

July 21, 2012
 MA/RI-TACF Orchard Manager' Meeting
 East Farm, S. Kingstown R.I.

Board Members Present: Yvonne Federowicz, President; Lois Melican, Vice-President; Mike Novack, Treasurer; Kathy Desjardins, Secretary; Brian Clark, Denis Melican, John Meiklejohn; Rudi Hempe; Charlotte Zampini; Rufin VanBossuyt; Gary Jacobs; John Emery; Visitors: Gordon Jones, Earl Perkins, Jean Hixson ACE

Meeting opened at 10:00 a.m.	Yvonne passed out stickers for orchard signs w. new TACF address & phone number
Demo planting committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rufin needs info on Jim Coule's nuts to NEFA • Brad took nuts to Chestnut Hill Garden Club • John Emery took nuts to (?) • Brad called the Arnold Arboretum, with no reply yet. • Rufin can get nuts to Orleans and Mass Fish & Wildlife also Bruce Spencer needs nuts. Rufin has about 6 – 7 seedlings from 2010 nuts and about 20 seedling from nuts that were from this past spring • Gary J. is in contact with Friends of the Boston Commons who are very interested in chestnuts and the education value of plantings in Boston. Rufin suggested that the Boston Common would not be the most suitable location due to the very high volume of traffic, vandalism, and the thorniness of the burs. Rufin said that there are many places along the Emerald Necklace with more appropriate settings like Mt. Auburn or the Franklin Park Zoo. Roger Williams Park did have an American Chestnut orchard at one time. • Rufin indicated that Orleans has 5 seedling and 1 did not make it, the others are doing OK but they are near black locusts seedlings nearby whose roots may have an allopathic effect on the chestnut roots; 5 were planted at Woods Hole Research Center; MA Fish & Wildlife seedlings are now 62 – 63 inches. Next spring would be a good time to continue planting. • Berlin Grammar School, 5 planted and 3 made it. CZ suggests 20 – 30% losses are to be expected (Mike N reports a 50% survival rate) and we should plan to put in replacements. We should replant at Berlin and leave Orleans as is. • Not all nuts that were planted this spring germinated; they were protected but it's colder. • Gary J planted at Easton and has not checked these (mutt nuts) • Rufin planted 25 pure Americans from Greg Miller. These nuts are at Bristol Aggie and doing well, although we have not heard from Brian Bastarache yet. • Rufin noticed that in Wrentham, Medway, Sterling, and Moore S.P. in Paxton there does not seem to be a robust amount of flowers this year, for whatever reason. John Meiklejohn noticed the same in Granville. Rufin said the trees in Orleans have lots of catkins and Brian said his trees were doing well also. (Charlotte Z noted that the timing was off this year for male and female flowers). • Yvonne F would like to use a new B3F3 at Roger Williams Edible Forest G Garden, a highly visible Master Gardener site. Rufin has some that we can use for this, and Kendra has some extra nuts also. • River Bend Farm has a spot along the road – we had talked about doing this

