

DRAFT copy of minutes

TACF-MA/RI meeting at Roger Williams Park, Providence RI

October 15, 2011

MEMBERS PRESENT AT ORCHARD GROWERS MEETING

Yvonne Federowicz, President, Lois Breault-Melican, Vice President, Kathy Desjardins, Secretary, Mike Novak, Treasurer, Kendra Gurney, NE Science Coordinator Elizabeth Hammond, Denis Melican, Rufin Von Bossuyt, Brad Smith, Gary Jacobs, John Meiklejohn, Brian Clark, Rudi Hempe, Earle Perkins, Gordon Jones, Gordon Mahan, Jamie Donald

	Meeting opened at 10:20 am
KINGSTON RI ORCHARDS	Rudi told the group about their efforts with dwarf root stock with trellises and super spindling - growing trees like a hedge on a wire trellis system, this was first tried in the Amherst area, and they are going to try this.
MASTER GARDENERS	There used to be a Master Gardener program in Amherst, but it no longer exists at UMass. The URI program has 650 members, with over 200 active members that do projects across the state. They are based at East Farm, where they maintain greenhouses and orchards.
CHESTNUT PROJECT	The chestnut project there is done in conjunction with the Kingston Land Trust. There have a major Poinsettia program going on there to raise money. They grow vegetables, and give away tons of vegetables to food banks and kitchens
CHESTNUT WOOD ID	Chestnut is readily identifiable by the huge holes in the springwood. It is a light wood, often used for siding in RI. There was a school built in 1915 that was sided with hand cut chestnut bark, with three sides are still in great shape. It's owned by the US forest service.
TEST PLANTING OF B3F3s	<p>Yvonne F asked how many trees we have - Rufin has 7 then 20 that were started this spring. The ones that are 2 years old are 2-3 feet high; Mike N questioned if any results were tabulated on those nuts, as those that did survive may be more resistant.</p> <p>The status of the B3F3s already planted was discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rufin planted 5 on conservation land in Orleans on Cape Cod; 4 made it through the winter; the hardware cloth is being soiled by birds, and there is lots of bittersweet around; he also has about 20 that were started this past spring, a few died, but most are OK; he had a request for 2 to be planted in the town of Berlin and would like B3F3s, Rufin said he would bring it up at the meeting, Mike N said that 2 is probably not a good number to plant, people should plant at least 3.• Rudi planted 5 last week, these are not protected.• Brad said the first group at Tower Hill died, but this year's look OK.• Yvonne has a number in her yard, some were put in at Gilbert Stewart.• Lois M received a call from the Director of Winchendon Cemeteries, asking for chestnuts for their Town Common, which is undergoing a restoration. He said that there were originally chestnuts there.• Elizabeth H suggested Wachusett Meadow's Audubon Sanctuary as a planting site, where the trees could be part of the sanctuary's interpretive programs.• Kathy mentioned that Chestnut Hill is on our original list, and is there anyone who can follow through on this? Elizabeth H will take the germplasm agreement to them, and TACF needs the original copies of this.• Also the Hebert Arboretum in Pittsfield and Kendra reminded us that they need to complete a germplasm agreement to be on a planting list.• Denis M said that Fruitlands Museum could be added to the list, they are interested in chestnut trees, and would be a great public venue for them.• Also the Chestnut Hill Garden Club and do these have to go another winter in a bigger pot? Rufin has some larger Stuewe pots with ridged inner surfaces, which makes the

