

Minutes of the growers' portion of the Mass. Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation, October 23, 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT	Meeting began at 10:35 with President Jamie Donalds, Vice-President Yvonne Federowicz, Secretary Kathy Desjardin and Treasurer Mike Novak. Other board members present were: John Mirick, Mike Meixell, Rufin VanBossuyt, Brian Clark, Guy Shepherd, Lois Melican, and guest Val Stegemoen, Blackstone River & Canal Heritage State Park Park Supervisor.
SEED ORCHARDS	Mike Novak will have a way to save space by reusing orchard space. Mike will bring a description of this integrated planting to us the next meeting.
NANKING LINES OF RESISTANCE	Soon we'll be bringing Upton trees in; and did not ask permission to use Nanking for breeding purpose. Jamie D had this conversation at last week's board meeting in W. Virginia and they talked about ways groups could be creative. JD said that the science cabinet is not really a place to look for solutions to issues we have here.
CLAPPER & GRAVES LINES OF RESISTANCE	<p>Can we cross Graves and Clapper? Some members feel there would be more resistance. Jamie asked if we should have other seed orchards one of Graves, one of Clapper, one of Nanking. We would be maintaining a seed orchard that is a cross.</p> <p>Mike N said that if we notice significant resistance we could continue with this effort.</p> <p>Jamie asked if we should not be adding a few more lines each year – it may be valuable to do this –we have American and American chinquapin resistance. Jamie said that henrii and seguinii show a high degree of resistance. Rufin said studies on this are conflicting.</p> <p>Jamie said we have no resistance genes for this here now.</p> <p>Yvonne said there are a few; and should we take samples from the Arnold Arboretum?</p> <p>Rufin said that soon we will be able to take a sample of a leaf and know where it comes from due to new methods coming on soon that make it easy and less expensive to do this.</p>
RHODE ISLAND	<p>Yvonne s said RI got 2 decent lines, plus whatever John Emery produced – all Nankings. The weather was weird and produced odd phenomena with mixed, strange results such as low pollination, and she wondered if maybe National needs to look at their pollen.</p> <p>Jamie asked if we have sites for these Yvonne will ask Roy about Gloucester, so there could be 2 orchards. Also there is the person from the Bristol Country Agricultural School who expressed interest and someone from UMass. Jamie indicated that a line of Nankings may be good for them. When Mike M brought up the possibility of an orchard at UMass Jamie brought up past experiences and the topics of the time commitment and if a contact person leaves, we never know who will take over. It could be a tenuous relationship and possibly not the TACF's best advantage, as the orchard may not be able to continue. If an orchard manager moves, the orchard is usually at risk. Mike M then suggested a demonstration orchard at places like UMass and people agreed that this may</p>

	<p>be a better arrangement, as we will have high visibility, but little liability and work done for naught.</p>
CHINESE CONTROLS AT HIGH ELEVATIONS	<p>Mike N said that our Chinese controls may not work at higher elevations, as Hawley is so high it is comparable to a much more northern zone, even worse than VT and NH. Ratings will have to be relative; this is the reason for controls.</p>
ROGUING OUT TREES	<p>John M asked if the trees that have succumbed to the blight already without inoculation should be rouged out.</p> <p>Mike N indicated that many were hit badly by the ice storm damage, thereby increasing the instance of blight. John M has taken the trees out that have died and resprouted. Jamie said that most people leave these in, the tree could die back, resprout, and the resulting tree could eventually be rated a 3. If it demonstrates resistance to the blight after inoculation, and is rated a 3, we won't know as much as we could had the tree been left to grow. It was generally agreed that things that are borderline should be kept, even though they do not do this at Meadowview.</p> <p>Brian Clark just keeps mowing after cutting the stem so the trees don't keep growing.</p> <p>Eric Evans in Maine is mowing over stumps once or twice a year, after cutting flush. This will eventually kill the root system after awhile easily and less expensive than other methods.</p>
LINES OF RESISTANCE	<p>Yvonne said that Meadowview seem to be pushing 3 lines per orchard. Questions: how many Nanking lines do we have – 6 or 7? We don't need 20 lines – there is some Nanking in PA, but we probably have the highest number of these. How many Upton trees with different Chinese mothers? Jamie produced over 100 Uptons and lot of Upton f1s until the tree died.</p> <p>Upton Chinese trees look more American than most Chinese trees; they are somewhat different, and have significant resistance.</p>
BRISTOL COUNTY AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL	<p>Brian Bastarache from the Natural Resources Department and Mike Labossiere, a forester from the City of Fall River Water Dept. and the Greater Fall River Land Trust came as visitors to inquire about planting chestnuts on their bio-reserve. They are experienced plants men and probably should have at least a block of seed trees. Possibly we could solicit their help in plantings.</p>
CLIMATE CHANGE	<p>Yvonne is taking a class on plants and climate change. She mentioned that some people in National don't believe that this is real. People are starting this "provenance testing" to climate research. You can take pure Americans from Georgia, Maine and Mexico, some at high elevations. You see how much the genotypes plunked in different growing locations do see what they will tolerate. There are models that show that chestnut range may change and southern states may become too hot. If we have to start these 20 years in advance to see if they will live here. This is a new experiment and maybe we could start some tests on this. We do not know what the true southern limits to this are. It may not just be temperature. Soils and other conditions have changed. Maybe this is something that Smith could do.</p>
PROVENANCE PLANTING	<p>Provenance testing will be determined if trees will survive freezing, If they can't, they not be viable here. They get some cold hardiness testing if you keep them</p>

