
* MATACF Orchard Meeting 7-20-2008

Charlotte Zampini, Denis Melican, Rufin Van Bossuyt, John Emery, Mike Novack, Kathy Desjardin, Brad Smith, Leila Pinchot, John Meiklejohn, Lois Breault-Melican, Jim Garland, Rich Hoffman, Guy Shepard, Jamie, Brian Clark, Kendra Gurney

Guests: Spencer Brooks from New Hampshire - orchard in NH, Sarah Meiklejohn, Linda Donalds, Kalina Donalds

John E.: When taping over inoculations, people should be certain to wrap the whole way around because it can come off quickly otherwise.

Rufin: 2 tree tips came in yesterday as a result of WBUR radio show. Unfortunately one was a catalpa and one a horse chestnut...

John M.: Rte. 189 - found 2 chestnuts - fully in bloom. One possibly American, other ? 13" and 9" dbh - nice canopies in bloom.

Orchard Statures: (Partial List)

Rhode Island:

Yvonne will ask Sarah to send map of orchard - Westerly. Gloucester needs irrigation - 6/10 not enough (Charlotte)

John M: Granville - hasn't had to irrigate heavily - doing very well - about 170 trees. About 6-7 trees in bloom. Tried a bit of pollination. Editor from a weekly paper came out - saw orchard, wrote a nice article local. Gave a talk at Westfield rotary club - part of an Arbor Day program. May be making new sites for plantings.

Jim Garland: trees all above deer browse height now. About 150 left, starting to get blight.

Brad Smith: Tower Hill - inoculated, wanted to keep 3 trees out of 30 or so. May make demo orchard

Kathy: Uxbridge orchard doing well - losing some to blight, getting close to inoculation. Need measurements.

Mike Novack - climate in Ashfield-H. affecting chestnuts - a bit slower growing but also high elevation

John M. - Conway has no manager - Mike N., Charlotte want to go out to see it -was originally not a MA orchard because we didn't exist. Rufin: quite a bit of blight. Aluminum collars embedded in trunks. Planted in 2002 or so. No collars since then. Grafton orchard is a clone of this one.

Rich Hoffman has some very vigorous resprouts

Denis: 230 tree orchard - doing great, 2ft growth this year. Americorp flagged 40 trees as having catkins. Girl Scouts also working on it, fertilizing. Blight in orchard.

Mike N.: could different lines have different resistances to blight? Data format Leila has doesn't have blight recording spot - we could add a column. Charlotte thinks this is very important data. Charlotte's is getting a lot of blight.

Charlotte: some trees several inches dbh, lots of blight.

Rufin: West Boyleston - gets best growth away from trees on West side. Difference in sun thru day.

Quabbin forest plantings had poor germination last year - rodents may have lost some to rodents. This year had 3 levels - same level as last year had poor germination - lower on hill had better germination.

Yvonne: our soil is so well drained that near water may be good at times. Clay soil in lower Appalachians/ PA is very different.

Charlotte would very much like to try a late fall planting.

River Bend could be used.

Kendra: Shelburne Farms was a fall planting as seedlings.

Mike N.: germination studies can be very easy and quick in small area. Can try coating nuts in pepper paste.

Greg Miller in Ohio - Empire chestnut co. - did research in survivability of nuts - later in season as lose more moisture, survive down to about 21 degrees. However early in fall will die at much higher temperature.

Kendra: UVM - -12C was lab testing limit for chestnuts.

Rufin: radicals do go down in fall.

Mike N.: with garlic, ones that established overwinter bigger.

Leila - this would be more for reforestation purposes.

Yvonne will make a new web page with links to articles about chapter.

*****We need more signs made of different sorts - quantity - ID of types of trees "Voss Signs" (recommendation from Spencer Brooks)**

Jamie:

F1s - coming with John Mirick in pm

There are about 29 F1s.

Charlotte had about 25% survivability in her F1s from last year. jamie finally got a good crop U3 with Ken Jone's tree got 40% germination, then the American died. 100 of those went to U TN.

Germinated well, deep green. Hoping for good F1s next year.

F1 nuts can go to Yvonne for RI greenhouse manager to see if germinate in late winter.

Charlotte went over orchards that still need F1s. (many)

Jamie: Gloucester needs 18feet above the highest place.

John Emery has a pump. Doesn't need in Weston. Can go to Gloucester? Better for sprinklers, can use sludgy water.

