

TACF MA/RI Summer Meeting 2013, Ashfield

Officers: Yvonne Federowicz, Pres, Lois Melican, Vice-President, Kathy Desjardins, Secretary, Mike Novak, Treasurer, Kendra Gurney Science Coordinator

Board Members: John Meiklejohn, Brad Smith, Rufin VanB., John Emery, Jamie Donald, Brian Clark, Rich Hoffman, Denis Melican,

Guests: Craig Moffet, Gary Novak, John Root, Elizabeth Hammond

Meeting 11:30 Orchard Work Status	Kendra thinks we're pretty well caught up with orchard work. John E. would like to chip the rogued out trees in his orchard, this is OK as long as he burns the inoculation site.
Extra Seeds	<p>Our seed storage should be improved, as it is easy to lose an entire year's work if we don't prep the seed for storage correctly. Best practices include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pick up seeds early, when just a few are starting to open around late September. Best not to pick them up off the ground. 2. Put them into a bag to ripen for 1 or 2 weeks, with air, to deter mold, but don't let them get really dry either, they need to be carefully monitored. 3. Open burs with good gloves (nitrile gloves work well, especially if you double glove) 4. Get them into storage - 10 parts peat to one part water in large zip lock bags works, but going by feel works best for the moisture level. <p>We should create a list of step to be taken for proper storage of harvested nuts.</p> <p>For storage purposes Jamie has 3 refrigerators that we can use, Brian & John Emery also have full size refrigerators that could be used. We should keep seeds in 150 seed packs, stored in different places in case of a power outage. Ideally this should be a dedicated spot that is not opened up daily. 34-36 degree temperature should be maintained.</p> <p>A 10% bleach solution can be used if needed, however if nuts are stored properly this is not necessary. Storox is a product that uses a high grade or food safe peroxide that many growers use.</p> <p>Label bags clearly, know which tree the nuts come from, use tree numbers, J.E. how many nuts will get planted next spring? We can talk , how many orchards do we have to seed.</p> <p>We can plant in steuie pots and plant Grafton, Sterling, Granville, graves, Lincoln Wrentham Wayland, Tower Hill</p> <p>\</p>
Harvesting	Sterling who will harvest?, probably not Charlotte by herself, Rufin helped with DeLesanadros last year,.
Inoculation Reports	Newly , Ashfield Medway and Lunenburg, open pollination for B3F2 any crosses, Wayland J.E. will be interested in Nankings that he can plant next spring
Male sterile tree approach	<p>Rich Hoffman started this in 2007 and planted in 2008 in the spring, F1level use male sterile chestnut as a way to facilitate breeding blight resistant trees</p> <p>Pollination was done by taking Chinese pollen to an American tree, if you take Chinese to an American tree you'll get male sterile trees; they have male</p>

	<p>catkins but don't have flowers, you end up will lots of catkins The female flowers are fine. He pollinated 4 of his trees with pollen from American trees and he will have more information in the fall.</p> <p>Planting is isolated from other trees, on borderline between farmland and a high school, there is one Chinese tree 4/10 of a mile away, he's gotten blossoms but no nuts. It's important for isolation, you can bring in trees or bring in pollen and plant these in the stands of trees. You don't have to pollinate and it lessens the work.</p> <p>One of the results is your F1s and later generations are going to supply you with blossoms, etc., without hand pollination and bagging. Repeat this process for 3rd and 4th generation</p> <p>When you get down to BC3s that's when you use male fertile trees. At the F1 level now and he plans to plant more trees in the next 25 years and maybe the high school may be interested in doing this as a continuing process.</p> <p>All material is from Massachusetts,</p> <p>What he wants is what we may know about this work detailed in the proceedings that he outlined PA chapter work. Has anyone heard about this through TACF?]]</p> <p>Can we use this to develop pure American trees?</p> <p>M, N talked about the controlled pollinations that we do and you'd still have to do this with this. RH has pollinated American with Americans, storm cleared areas where sprouts are now coming up.</p> <p>What do you do about blight? Bring hypovirulence into the stand, mud-packing, keeping packing damp.</p> <p>Anyone interested can contact Rich, and he may want to be in on the growers meetings in PA to keep up with this. He thinks this should not be a priority for us now, Rich should contact Sara F.</p>
Demo planting committee	We'll have seedlings that we can plant in the fall. Rufin has seedlings started, and nuts planted this spring which are 2 – 3 feet tall now.
Grant Purchase needs	<p>We still have about ½ left and Michael will need to check his paperwork to be exact. We will spend all the money, much has not been submitted yet. We aren't done spending for his year. Things we can purchase can include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 3 Gates for Granville, 2. Irrigation systems, we have a spare, we didn't order deer fencing without knowing how much we will need. Pittsfield needs to know what kind of fence will work for them, probably not electric for them, as long as we know what we've spent and committed to be spent