	<p>in the fall, possibly at our fall meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gary J suggested talking about edible forest gardens to • Friends of Boston Public Gardens to generate interest. URI is planning to add food forests to their curriculum and chestnuts would be great for this. • One planting at a Mass Audubon sanctuary, are there any more Audubon sites that are interested? Could we ask Elizabeth H to follow up on this? The planting in Princeton went well, EH also did a presentation at Drummond Pond in Framingham. Gary J lives near Drumlin Farm and he will talk with them about this. • Charlotte Z thinks we should do more in the Boston area – Gary J said it would be great to have chestnuts in Boston. We should add them to our list. Kathy has a file on this and will update everyone. • The question came up about pictures of demo plantings that would be a good way for us to advertise. • Plymouth Plantation has a demo hybrid tree that was planted in the 80's. • Rufin will have about 25 seeds for this year to plant.
Rudi Hempe	Introduction the East Farm site and a short history of the Master Gardener Program, their headquarters & the South Kingstown Land Trust.
Seed Orchard	We'll do this afternoon at the Board meeting. This winter Kendra has been asked to discuss the different ways to group crosses from the breeding orchards.
Seed Orchards	<p>Tower Hill and Wayland planted TH w. Chinese as controls 100% germination on Chinese TH rate 91% Wayland 37% germination – these were all planted at the same time. Wayland nuts were not in peat, storage was different, TH Charlotte has had from the harvest, little difference in storage.</p> <p>They should replace those that did not take, with irrigation we can do anytime. They need about 100 nuts. We could get these from Bristol County Aggie</p> <p>At Tower Hill there are 3 trees remaining w one tree that does not look 100% American. RI has some unusual trees that do not look American</p> <p>FV we have F1 from Virginia with strange looking leaves.</p> <p>MN had large Stuewe pots and wanted to see what would happen with 4 nuts in each pot with crushed newspaper in the bottom 15 out or 16 survived and they are growing very fast. He used a rich, organic soil</p>
SOUTH KINGSTOWN	S. Kingstown seed orchard has had pretty good germination
ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS	
Plantings	Would like to do a planting a USACE we have about 100 trees available for this. Should we get deer fencing for this CZ says yes, especially for a fall planting. There's a seasonal spring there and a well pump 75 – 80 yards from the orchard, they are also willing to get a spray tank. Is there enough pressure from the well? YF would like to get this planned over the summer and purchase the supplies before the fall. If we do this after the plants are dormant we won't need water, there's plenty of rain and the

	<p>days are cooler, shorter and roots will continue to grow until early December. 300 total nuts. Seed orchard plantings allow for lots of adjustment of space between block/plots? Deigning the orchard, irrigation and planting specs Y wants ACE to work with us on this. Do the volunteers need to be trained for this? CZ said we can give them the basic training they need and we will be doing this year after year as we do not have the nuts yet. 2 blocks. Viola will also need to get irrigation in Uxbridge as there is no easy access to water</p>
GRANVILLE	<p>John planted buckwheat as the cover crop, very fast growing will need mowing then =harrow in to decompose and in early September rye will go in as 2nd cover crop. Brian and John set almost all the posts for deer fence except corner posts which need to be stronger. Like telephone poles. About 10 or 11 orchard poles need to be done. The deer fencing has been purchased but not put in. A work party would be good in the fall.</p> <p>Soil testing was done, indicating low Nitrogen levels which could be fixed by winter rye crop.</p> <p>orchard needs to be raked and rogued.</p> <p>Arbor Day volunteers may be a good organization to contact.</p>
SMITH COLLEGE	<p>Paul's students made their first pass on fencing and irrigation. The Landscape architect didn't want the site where we originally wanted it. They will clear another site. The excavator is on site and the contractor said they would start clearing next week. There is not much top soil there with no sign of ledge.</p>
MT WASHINGTON	<p>Needs a soil test,</p>
	<p>Which do we want to be Graves and which Clapper?</p>
Seed Orchards	<p>We need to make sure that we have sufficient number of people capable of maintaining a long term commitment for these seed orchards. We need to make sure we don't have any orphan orchards. These are a longer term thing and will need better management. Mass Fish and Wildlife in Westboro may be good for this. John Emery in Weston Mass</p>
Colrain	<p>Exploratory Steve Sylvester</p>
Medway	<p>Exploratory</p>
Weston	
Arbor Day	<p>We should explore this more CZ, suggest to them if they want to plan an activity in one of our orchards.</p>
	<p>CREATE A LIST FOR THESE SEED ORCHARDS</p>
NANKING ORCHARD PLANNING	<p>We pollinated 4 orchards and will have lot of nuts.</p>
	<p>Possibly Lincoln, possibly Medway across the soccer fields there is more land abut water would be an issue. Some of the trees here are too young</p>

