It was felt that providing Pittsfield this year with 20 highly selected mutt nuts for test planting could begin the process. Rufin asked how the security on site will be handled, and what are the chances that the nuts will still be there after awhile? Kendra said that as most sites are fenced (mostly for deer pressure) this helps keeps sites secure.
Newburyport	The seed orchard that Jeff Escher contacted us about at a Montessori or charter school where the kids are involved in trees. He contacted us again and said he would ask Guy about the most suitable area. Will stay in contact with this person.
Colrain	Brian and Jamie were out there looking at the site, an old field, enough for 1+ blocks. When Jamie last spoke with the person, he was still interested but has not done anything with this yet. He'll keep pursuing this and see if he still wants this.
Mt Washington	Ethan Dufault was given some seeds, and Kendra has taken soil samples from the

	site, but Ethan has not pursued this in awhile. Kendra will contact them. Let's wait on this until we can pursue it further.
Meeting adjourned at 1 pm	

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Meeting began at 1:35 pm	Forest planting sub-committee – Charlotte Z has some mutt nuts for the forest committee; this can be done via email. John Mirick would like to be on this committee.
Database	Kendra is inputting data into the current data base, and will do a walk though for anyone interested. Mother tree info is very important. This will also be appropriate for tracking demo plantings, etc.
Treasurer's Report	John Mirick suggested that we use a new balance sheet format. We took in about \$1000 more than we spent in 2012. Income tax has been filed. As to grant money, the more info about the project, the easier it is to get money, so make sure to give a very accurate description of your needs. A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept treasurer's report subject to one minor change on the balance sheet.
Fall and Annual Meeting minutes	A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the minutes from the Fall and Annual 2012 Meetings.
Mighty Giants	A motion was made, seconded and approved to purchase 2 cases of paperback Mighty Giants books to have on hand to give out to potential partners, or sell. One carton will be brought to New England Grows Trade Show in Boston 2/6,7, 8.
Seed Orchard business	We currently have a printed document for the Granville orchard, Kathy will keep this; affirmation is expected at the ACE meeting next week, we have a copy of the documents. We have status on easements executed with Smith College, a draft with the South Kingstown Land Trust (which needs a plot plan) and the ACE – draft they sent. Charlotte suggested that John Mirick's notes be adhered to, with the exception of the kiosk part, a motion was made, seconded and approved to move ahead with the agreement with the additional comments from John Mirick.
Secretary's Report	Our membership stands at 313 at the end of the year.
New England Grows	Kathy and Elizabeth will coordinate volunteers to register to man the booth the 3 days of the convention, and put together material for the booth.
Land & Water Conservation Summit Council of Rhode Island	Would we like representation at this event on March 9. Roy Najecki and Yvonne F. can attend this. The fee is \$40 before 2/22 and \$45 after that date. This would be a great place for the new TACF banners we'll work on this via email

Trustees of Reservation Land Conservation Conference	Will be held on March 23 at Worcester Technical High School – Jamie and Brad attended this conference last year and the booth was busy and the panels that we borrowed from National were a huge hit. This March 23 conference cost is \$50. And is being held at Worcester Technical High School. We'll send info around about this via email to see if we can get volunteers to man a booth.
Leaf Assay Workshop	Kendra is going to this workshop which will be available also at the fall national meeting.
Rhode Island Woodworkers Guild	A conference for woodworkers had asked if anyone could represent TACF on March 6. Guy will be in touch on this.
Spring Meeting	Saturday, April 27, location t.b.d. – possibly the 240 acre Whately, MA property that Smith College will be using for a chestnut seed orchard, they now have a meeting room at this location.
Bristol Aggie Festival	A motion is made, seconded and passed to approve \$60 to have a table at this event.
Rogueing orchards	<p>Days for rogueing orchards will require extra people, can these go on the calendar? Rufin talked with Gary about contact info for his wife who can let the fire department and ConCom know that we will be there and get any approval that we may need – we have to burn a section of wood where inoculation was done. Some of the wood could be cut into fire wood size, free fire wood could be given to the people of Medway.</p> <p>Moore State Park will be rogued sometime in mid- March.</p> <p>We'll need to organize ahead of time; this should be done when the trees are dormant; burning would be difficult with green wood, chipping would be easier. Rufin suggested a very hot fire. We need to coordinate a crew for this. Rufin, Jamie, & Guy can use chain saws for this, we can continue organizing this via email.</p>
Intern Funds	We have \$1000 from the Howard Fund. A motion was made, seconded and accepted to hire Josh to help with this , however unless he gets his own insurance, he cannot use a chain saw.
Future Grant Purchases	<p>If we get a grant this year, we need planting supplies, stakes, ladles, ground cloth shelters, @ approx. \$1 per tree.</p> <p>We may be able to start Buffumville this spring and if they need a material list, Paul W and Brian C could assist – with the price depends on the type of fences we will follow up on email.</p> <p>We can decide on other grant money priorities via email as we see how much we will need.</p>
Strategic Plan	<p>This plan was last done in 2002 as a 5 year plan which is now expired. There is a National strategic plan and an American Chestnut Foundation Restoration plan. These documents are a good starting point to begin on a newer version for fund raising and grant writing. Please read these over the winter and think about some of the issues like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We've done lots of great work, fairly close to being on target. • They thought we were going to be doing seed orchards differently than we are doing them, they were more like regional seed orchards. <p>Maybe we could use the current document as a template. Kendra suggested get</p>

	<p>a committee of 3 or 4 interested in working on this. Bryan suggested making a pretty simple plan for the next 5 years. TACF would like this info to know where we're going in the future. One of the goals is for it to be short and easy to work with.</p>
Chapter Pictures	<p>Pictures could be shared on drop box, Kendra uses this system for planting tags and pictures and this is user friendly. We can use different tags on one picture. Drop box is better than Picasa. We can experiment with drop box. Lois will get a drop box and share with people.</p>
Note Cards	<p>Elizabeth has a note card design by a local artist who is willing to let us use this design. 100 note cards and envelopes with TACF return address will cost \$298.00 and \$455 for 200. Everyone agrees that the design is attractive, but feel that we need more cost estimates from other providers, and the TACF return address is probably not practical for selling these cards.</p>