	<p>next year if we can't make the purchase within the grant time. We still have until the end of the calendar year.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. We can safely pre- buy tubes and stakes 4. Lots of deer fencing left in Granville, netting, it's a safe bet that some sites will use this rather than electric. <p>Kendra suggested doing a spreadsheet of things we do have that we can share.</p> <p>We'll need lots of stakes and steuie pots, landscape cloth, Craig M said blue tubes didn't work in his orchard, Kendra suggested a stiffer tube that you can get into the ground.</p> <p>The best scenario is not cloth and using Round- up around the tree. Jamie has flashing already cut left over from his orchard.</p>
Seed orchard committee updates	<p>MassWldlife – planted 5 seedlings a few years ago, they're about 5 feet tall now, Rufin got a call from Bill Davis that the trees had to be moved. We heard back that they didn't want to plant on the original site but we can have 2 acres somewhere else. Rufin contacted Bartlett Tree in Worcester agreed to move the 5 trees for the cost of \$1,050 which he paid. They were moved about 500 feet away and 4 are doing well. He would like a receipt to use as a tax deduction.</p> <p>MASSWILDLIFE - There's another site where we can have 2 acres that's totally overgrown now, but they want to have different age trees here. Bill Davis wants a seed orchard there and Rufin pointed out that we need more than a germplasm agreement. BD will give Rufin a copy of the licensing agreement that they currently have to see what wording will work for the state.</p> <p>COLRAINE - Jamie has been thing to get ahold of John Mirick about the legal work involved; Scott Sylvester has not returned any calls re this orchard.</p> <p>Jamie has not found any large cooperators at this point</p> <p>HEBERT ARBORETUM - we have a map of the proposed orchard location, and Jim McGrath the Parks Director, Mayor Bianchi who has been named the chestnut mayor, and Bob Presutti, are anxious to get started.</p> <p>Brian said the urgent issue is they have not heard from us on an MOU with TACF and we are losing ground as we have not done anything in a year. We should send them at least some of the info like the Army Corps agreement that they can see. This is municipal land. Brian will send the Smith College MOU as an example.</p> <p>Ethan Dufault from Mt Washington has contacted Kendra, we can discuss in the fall after we have a soil sample.</p> <p>Lunenburg could use another block after inoculation after he's fully rogued out.</p> <p>John Mirick – when the TTOR takes on projects they have to be endowed,</p>

	<p>what if we tried to raise an endowment that is attached to a large seed orchard. Maybe a large cooperater is better than an endowment. Craig M has a drawing of the Stockbridge site of 9 acres that he is in negotiations that could be used for 9 blocks, even if he can only get 4 blocks available for a seed orchard. He would love to have more seed. Kendra suggested waiting until we have inoculated and rogued this orchard before we plant any more trees.</p> <p>Bristol Aggie lots of seeds</p>
<p>Forest Planting Committee</p>	<p>Elizabeth and Jim DiMaio planted in sportsmans clubs, they are getting good practice and a few dedicated volunteers.</p> <p>Cindy Dunn from Wachusett Meadow Audubon Sanctuary would like to plant more mutt nuts in the forest there. Elizabeth need more supplies for this.</p>

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BOARD MEMBERS: Brad Smith, Rufin VanBossuyt; Jamie Donald, Brian Clark, Rich Hoffman, John Meiklejohn, Denis Melican & , Kendra Gurney, Science Coordinator