MA/RI TACF Afternoon meeting

S. Kingstown Land Trust Barn in S. Kingstown RI

Officers Present:

Yvonne Federowicz, President

Lois Melican, Vice-President

Mike Novack, Treasurer

Kathy Desjardins, Secretary

Board Members Present:

Brian Clark

Denis Melican

John Meiklejohn

Rudi Hempe

Charlotte Zampini

Rufin Van Bossuyt

Gary Jacobs

John Emery

John Mirick

Jamie Donald

Rich Hoffman

Guy Shepard

VISITORS:

Gordon Jones and Earl Perkins, George Janicello, owner of graphic arts company

Meeting began at 2:45	Introduction to S. Kingstown Land Trust Barn
Treasurer's Report	<p>Since the 15th Mike received info about \$2,500 that is not listed on today's treasurer's page. We received \$2,300 in Manton grant money, and Mike requests that we all send him 2 copies of receipts for all transactions.</p> <p>A new education category has been created. We purchased 2 learning boxes for \$600. All education items will be in this category.</p> <p><i>Mighty Giants</i> Books – do we have a current inventory? Please send Mike and Kathy an email on all books that are given away. We probably would like to order another case and send Mike the invoice. Lois will create a spreadsheet with the books listed so that we can keep track of them as they are sold or given away. John Mirick said we don't need to show if we sell any of these books. Purchasing them is an expense and selling them is revenue that is not a line entry.</p> <p>Joshua Soojian worked for John Emery and John wanted to make sure that Joshua got paid. Brian Clark made up a template of Josh's timesheet that we could all use. Possibly Joshua could send us emails on the status of his pay so far.</p> <p>Manton Grant – Mike submitted \$2,000 more than would be eligible for this – we are about half way through the Manton Fund money</p>
Westerly orchard	Lots of heavy labor is needed here, and it's difficult to get the Land Trust to

	<p>work there. Could Josh could mow this? Rufin wondered that if the orchard is struggling, is it worth it to keep it going? There are 2 lines there. Jamie asked if the issue was the soil, or does the orchard need more attention. Brian does go down there occasionally to weed, maybe we should do some soil testing here?</p>
SECRETARY'S REPORT	<p>Membership is at 319 staying about the same.</p> <p>Kathy was able to sign up for online banking, sending copies to Lois, Yvonne and Roy. The bank suggested upgrading to a business account, this would not cost more but we would need to keep a minimum balance. The bank suggested we go online and check the other types of accounts where we would not have to pay to get copies of each check. All officers could have passes into get into the account, although the Treasurer does not have access to online banking due to slow/limited internet access.</p>
Secretary Contacts	<p>CONTACTS – flowering tree in Spencer Wire Village School, the school's science teacher is interested. This tree was pollinated this year by Charlotte and Chris Monette, the person who discovered the tree and who happens to be the owner of a landscaping business with a 60' aerial lift.</p> <p>Kathy checked a tree in Blackstone that is very nice, has burs and will contact science teachers about this tree.</p> <p>There is a flowering tree in Shrewsbury as well as a tree in Webster where American pollen was used to make sure that the tree produces nuts.</p> <p>Gary Jacob has a new email address (check w. Gary)</p>
Past minutes	<p>Motion was made, seconded and accepted to accept Winter and Spring meeting minutes</p>
GRANTS	
Legal agreements	<p>SOUTH KINGSTON LAND TRUST - John Mirick has heard from S. Kingstown Land Trust and everything looked fine but we do not have anything signed at this time. Don't anticipate any problems on this</p> <p>ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – Jean who had to leave early said they are interested, they have a good list of volunteer groups as well as rangers. The area has to be kept natural as it is part of a watershed property. Charlotte said we should persist in trying to get an agreement with them as we'll need many seed orchards in the future, let's play this year by year. Let's pursue getting the agreements in place. Rufin said that this area could possibly flood and has seen water and moving ice in the winter and flood and ice can crush things underneath it. We need to ask about this – frequency of flooding and thickness of ice.</p> <p>Gary asked if we get an agreement with them, can we use this for other ACE sites? J Mirick, yes. The legal work is a piece of cake, but unlike other agreements this is just an agreement with them, like a lease. If the site works, has personnel, can be maintained, but 10 years from now there is a risk that something that may happen. You can't bind the government to the agreement.</p>