Jamie - need a good filter. Will talk to John Emery. Buffalos will work if high enough. If get 6psi will work right. ½ gallon/hour - even distribution. John Emery - more like pumped irrigation - Gery Jacobs soaker hose. Water is an issue. Fire dept.? Jim G. will take a look at the streams.

*** Afternoon Board Meeting**

1:30 pm (approx)

Board Members Present: John Mirick also present, Mike Meixsell

Guest: Timothy McKechnie, Catherine Kaufman who helps with Lancaster orchard - issue about watering

Guests: Andersons - friends of Rufin

Lois gave introduction to Moore State Park - We gave a round of applause for all their work hosting us

*** TREASURER'S REPORT - Mike Novack**

Mike: we are doing very well this year in spite of around \$5K being used for orchard expenses this year.

Rich asked about checks that go to Mass chapter - Mike says they just get deposited normally

Insurance - chapter has nice Thinkpad T61 now. Good for financials, presentations too.

Jamie - having whole presentation setup with that could be good

Yvonne- keep that laptop out in western MA so Mike can get to it easily (Mike might as well keep mostly?)

Kendra: National has a nice presentation on website.

Jamie has our chapter projector currently

*** SECRETARY'S REPORT- Kathy Desjardin**

Membership - 386 as of May

Brad Smith got out our newsletter (was a delay because printers had a staff retire w/o completing our project) Postal issues - Kathy dealing with - had 1500 printed - mailed 1045 newsletters - contacts, expired

We want to establish electronic list - Kathy has received 38 emails with new emails

Jamie has been getting phone calls - a member wanted to hear what is going on - He put her on our new email list.

Contacts - North ? - identified an American tree -
Orange, MA - 150 acres in Quabbin area - do we need his land? Charlotte has info

North Reading - hike for Council on Aging - large tree found, Rufin doesn't think American

Rufin: Carver, MA - 12in diameter, lots of burrs - seedling under tree. Injury from blight, new growth around cankers.

Kendra - hypovirulence can go to her
Leila - testing what it is is a large procedure - Fred or Sandy A.?

Charlotte - can check also

Very interesting lady described who found tree - extremely active

John Meiklejohn - is there followup w people whose membership lapses? Kathy - National does. how many years? We keep them on our mailing list for a good time. John - handwritten notes can be very effective

If Kathy needs help contacting these people, several offered to help her

Leila Pinchot: thank you on behalf of the chapter for all the work you've done over several years - we called her at odd hours and she always came through.

Leila will study silviculture of chestnut - planting in forests - light requirements etc.

*** RATING INOCULATED TREES**

Leila passed out inoculation information
SG-1 was less virulent. Also our trees were smaller than some inoculated ones in Maine, harder on

them. You have to tune your eyes to each orchard.

Looked at shape characteristics of leaves, etc. also
-narrow stipules, canoe shape, dull, hooks, "big" (habit), American smooth bark - all American characteristics wanted

Fred will be coming up to the NE this autumn - will look at Tower Hill before culling

Charlotte - good to have 2 independent ratings

Kendra - science staff likes to be involved with ratings

Charlotte - can we keep more than one per line to get more seed? Could do controlled pollination (will ask Fred)

Mike N. - better to keep more than one per line statistically

Furrowed bark makes it harder to see cankers

Larger diameter trees give more objective ratings - tree has a better chance to fight blight if it has ability (tiny Chinese can't always do it even)

Less invasive inoculation possible? But more difficult to do in field, so Fred isn't using

Jamie - "bigger" wasn't quantified

Leila recommends 3-4 inches unless orchard overwhelmed by blight

Wrentham: inoculated June 2008

Large amount of blight in orchard so went ahead with inoculation. Did 3 of lines present. Other lines ready in 2 years.

Kendra was introduced - has been working several years on chestnut - graduated UVM in chestnut

*** ANNUAL MEETING PLANNING**

Setting a date, site, speakers

Yvonne will look into places in RI for annual meeting

- Walden Pond facility
- Tower Hill
- Framingham State
- Harvard Forest
- Blissful Meadows
- Garden of the Woods

Past years - Brad has done mid-summer usually, to get a good room - Jamie prefers not to do this alone
Brad will chair committee - Walden Pond is sounding good to people

Weekend before Thanksgiving again: 22nd or 23rd
Saturday the 22nd was decided upon for Annual Meeting, hopefully at Walden Pond

Speakers:

Fred Paillet?
Paul Cisco? Genome project
Walden - Thoreau Society - his writings on chestnuts