<p>AND CLIMATE CHANGE</p>	<p>in the refrigerator, but in nature you get cold/warm periods, with makes the starches turn to sugar, essentially like anti freeze. Kendra is working on cold hardiness if American nuts are said to be the sweetest maybe it's because we are the coldest? Generally if you plant trees in colder than normal temperatures, they will live but may not prosper over time.</p> <p>Guy S. said that trees that are growing here now, may not have always grown here. The soil is important to the tree's range, and we don't know the most southern range for chestnut. These trees will probably move north as the temperatures rise. Phrenology (?) also makes a difference. Temperature is one thing, but sunlight patterns in GA are different than north. Light patterns are different, and daylight is different.</p>
<p>OPEN POLINATED NUTS</p>	<p>Most orchards are producing nuts –the questions are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Do we have a need for these? 2) Do we have someone to give them to? 3) Do people need to sign a germplasm agreement for this? <p>Rufin picked lots of nuts, gave them to Charlotte, and planted many behind his house to see how they overwinter. He will plant more in the spring to compare. There are plenty of nuts for these types of plantings.</p> <p>Jamie has a couple of hundred of nuts, Rufin asked Fred one time and he said eat them!</p> <p>Kathy D is also producing lots of nuts. We have had a request from someone at the Cape asking if there were any nuts available. Jamie says that if we give any germplasm from any of these trees, the recipient needs to sign a germplasm agreement. TACF has not ever been challenged on this – Rufin has a copy of the germplasm agreement that he passed around for people to see.</p>
<p>HOMES FOR THESE NUTS</p>	<p>Guy S said that Conservations Commissions, Bristol County Agricultural School, Essex Agricultural School, and other schools could be a super home for these, as there is not much commitment, and someone would most likely always be there to oversee and report on these. In Georgetown there is a gardening place with an abandoned orchard next to it.</p>
<p>GERMPLASM AGREEMENT</p>	<p>Jamie asked if we think this germplasm form is appropriate. We have lots of nuts, let get them out.</p> <p>We should have everyone sign the agreement as it may ensure a commitment from them and we know that they are interested. To get them started they should know something about growing chestnuts. Many people are not used to seeing a tree that grows this fast, and this factor makes it more interesting for people to grow.</p> <p>Jamie said we have no policy about open pollinated nut so far, maybe we – also the germplasm agreement should have a date, and maybe even a cover sheet indicating that the chances are less than one in 100 that these trees are resistant –we need to manage expectations. Jamie thinks we should have some type of policy for this. Some of these trees will be resistance – call it the chestnut lottery ticket. These need to be monitored over time. Bc3f3 seedlings from national had information sent out with their nuts, maybe we can do the same thing. Public and media are not going to know the difference and they will forget and may be extremely disappointed if they end up with a dead tree. We</p>