	<p>John Mirick looked over some materials that federal government agreements are non-binding i.e. this makes sense for the people who are currently there, but when new people come in. they are likely to agree also. However if Fed decides to make this a parking lot, for instance, they can do anything they want. JD talked about not having a permanent orchard manager is it better to have the trees in the ground? Or if they leave how will we know?</p> <p>Mike N we ultimately have to have a working agreement with the federal government at some level, should we take this risk? We should not put lots of seed orchards there, but some are OK.</p> <p>SMITH COLLEGE - John doesn't anticipate any problems there – they asked if we would be comfortable with an aerial map on which lines have been drawn instead of a survey plan, and since we are not worried about a development, etc. then we can be OK with that.</p> <p>Scott & Sylvester is a very good candidate in Colrain on a seed orchard; this would be a good site. Jamie has a copy of the APR and could John Mirick look at this? He would like to see our agreement, how should Jamie proceed? John Mirick can give him a copy of the agreement with Smith College we have access to the orchard and that's about all that goes into our agreements.</p> <p>We have a revocable agreement (Smith college will be a recorded agreement) typically this agreement is still valid even if the land is sold.</p> <p>Yvonne is hoping that we can control the number of plots per block, 20 different seed orchards is a lot.</p>
Mt Washington	heard nothing on that yet
Granville	<p>Will need some work days this year, one at least for deer fencing. In general John is on track with being able to plant next spring. There are a couple of items to be completed, like the 2 cover crops, the first of which is already in. In order to complete this it will cost about \$300 to harrow and mow it in. John has an agreement with a friend to take out small stones at no cost to us. We have a request from John to the board about \$300 for mowing and harrowing.</p> <p>He's working on a proposal for a drip irrigation system. Bid is for \$754 John asks for \$800 to cover all expenses for drip irrigation system so that it will be ready to put in next spring. Jamie has looked at this, as has Gordon from SKLT and that this is a good bid The only other request is \$300 for irrigation and winter rye. John does not know the cost of winter rye seed. He'd like to put some fertilizer first as the soil is not rich. Fertilizer will make for a better crop of winter rye</p> <p>Gary J made a motion to allocate \$1,300 for this. Motion is seconded and approved. This is Manton grant money. Jamie suggested that we get this in now so that it is covered by the grant.</p>
Work days	John is not sure when this will be yet, he's waiting for corner posts for the fence. If that doesn't happen he will use what he has. If he does get the