<p>Summer 2013 Minutes</p>	<p>J M recommends accepting the spring meeting, motion proposed and passed</p>
<p>Treasurer’s Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Received a donation from the UMass Campus Community Campaign. • As most costs (licenses and fees) going up, we’ll need more money set aside for this. • Last year’s annual meeting charges are paid • Gary & Rufin rolled up the tubing at Medway to be re used • we don’t have a large amount of expenses at this time and essentially we’ve used up about ½ the grant money • We should hold off on putting in the intern expenses for now; Kendra asked if we have a limit, Mike said no, we are fine with this. <p>The issue of Rufin’s costs incurred as a result of the emergency moving of the trees at the new MassWldlife headquarters building in Westborough was discussed. Mike Novak made a motion that the chapter reimburse Rufin the \$1050. for this. After discussion, the board approved the motion, with the only dissenting vote cast by Rufin.. Kathy will write a letter to Bartlett Tree thanking them for their work..</p> <p>We should begin to build into our planning the costs of a seed orchard in partnership with MassWildlife at approximately \$1200 per block. This could be funded over time, say 10 – 15 years.</p>
<p>Secretary’s Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We now have 296 members, down slightly from 307 • Nelson Caulkin would like someone to visit him and take a look at his trees. He made some crosses and is not certain what exactly they are. Call in advance. The Heifer Project celebrated Nelson’s birthday • Kathy has received a few emails from people with blooming trees. She asks for digital pictures for the purpose of IDing trees. Kendra has a quick sheet to ID nuts and will send it to board members. • Because Lincoln’s town seal includes a chestnut tree, their Land Trust wanted to make sure that they had the proper name for TACF so as to include that in publications. • Someone in Lakeville found a chestnut tree. Rufin will follow up on this. • The Secretary’s Report was read and approved.
<p>Annual Meeting</p>	<p>We discussed the date, possible guest speakers and the location of the upcoming Annual Meeting. We can check on the Westborough Senior Center that we used last year with great satisfaction or the South Kingstown Land Trust site if it might</p>

	<p>be available. If we held the meeting here, we could do an orchard tour. Possible dates are the weekend before or after Thanksgiving, Nov 16 & 17 and 23 & 24. A great guest speakers could be Leila Pinchot, who spoke at the CT chapter's meeting last year. She works out of Grey Towers now with private land owners. Kendra will contact her.</p> <p>Paul Sisco would be another excellent choice. He knows about chestnut genome.</p> <p>Michael French, TACF's regional forester, would also be a good choice.</p> <p>Kendra will see who's available. Mike Novak made a motion which was approved that the Executive Committee take care of annual meeting planning details.</p>
Nominations	<p>Lois has agreed to make up the nomination list for the 2013 election. All current board members are interested in staying on the board. The final slate must be in place at least 30 days before the election. It's possible that the Board's officers might remain in place for another year.</p> <p>We had a discussion about the clear need for the Board to recruit new members, particularly young ones. People like Paul Wetzel, Joshua Soojian, Bill Davis, Craig Moffet and David Jadow could be approached.</p> <p>Term limits have not been discussed much, Jamie asked if we could ask National about this.</p>
Development Cabinet Governance Committee Recommendation	<p>Rufin, a National Board member, said the present structure of TACF is cumbersome and unwieldy because of excessive size and a reduction of the of the board would improve our efficiency. They're talking about placing more emphasis on committees and eliminating the cabinets.</p> <p>Jamie was concerned that these proposed changes may reduce our representation on the board</p> <p>If these committees are given more responsibility then maybe we might not have serious objections to the changes.</p> <p>A lengthy discussion of the pros and cons of these changes followed. Let's make a date for our fall meeting, Late September 28 Saturday, River Bend Farm location?</p>
Fall 2013 Meeting	<p>We should make a date for our fall meeting, what about Saturday, Sept 28 or Saturday Oct 6. River Bend Farm was suggested.</p> <p>(it was later decided to have the meeting on Sunday, Sept 29 at Wachusett Meadow in Princeton MA.)</p>
Semi-orphaned orchards	<p>We should have a dedicated manager for each orchard, if not we end up with orphan orchards, like the Smolek orchard,</p>
Signs	<p>As Smith College is now such an important orchard site, we need to provide</p>

	new signs for there. Perhaps Mila Kirkland could get us an estimate. A motion was made to approve up to \$500 for this.
Seed orchard legal agreements	(John Mirick was not in attendance.)
Strategic plan committee	Meeting in August was schedule for this committee to meet.
Monthly Conference Call	It would be good to catch up once a month on a conference call, especially before quarterly Board Meetings.
Newton	Craig from New Hampshire will be giving a talk in Massachusetts on Aug 26 th .
Heath Fair	We want to put together an attractive booth that would promote memberships, and wondered if we could give people a free book for becoming a member.
N.E. Grows	Would like a speaker in February, 2014
Meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.	