	<p>need to talk about a policy for this; otherwise the endeavor could be counter-productive. We need someone to write this up, and can talk about this later today.</p> <p>John Mirick said we should be able to track these trees over the years and we should make sure that people know what they are getting, in terms of resistance.</p> <p>We had talked about using nuts out of tower hill, but this is not the case now. Brad was going to take all the male catkins off of the tree, but did not get to do that, so we're not sure what the pollen source of the father was.</p> <p>Is Tower Hill rogues out? John Trexler wants to have some of the existing trees planted in the nutery. Bigelow Nursery has agreed to move them. We need to do back pollination or emasculate the trees there. It's easier to bag the trees.</p> <p>This could be a place to generate nuts, so we need to bag these. We may need to begin taking out some trees with chain saws so that we are able to get these nuts easier. Most of these trees we do not want so we should flush cut and mow over. No nuts for this spring, but we will definitely have some by 2012.</p>
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LUNCH
AFTERNOON MEETING

PEOPLE PRESENT	<p>President Jamie Donalds, Vice-President Yvonne Federowicz, Secretary Kathy Desjardins and Treasurer Mike Novak. Other board members present were: John Mirick, Mike Meixell, Rufin VanBossuyt, Brian Clark, Guy Shepherd, Lois Melican, and guest Val Stegemoen, Blackstone River & Canal Heritage State Park Supervisor. Charlotte Zampini and Rich Hoffman; and guests Brian Bastarach, the Natural Resources Department Head from Bristol County Agricultural School, and Mike Labossiere, a forester from the City of Fall River Water Dept. and the Greater Fall River Land Trust were here as guests.</p>
TREASURER'S REPORT	<p>Mike Novak, Chapter Treasurer had lots more expenses because of inoculations; the money from Frank Howard's donation fund has been transferred. We are still slightly on the plus side for the year, and don't have too many expenses outside of the annual meeting. We still have more than half of the intern money left, so probably we can do this again next year.</p> <p>The question of removing some of the accounts that are not longer relevant was brought up. Other accounts can be eliminated that often have money but not at the end of the quarter? We can collapse fixed assets. Do we want to see these things or not?</p> <p>On the income side we have insurance recovery, like from the house fire – John Mirick said we should leave it in for 2 years. Then we can take it out.</p> <p>Mike made a motion to take these things out, and wanted to present it to us.</p>

	<p>It was agreed to do this as simple is better! Yvonne wondered if the information from Westerly reflected on this statement, as The orchard irrigation amount looks very small Mike said it's important to tell Mike when you buy something and what this is so that he can put this purchase in the proper location.</p>
<p>SECRETARY KATHY DESJARDINS' REPORT</p>	<p>Membership is about the same -311 members now. Jamie notes that one of the new initiatives is trying to increase membership – some chapters send out 5 reminders to expiring members and have a new tracking program for members with new software that generates detailed info about membership. If we are losing people and we send things out and they don't respond, maybe a personal call will help.</p> <p>Kathy has notes of people who have not re-upped in the MA/RI Chapter and sends an annual meeting invitation to remind people. The Annual Meeting invitation is at the printer's, and should be ready on the 28th or the 29th. Possibly we can send something out via email before that. This would be an added heads up for people. Rufin says we should have a goal next year to get it out a month early. We could email, and then follow up with a postcard. Another avenue for publicity is National, who has invited us to send in articles and they will print it in the Journal. Charlotte wonders if we could get something in the papers. Jamie will speak with Meghan at National to see if she can do something about that for papers like the Boston Globe and Herald, the Worcester Telegram & Gazette, Providence Journal, the Springfield Republican, the Blackstone Valley Journal, and the Breeze in northern RI. Small local papers would be better dealt with by us.</p> <p><u>Contacts</u> Tom Ryan, DCR Pittsfield area, found a tree in western mass. Rufin though the tree that he sent a picture of looked Chinese.</p> <p>There was an inquiry from someone in West Stockbridge, who wanted to help with anything out that way. Craig Moffet can use some help there.</p> <p>Rufin spoke with Michelle Clay, who wanted to write an article for Franklin County Gazette.</p> <p>Joseph Landhan, from the New York Post (?) who produces cooking videos will call Lois with some questions about cooking with chestnuts.</p> <p>Paul Weskel, a restoration ecologist from Smith College, has 200 acres of field on the campus and would be willing to take on experiments that we wanted to have done. He could be a support staff for the existing orchard, like in Sturbridge. He has students, resources, and is willing to do experiments that we would like done. Charlotte suggested possibly doing something with surviving sprouts.</p> <p>Someone from Martha's Vineyard had some experience in an orchard and wondered if we had any chestnuts available. This may be a good opportunity for open pollinated nuts, which we have now. They will have to sign germplasm a germplasm agreement. We would be happy to give them</p>

