

MATAFC Quarterly Board Meeting

July 14, 2007

Board Members Present:

Frank Howard, Rufin Van Bossuyt, Yvonne Federowicz, Mike Meixsell, Jamie Donalds, Mike Novack, John Emery, Charlotte Zampini, Kathy Desjardin, Gary Jacobs, Denis Melican, Lois Breault-Melican, Jim Coule, Richard Hoffman, Kathy Desjardin,

Others Present:

Bruce Goodsell, Vera McGiveney, Milica Velinov (all Westerly LandTrust)
Kathryn Kaufman

Orchard Meeting 12 noon

2 new orchards, 3 old ones had 4 lines added among them.

23 lines Graves

26 Clapper with more than 50 trees; 7 others.

Charlotte: Fred somewhat reluctant to send more pollen but we might need some more for people who want to grow orchards.

Mike N. : We can easily later increase genetic diversity by adding other Chinese and Americans into the population.

Charlotte: Fred mentioned – why don't you try some Nanking. (Didn't say 20 whole lines.)

Jamie: 3rd line of resistance from an F1
John Mirick's Chinese trees are very vigorous

Charlotte: if have F1's be very sure to keep track of what the parents were.

Rufin: Upton Chinese are upright, not diseased

Need records of where these trees ended up

Some records were destroyed

Any Chinese trees over about 35 feet we might like to have in the program

CCC then MA Fish & Wildlife had a headquarters in Upton State Forest; trees right near buildings
Variation exists between trees

Sandra A. has many records of where USDA-related trees were planted throughout states

Nanking might be the most resistant - we got some BC2 pollen already from it

Royalston also has Chinese that is competing in a forest situation

Rufin: European chestnuts can get very large; quite tall
Sandy has records of some Oregon chestnuts that are European. At least 100 feet tall. Planted in 1895.

Jamie: which orchards need F1s.

Fred: don't have many F1s. Very hard to produce.

Are some commercial varieties pure F1s?

***Ask Leila to research whether we can get any commercial F1s

Jim Garland has nice large F1s

This year we have tried for many F1s, with varied parentages, 4 types of pollen on some (female parent) trees...

25% germination is the best possible for F1s

John Emery: Lincoln orchard to be inoculated next summer; only 2 F1s about large enough to be inoculated

Charlotte – we may need to inoculate in 2 steps anyway; eliminate most susceptible first year

Bruce Goodsell: Westerly RI report
new orchard;

95% germination of ones in cartons (Orleans)
Some looked dwarfish
Some 1.5 ft high

80% germination in orchard
cleaned off scrub more; have nice blueberry patch

Need F1s still, have none

Thinks we should have put soil more compacted around nuts
Removed some bluexes; think that moisture wasn't getting down to the nuts

Lots of fogs

Gary: might want a rain gage; summer rain can be deceptive
Often just wets the grass

Jamie: due to excessively drained soil, might want to look at irrigation system
Should be moist 3-4 inches down

John Emery:
New orchard in Lancaster, MA
Planted 3 lines: Maynard, Wayland; very poor germination – 35%
Some – 25% - other line

Nuts might have problem, stored too cold – also germination in other spot poor

Holyoke line getting 80% germination
No F1s in Lancaster?

Old orchards with which we have lost touch:

Dallesandros – found them; orchard still there
Sterlining

Next summer – ready for inoculation

Rufin: if irrigation hose is needed – have MA F&W hose that we could use. Perforated hose.

Jamie: most important to irrigate in first few years; gets good root system going

John Emery – 1 of 3 orchards is very dry

Kathy – Riverbend needs irrigation

Irrigation systems to install:

Westerly
Uxbridge Riverbend

Rufin: Stockbridge – materials coordinated with Jamie

Board Meeting 1:22 pm

Katherine Kaufman – new member, volunteering to help with orchard work

Treasurers Report
Memberships continue to come in
Orchards expenses right now

Fire expenses: insurance company report back; give money for loss

If chapter buys a computer, can apply for reimbursement
Will get certain amount no matter what we do, then might get more if we get certain other items

Open Office is a possibility for members wishing a low cost alternative to MS Office products

NeoOffice on Mac is slightly nicer to work with (Mac only), in Yvonne's opinion. Almost identical to Open Office.

Both are Open Source software

They will more easily work with your various versions of Excel if you have old spreadsheets; Open Office

MOTION: Treasurers Report approved: Brad, seconded Jamie. Approved unanimously

Note that people should first ask Jamie before buying largish price items, since we typically have certain items sitting in storage and should use those first.

Esp. if

MOTION: we pay 524.65 to Craig Moffit for Stockridge expenses
Jamie, seconded Rufin. Approved unanimously

What should the limit be for expenses without Executive Committee approving expenses?

MOTION: approve last minutes
Charlotte, seconded Brad, approved unanimously

Orchards

Pollinations: 3 American trees
Upton, Newton. Partly Nanking.