Wild Turkey Federation

Witness Tree author

RI - update - Yvonne
Westerly, Gloucester planting
Smithfield, Exeter, trees
Kate Giorgi's help

Future plans - Charlotte thinks more orchards and trees in RI

Formally making it a MA/RI chapter

*** Thank-you Letters to Utilities**

Rufin: National Grid thank-you letter for RI - Chris Rooney

Rufin will send to Yvonne

Utilities get "Tree Line USA" - community service

Rufin - a plaque for CEO would also be good - PR dept. with press

Letters also need to go to MA people who helped as well as RI

*** SEED ORCHARDS:**

Moore State Park? Denis - nothing specific but district manager likes idea
Jamie: legally for 30 years needed - ask of whoever we need to ask

Letter from Jamie to District Manager would be good.
Do we need to be clearer?

Seed orchard will include present trees but also include other lines 1 acre needed - larger than current

Mike N. - group wants an environmental project - Worcester area Will be a template for future private landowners

John Mirick/ Mike Novack: Current state administration can give an agreement for 30 years, but this will not legally bind future administrations.

Easier with private landowners legally. However, there are a lot of positives with working at Moore. Risk vs. benefits. Not likely to get taken away if get commitment but not contractual right. "License"-like.

John Mirick: Land trusts can give deed & agreement.

Kathy: River Bend - no real orchard manager - is close to head of DCR's office We need to update them about status and plans to replant

Will have to lay out duration of project - John & Jamie will work together.

Leila: talking to Lois & Denis - have phenomenal orchard managers here, gorgeous site for tours, chestnuts grow like weeds here Girl Scouts and community have helped in the past. So our argument has numerous "feathers".

DONATION (to seed orchards?): couple getting married - they want to register for donations for their wedding to us - they understand our plans from Michele re. orchards - we could put a plaque up

Mike Novack can set up a separate fund for seed orchard

Thank-you letter immediately = from Kathy Desjardin - will have separate fund - reference - "next step" very romantic! Wedding end of summer - should we offer a letter they can display at their wedding?

MOTION:

We move to accept the donation from Mark Lu and future spouse to be used for the establishment of our seed orchard fund. Rich motion, second - Rufin. Passed unanimously.

*** Pollination/Orchard Progress 2008**

Charlotte: spring orchards: 4 orchards/ new lines - RI, Orleans in Westerly, Gloucester - Ridge Rd. Line in Stockbridge, replanting in Dartmouth. 80% survival and germination.,

Pollination: Quabbin - Nanking Quabbin; Clapper, Exeter and Smithfield RI.

* Board of Directors Issues...

Kathy sent an updated roster out last winter via email.

Bylaws on Consecutive terms.
Mike Meixsell:

Some Board Members are running up against consecutive term limits -
we can change bylaws by majority vote of in-office directors
8 years is limit

Could say "limited to 8 years unless no other eligible people willing to serve" -

Jamie - would like to make it easier for new blood to come into organization

Rufin: some chapters change officers every year by bylaw, others had the same one every year

Suspend bylaws for 1 year only?

At least five people would be ineligible this year by this rule. A more diverse board is a good thing.

Do we want to have more than suspending bylaws?
Rotating terms of 2-3 years?

Could send out info about Board elections coming up - looking for new people interested

To be elected to board, must be proposed by Nominating Committee - provide info on their background
etc.

"Associate Board Memberships"? Can put in Seedlings, non-voting membership that can be converted
afterwards if person shows up

Can also remove people from Board for 1 year only

Board Meetings - it needs to be explicit that all interested people are invited

Jamie: phone calls can be intrusive

Dave U. - when was here here last? May not want to be member -

Brad will try to call Dave U. - if wants to be a member of Board

Mike Meiklejohn and Brian Clark - potential new board membership!

* New places for Quarterly Meetings

Mike Meixsell: Sudbury Fish & Wildlife

RiverBend farm Denis and Lois can set up

Need to get reservations in well in advance

Next Quarterly Meeting: October 18th - River Bend Farm

*** NPR article:**

Fred Thys: came out to Lunenburg, met Jamie and saw orchard, saw Concord with John Emery and Charlotte, then saw pollination of Quabbin tree

Fred went up in bucket - went on Morning Edition. Is webcase on NPR's website.

Yvonne: NPR has photos on Flickr - easier way to put photos online - National should use and put inoculation sites up etc.

Adjourned 4:25pm.