	<p>some nuts, but these will need another generation before they are completely blight resistant. We should also give them an annual report form to fill out so that we can stay connected to the results of this planting. (?)</p>
DAVE LABRODE	<p>Received seedlings 2 years ago and planted them, and is requesting a couple more seedlings. Guy is in touch with a group from the city of Haverhill, who will be in touch later this week. Guy is familiar with this site and its open field, a minimum of 200 acres. Ruffin has BC3F3 that he has started in peat moss perlite, vermiculite and forest soil. Jack Jackson is on a committee</p> <p>Charlotte says you can buy inoculants to add to your soil mix in lieu of micorhyza.</p> <p>A motion was made to give him 2 of the MA/RI Chapter's BC3F3 to replace his that died. This motion was passed.</p>
SEEDS	<p>A question was asked about what to do with these nuts before we have done a selection. We don't want to confuse these nuts with what has been produced at Meadowview.</p> <p>Charlotte says it's quite an effort to keep track of these and she would prefer giving these seeds to people who want to do a large planting. Martha's Vineyard has a great conservation community, but we would still have to check things out - will this effort contribute to the chapter? If we are going to take the effort to pass around these nuts, we need to think about how it can help the chapter? Should people we donate to be a member of the chapter before we give them nuts? This needs to be sorted out before we begin giving out nuts.</p> <p>We should give these to cooperators.</p>
JULY NOTES	<p>Were received, read and approved.</p>
BRISTOL COUNTY AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL	<p>Brian indicated that he and Mike would like to do something to help further the goals of the MA/RI Chapter. There are partners and groups working on saving the bay. He is trained as a wildlife biologist and would like to see a nice mix in the curriculum. They had a project that fell through.</p> <p>The agricultural school has a 400 seat auditorium that is available.</p> <p>Mike Labossiere contacted him about chestnuts, and would like to know also what they can do? DCR just purchased a property near the school, and will be laying waste to a small piece of their property that is an old Civilian Conservation Corps planting that is no longer viable. The school's climate controlled greenhouse is available if we could use this. If there is anything that they can get involved in, they are willing and eager to do this.</p>
MIKE LABOSSIÈRE	<p>He is a forester who has managed Fall River's forests since 1984 on land that has been set aside since 1902. There are 2,000 city-owned acres with a CR set aside as a Southeastern Massachusetts Bio-reserve. At its core are farm buildings, including a 1880s farm house and 9 outbuildings. Working with The Trustees of Reservations they created a nursery for Atlantic white cedar, and thought this would be a great place to begin their restoration project. As they were planting in the swamp, they noticed how difficult it was to plant, and wondered what else they could put that would make more</p>