F1s – 6 different Chinese mother trees with 5 American pollens

Katherine lives in Clinton, MA – will be helping John Emery with orchard

Charlotte: would like us to get a heavy-duty gas-powered weedwhacker
weedwhacker with wheels?

MOTION: Mike Novack will research the weedwhackers and report to us via email
Jamie, seconded John Emery, approved unanimously

- needs to be able to fit in a car or truck
- needs to work on brush
- need this year
- safety – what are the liability issues if chapter owns it
- cost

Jamie can lend one temporarily

Mother tree: 60-foot tree, ~14 inch dbh, branches to ground, Groton MA

“Friends of Trees” in Groton may write an article about it

Rufin: Great Island American chestnuts; Wellfleet; blighted but surviving? 2 feet in diameter

Quick Forest Planting update:

Bruce Spencer: 1 out of 40 seemed to be surviving
6 of 60, 12 of ?

Planting southern material up north – Fred and Leila wanted

John Emery – 4 methods of planting; lousy germination rate but due to nut storage

in tubes, vs
in tubes under surface, vs
no tubes on top, vs
no tubes deeper

Tubes seemed best
Not sure about planting depth yet

Rufin: Orleans had been defoliated by winter moth before pollination
male flowers grew but never expressed pollen

Forest plantings – had more earlier, many vanished after sprouting

South – Paul Cisco – wishes to plant 3-4 ft seedlings to get around browse trouble

Surface vs. burying...
not too deep but avoid predators - ?
now we may not be putting deep enough
may be drying out

Tower Hill Inoculation

Leila happy with our preparation
Did about 25 trees; fairly simple with enough people

Jamie knows what to order for next year;

we will need a **lot** of people
weather is also a big issue
should put info in seedlings

hire interns to inoculate?

Frank Howard made a video, will be made available on web

Leila has been helping CT get going, also NH & VT

*****however next year we will need more help
Almost 1000 trees will be needing inoculation**

Newsletter;
Email list – Kathy and Yvonne will work on

Make it be a milestone for the chapter

Lois – Americorps

Frank – Ameriquet

Rich – hard to get people to weed, water etc. Inoculation will be similar to weeding
However – if have good food, more people come

Timing is difficult for college students

*** Jamie will talk to Leila to see how PA has done its inoculation— time budgeting, planning etc. and report back

Have people adopt an orchard near them; Yvonne and Kathy will get the notification mailing lists going

John Emery would like 3-4 people

Can we trade work with CT and/or ME?

Kathy: got letter from ACT

Alliance for Community Trees – federation of tree-related nonprofits

Nonprofits – grants; umbrella organization

We could join - \$100. Beltsville MD.

Hammondwoods Project

Frank: Chestnut Hill in Brookline – developers are building a green area – can they use chestnut.

Marshall is going to deal with them. He has spoken at Chestnut Hill Garden Club.

City of Cambridge is restoring American chestnut around Fresh Pond. That, we should be able to do.

Arnold Arboretum one typically dies and is replaced, over and over.

They are restoring native species.

Booths presentations:

Envirothon – kathy,

AMC at Moore State Park – Lois, Denis, Yvonne

USDA in RI – Yvonne, Bruce, Harvey

Society Row Plant Sale – Brad

Elm Bank Horticultural Center

Heiffer International

Paul O'Neill – good contact from Envirothon

River Bend orchard – student gave feedback that he found it very important

Great Park Pursuit – Kathy, Lois, Denis -

Planning for Big E:

Jamie discovered that 3 years leaving nuts in fridge is about limit

Nuts – Jamie does not have many

Yvonne will ask Bruce if Lois and Denis can borrow the Westerly extras for a couple of days

Fungicide in Terry Tattar's area did not help trees that much; still partly alive, pincushion

TACF Annual Meeting:

National TACF Meeting announcement has incorrect phone number. CORRECT one is:

800-325-3535

Sheraton booked for TACF

Problems are occurring with finding out what rooms are available

Contacts for planting on State Forest land

Mike M: small areas are being cleared.

Federal refuge also, near Mike.

Person called TACF trees “genetically modified”

These are not genetically engineered or modified

This is a natural cross. Also, it is backcrossed;

Has National discussed these chestnuts with National Fish & Wildlife? We know that Park and Forest services are pro-TACF to varying extents.

Megan at National would be a good person to deal with.

We think that it's a mistake not to name our chestnuts American, due to the national prejudice against non-native plants.

American chestnuts are part chinkapin

Chinese trees share a lot of genes with American

Secretary's Report – done

MA Annual Meeting

Should we ask Sandra Anagnostakis?

Jim Coule knows someone who has done genetic research

Yvonne – short meeting

Venue – RI?

Nominations/Board/Officers for next time

Sleeping Giant: Sandra Anagnostakis

Jamie:

Gerry and Susan are working chinkapin in Arkansas; they are not outside the the organization – National gave them some money

MOTION: Jamie would like to send any excess unneeded materials to Gerry and Susan

Jamie, seconded Mike N. 2 passes, 15 in favor

We need to find out more

Adjourned 3:50