	<p>telephone poles, he can do a lot of work. He needs workers to put in deer fence and will let us know when this will happen. How much money is available for him for this? We picked \$1,000. the question is can we approve more if we need to? We've spent about \$4,500 so far and we've approved \$6,500 so far and we still need deer fencing and may need more of this. Since we're going ahead at Smith College we should purchase for that as well. Brian has rough figures from Smith that seems a bit high, but this is just a rough number.</p> <p>\$1,600 for fencing which seems normal. Jamie asked if the site has water – yes. We still have \$1,000 left from Frank Howard's gift, but we have to use up the Manton grant first, then we can release the Howard money. Can we approve another \$500 for the intern? This would leave us with \$400 so we're close to using the Manton. If we approve the Manton then we can use the other money. Wait on buying other things until after this grant cycle.</p> <p>Charlotte makes a motion to approve another \$500 from the Manton \$ for the intern to work through the fall. We started with \$9,500 and have spent \$9,100 so far.</p> <p>If we have any money left we can purchase: Orchard ladders, we now have 3 two 14's and one 12'. Rufin has a 10' ladder that could be used.</p> <p>Deer fence – we may want to buy this out of our funds, Charlotte said this will be in the spring so we don't have to worry about this now. Yvonne thinks we can plant Army Corps land in the fall but Charlotte thinks this may be too early? Nuts can be wintered over covered outside with chopped leaves. If we need to plant ACE this fall do we have the funds? They probably have the labor to put in the deer fence if we bought it? And should we approve money for deer fencing for that now? If we plant them in the fall we could get by without deer fencing until the spring.</p> <p>John Mirick asked why don't we use the extra money for deer fencing and landscape fabric, even if we don't have a place to put it now. John moves that additional moneys be used for more deer fencing and/or landscape fabric. Motion is seconded and approved.</p> <p>How are we going to approve money for Smith College? A motion was made and approved for \$3,100 for fencing and irrigation costs at Smith College, \$1,300 for Granville with \$4,700 already spent. Also, the inoculant could go into that.</p> <p>Smith may need extra money for a cover crop for the winter</p> <p>The procedure is to ask Michael for checks if you don't want to pay for items then get reimbursed.</p>
Other purchases	Brad suggested a \$360 projector and a motion was made to purchase this projector.
George a	ACF Otter River Sportsman's club - started mutt nut plantings and also does

	<p>graphics work. Elizabeth Hammond asked him to price out about 30 shirts. That would go for about \$13 - \$15 and would sell for about \$25. George also showed us signs and banners that could be used for educational events. He can do vinyl banners 2 – 3 around \$30. He does calendars, printing and mailings, has a design department also. \$275 per panel for 3 that would be like the panels National uses. No motion was made on this but it is something that we should look into for future outreach.</p> <p>John Meiklejohn (?) takes responsibility for this and contacting National. They have new signs that can be set with local info.</p> <p>Directional signs with TACF logos would be good for meetings. These would be exterior grade.</p>
Insurance	Jamie has completed this task
Other non profits	Table this
Nominations committee	We need 11 people whose terms are up. Brad is organizing the annual meeting, we need someone to do the roster, Guy Sheppard will do this roster, Lois Melican will send Guy what she used last year.
Annual meeting date & speaker	Is Rhode Island too far south? Guy can get us into the National Grid site. This is a good site, and the meeting has tentatively been set for November 10 th 17 th Possibly we could get someone from NY to talk about trans genetics, or Paul Sysco, former Southern Regional Science Coordinator to speak.
Fall meeting	October 13 at River Bend farm and do the planting that day.
Restoration Branch Dinner	Charlotte said let's focus more on getting more people at the Annual Meetings rather than attempting another Restoration Branch event. Charlotte thought a personal invitation to our annual meeting sent to partners from Audubon, Trustees of Reservation, Smith College, towns who have contacted us may bring in new people. Will Elizabeth H want to do a silent auction for annual meeting?
John Trexler	<p>John is the former Director of Tower Hill Botanic Garden, the site of our first Massachusetts orchard. Do we want to honor him at some point? Guy brought a chestnut clipboard that he made, and he has 18 of these, with wood from a tree in West Bridgewater.</p> <p>We can create the graphics on a computer then have the wood burning done</p> <p>Jamie makes a motion that we spend \$40 on the 4 laser etched clipboards, and why don't we start a list for this and talk about it at the next meeting? The leaf wording for the Kathy has the working that we already used.</p> <p>Authorize Kathy to spend \$40 to get this done.</p> <p>Email Mila at acf.org and will charge the MA-RI chapter for this.</p> <p>Mike Novack makes a motion to give a membership to Chris Monette of Spencer, who discovered the flowering American chestnut at the Wire Village School, and who used a 60 lift so that he and Charlotte could pollinate this tree.</p>

Kendra	Presenting a poster about a program at Umass
	W Virginia chestnut symposium in September #375
	Regional TACF Sept 15 in NH – send agenda items