	<p>sense. 1908 forest picture shows chestnuts in the picture, so the ghost of the species is still there. Winter moth, gypsy moth and tent caterpillar have decimated the area and they need a species to plant. They have students, space, etc. and a youth core from Bristol Aggy and these students are serious about conservation and can work alone. They also have a solar deer fence.</p> <p>What about finding chestnuts out in the woods? We are still looking for new lines of resistance. They have an arbor-culture department. Hypo-virulence is being looked at in Michigan and West Salem other experiments are being conducted at Framingham State U. using a surface application on stump spray on the bark the pentrobark allows this to enter the tree.</p>
<p>SEED ORCHARDS</p>	<p>Jamie indicated that our main concern right now is getting seed orchards going. The next thing we're looking for is to continue with the breeding program, which needs over 22 acres of trees and we need co-operators.</p> <p>We are looking for seed orchards of about one acre, and want to spread this around the state. 1 – 2 acres is the smallest, but we want to experiment with elevations, locations, etc.</p> <p>Rufin said that we have 50 seedlings and are planting out 3 –5 of these nuts for p.r. and also to test. We will be getting more of these seeds each year, and want to plant out as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. seed orchards, we need nuts for this 2. back crossed 3 orchards, the generation before the seed – 2 different lines, spacing 12 x 12, inoculate those trees and select 2 (half-resistant) 3. Next year, nuts from our back crossed orchard to plant out in the woods a) with no protection b) in the understory, as well as c) planting nuts with protection/no protection. <p>There has been very little work done on the silvaculture of chestnut trees, most has been done on back-crossing. More work has to be done on how to get these trees back into the forest. Wisconsin and Ohio have been doing test on this. What do we do: plant in fall/spring; there are lots of questions about this?</p> <p>Possibly these two can collaborate as there are many opportunities. Who would be the main contact? Kendra Gurney is one point of contact, and Charlotte as our science coordinator, They should be invited to get correspondence.</p> <p>If we start seed in a greenhouse, we can plant in the spring in April and early May. Students could do this. If they did a fall planting, they should be up by mid-may.</p> <p>Orchards have to be mowed, irrigated and mulched. An intern or someone would have to be used in the mid summer. It depends when the help is available, indoor planting are very viable, but more work. Is there any use for an outdoor nursery?</p> <p>We could use some larger trees for demonstration plantings. They have a</p>

	<p>nursery with a horticulture program. Lois M has volunteered to go to the school to do a presentation.</p>
<p>PLAQUES</p>	<p>Kathy brought a plaque that was made by Creative Hobbies in Mendon for the National Grid people who have helped our chapter. The wood is from a tree that was formerly pollinated, and subsequently died. For the presentation on this, Rufin would like to do this at their headquarters, possibly a few TACF members.</p> <p>If we can send them a PDF file before the plaques printed, they will be able to add anything to the plaque that we want. Rufin thinks they will last longer if they're painted with polyurethane.</p> <p>Are we going to make "thank you" plaques for Frank Howard and Jim Garland, retired charter board members? We have 4 completed, and Guy can come up with blanks easily. All we need is wording.</p>
<p>BOARD ISSUES</p>	<p><u>Conway Orchard</u> A DCR forester has done some work out there and it's in good shape.</p> <p>Bruce Spencer is interested in doing some planting on his property which he's opened up. It would be an ideal place to put 3 -5 seedlings. He has a CR on this property for the future. He reported that his orchard is doing well. John Mirick said he thought it would be worthwhile to give Bruce seeds, and he will be great on the follow up.</p> <p><u>Chapter Name</u> Last month, Jamie was asked to inquire about changing the name of the chapter from Mass Chapter to MA/RI Chapter as we are already involved with RI. Bryan Burhans was OK with this; National took a vote and said it was OK if we want to add RI to our chapter. The biggest issues are the paperwork as well as conflicts across the line of both states if we do it formally. It was asked of can we just informally change the name. To do this we just need a vote at the annual meeting and there is a filing fee for this.</p> <p>Would we need a public charities designation in RI? It was decided that we can do business throughout the world because we are chartered at a public charity. \$25,000 is the limit for having to file a long form with the IRS and State. We probably should just change our name and continue to do business as usual.</p> <p>Jamie said we are not only taking things from RI but also giving things to RI. Treasurer Mike N. says it's common for charities not to change their names; the technical name is not always the same as the incorporated name. Jamie wants to make a motion for this.</p> <p>YF wonders what does this mean in terms of our legal status. Probably not much, as we are doing this already. If RI is willing to work with MA as such, why not keep it the same.</p> <p>Jamie made motion that we leave it as is, until the time comes that it matters John Mirick proposes that we call ourselves under the name of the MA/RI</p>

	<p>branch of TACF.</p> <p>MOTION: A motion was made that we change just the name and do business as the Massachusetts/Rhode Island Chapter. The motion was discussed and carried.</p>
<p>REPORT FROM CHARLOTTE RE INTERN</p>	<p>The intern assisted with inoculations done over the summer at Sterling, Medway Wrentham, and Lincoln /Wayland .5 orchards have been inoculated and they rogued out the trees in Wayland and Lincoln. Between Adam and John Emery, they basically took out all the other trees that could be openly pollinated.</p> <p>Wrentham and Lincoln have been rated and they finished up the ratings. Ratings on all the trees done in the spring need to be rated, and trees have to be rogues out. The intern worked out great, he was hard working.</p> <p>Pollination with Nanking 3 in RI and Coventry, Cranston and East Greenwich: one tree produced 102 nuts, with 145 in Sudbury 92 in Coventry, and Greenwich had 120 nuts.</p> <p>We have lots of work in terms of rating and raging out trees next year. Ink disease in some of the orchards where they removed trees with resistance.</p> <p>Sterling, Grafton and Granville all have trees with phytophethera resistance. John James tested these; we've been sending him nuts for a few years.</p> <p>The goal is open pollinated nuts from resistant orchards, and the nuts should go to Joe James. The chestnut ink disease was originally in the south and kills the roots. This is spreading north and in Kentucky they lost good chunks of orchards. They tried agrofoss for that. This may be spreading north.</p> <p>Charlotte asked that we all please get our orchard data to her ASAP!</p>
<p>SEED ORCHARD DEVELOPMENT</p>	<p>John Meiklejohn will be preparing his field on Nov. 20 and many volunteers will go out to help him. Charlotte said we should start with controls.</p> <p>Lois M Lois talked about not yet having an answer from DCR on the Moore State Park seed orchard, so it was decided to just put this on hold for the present and concentrate our seed orchard efforts on orchard that seem more viable for the near future. Rufin suggested Mass Fish & Wildlife, who manage 180 thousand acres of land. They may be interested in seed orchards. Moore SP may be a great place for a demonstration orchard.</p> <p>National would like to have a planting of about 100 trees. Rufin will talk to them about seed orchards. The Lyman school property at their district field offices (Fish & Wildlife) may be a good lace.</p> <p>Are there any other places for seed orchards: Boy Scout Camps were suggested; however we need cooperators that will give us support. Like schools and Land Trusts.</p> <p>One thing is the amount of land we need – Michael said that as our needs will come online in 10 – 20 years, we will be waiting years. Can we reuse a</p>

	<p>seed orchard? Where we can concentrate more trees in one spot. Mike N will come back in January with pictures of this.</p> <p>Beals farm in Westboro, and TTOR properties are great organizations to partner with, John Mirick will find out more about this.</p>
DEMONSTRATION ORCHARDS	<p>This summer – sites for the 50 BC3f3 nuts that we have are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sudbury 2. River bend 4 miles of park; great for demonstration trees, it would be great to have an open area with some signage, we need water for the next few years, possibly across the river, it must be far enough from the research orchard ¼ mile would be OK. We need the trees to be about 20 – 30 feet apart. They need good sunlight. We could do a spring planting. Park Supervisor Val Stegemoen said they could find such a place. 3. Gilbert Stewart – mini Sturbridge village recreation past URI, near master gardeners who have chestnut in their buildings. 4. Walden woods 5. Arnold arboretum 6. Fish & Wildlife in Westboro 7. Worcester, to replace some of the trees that were taken down due to the ALB (Asian Longhorn Beetle) Lois will send Jamie Colin Novick's contact info 8. Cormier Woods in Uxbridge. Mike Francis mfrancis@ttor.org 9. Tower Hill Botanic Garden- something honoring John Trexler would be nice. Brad has already planted some trees out in their wooded area. 10. Orleans where Rufin found a bunch of trees john Gilmore and his family own land 11. Stockbridge – land trust or laurel hill – possibly great pr and help – 12. West Springfield Garden Club has started a fund to honor someone and they want to put a bench and a tree, possibly a chestnut tree?
ANNUAL MEETING	<p>Brad has things ready to go – he's sent out the postcard and the guest speakers have been lined up.</p> <p>Jamie asked if Lois could call/email Rich Giordano to see if we could take a walk inside the village just to see the chestnut tree planting that was installed there on May 1, 2010. Lois will call Rich.</p> <p>Elections will be held first thing in the morning.</p>
JANUARY MEETING	<p>Will be on 3rd Sunday, the 23rd or January. Could we have it at the Bristol County Agricultural High School? The address is 135 Center St. Dighton MA 02715, about 20 minutes from Freetown.</p>

Respectfully Submitted
Lois Breault-Melican
November 3, 2010