	<p>roots grow down, rather than girdling.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gary J suggested that for high profile places, we should probably be using better nuts, and not mutt nuts. <p><i>(As an aside, 6 nuts were planted at Moore SP, and all are doing well)</i></p>
SIGNS	<p>The 3 panel signs are being looked at to come up with a better design. Benson's Wild Animal Farm has a one panel sign, much less complicated to install. National is working to improve the signs. Mike N suggested a small pamphlet box attached to the signs for brochures would be a good idea, and may bring in new members.</p> <p>Elizabeth H knows a local printer, and suggested it may be better than getting things from National. Kendra G said that National has never complained about supplying signs to chapters, and that these were printed by their printer. National is revisiting this to see if chapters can print locally. For now we should order from them and getting more than one sign at a time is best.</p> <p>Brad S asked how long we should leave the signs up, like at Tower Hill, where there are only 5 trees left? Rufin mentioned that the 3 panels at Wrentham have disappeared.</p>
INOCULATIONS/RATINGS	<p>Were done this year at Ashfield Hawley, Granville, Grafton, & Moore SP by various groups of volunteers, along with the Regional Science Coordinator Kendra G, as well as Charlotte Z. They will both meet in the future to select trees.</p>
HARVEST – 125 CHESTNUTS PER POUND	<p>We have harvested about 4000 to 4500 mutt nuts, Brian C has about 26 pounds, which he will take to the annual meeting. (There are about 1000 nuts in 8 pounds) He also has Nankings, the control crosses for phytophthera were Clappers, and the pollen was Graves</p> <p>Yvonne talked with Charlotte about phytophthera, mutt nuts, and controlled pollinations, and Charlotte would like some nuts to go back with Rufin and about 150 of each type of cross to go for phytophthera testing in Sterling and Grafton. Nuts from Brian's orchard have multiple pollens, and Fred would like it sent to VA.</p>
DESTINATIONS FOR MUTT NUTS	<p>Brian Bastarache at Bristol County Aggie, Webb from Brown University, and the Otter River group, where Bruce Spencer suggested they plant 24 mutt nuts, 12 in Stuewe pots and 12 in the ground, are all in the queue, waiting for nuts.</p> <p>Kendra G said that if nuts you received from National didn't make it, tell National and you will be on a list for replacements.</p> <p>(Julia has 100 acres would like mutt nuts.) Who is this?</p> <p>Sawmill owner in Princeton would like mutt nuts and a wood cutter would like some chestnut wood also.</p> <p>Kendra G said that Maine has been collecting and passing out American nuts to people as an incentive to join. Also, as production goes up we will be looking for places to grow.</p> <p>Yvonne F said that we don't want to use up all our good nuts, and people have to understand that these are not the final product.</p> <p>Elizabeth H said she did not know if the mutt nuts that were raffled off in Princeton ever got to their rightful owners.</p> <p>William White has a project going in W Virginia and need about 6,000 nuts. We also want to save some for RI work</p>
SEED ORCHARD STATUS	<p>John M said it's been too wet to get in with a tractor; there are still some stumps left that need to be removed before harrowing. \$3,500 has been put aside for the Granville orchard & we will have about \$800 left. Kendra G said if we need to hold off on projects because of adverse condition, yet the funding is committed, we can wait on this and work when we can. Spacing would be one block with 150 trees, spaced 1 foot apart, with 7 feet between rows. Fences and irrigation needs to be laid out.</p>

	<p>Kendra said it depends on when the seeds are ready. If you've got room for 24 150 tree sections, the goal would be 20 full lines with 150 tree plots and a buffer between each to tell them apart. Mike N said to think about mowing when spacing these out. Maybe we will do 4 or 5 each year, and it may take more than one year to fill in all 150 trees.</p> <p>The Rhode Island folks would like to purchase irrigation equipment now so they will be ready when they get nuts. They need to plan the system for about 20 plantings, and 1.7 acres have been fenced in. Mike N said that once the trees have been rogued out, you can reuse the space. Gordon would like the water distribution system underground so that it could be tapped into. A fiberglass box in the ground that he can branch out from would be ideal.</p> <p>On the subject of seed orchards, Kendra suggested starting small, as these require maintenance on a fairly regular schedule.</p>
<p>POTENTIAL NEW ORCHARDS</p>	<p>Potential new orchards;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Army Corps of Engineer sites at West Hill Dam; Oxford site is also good; these sites have scout groups that work with the Park Rangers; possibly 3 new Nankings there <p>Mike N said he would be willing to give the Chapter a right of way to plant/expand his site. It's currently forest but could be used for 10 or 15 years. The site needs to be logged along with stump removal. Because the site is large, rocks would not be a problem, as we can plant around them. Brian C said they are close enough that he could help with this project.</p> <p>Kendra is concerned about the work load, irrigation needs & IDing the area for water. Jamie asked if this site would be good for a seed orchard? Mike said there could be 2 sites within 2 miles as the crow flies with an 8,000 elevation level to see how this affects the trees.</p> <p>Rufin said one of the problems he sees is that our trees are not producing enough yet, and when they do we will need those to plant in seed orchards. Roguing out the trees will be a fair amount of work also. An important point is to make sure that when the orchards are evaluated that we are sure to properly label <u>which trees are to be saved</u>. Kendra and Charlotte decided to flag the ones chosen to be cut or use paint or permanent markers.</p> <p>Rufin agreed that we are going to have to spend money to remove then chip the trees and Kendra said that if there are specific things we know we will need money for, TACF now has a grant person, and we should ask for this money now.</p> <p>We are being asked to burn what we remove and not chip it or move it. Jamie wondered if we could just remove, chip and burn on site, with the help of a fire department and Gary said this could be coordinated. Cut it, stack it then cover it for awhile.</p> <p>Jamie said that even though we are not getting great production now, we may be getting lots of nuts in the future, but we will need to get nuts in the meantime, and we don't know if the selected trees are flowering.</p> <p>Denis M suggested that with the stretched resources at present it would be best to pursue the seed orchards that we are currently working on, rather than relying on DCR to move forward on a seed orchard at Moore SP. TACF-MA/RI has waited 3 years and still do not have a response to our request on a seed orchard.</p>

AFTERNOON SESSION Yvonne Federowicz, President; Lois Breault-Melican V President; Kathy Desjardins, Secretary; Mike Novak, Treasurer; Kendra Gurney, NE Science Coordinator; Elizabeth Hammond, Denis Melican, Rufin Von Bossuyt, Brad Smith, Gary Jacob, John Meiklejohn, Brian Clark, Rudi Perkins, Jamie Donald, Roy Najecki, Rich Hoffman

	Meeting came to order at 1:11 pm
SEED ORCHARDS	Chapter has purchased a weed-whacker and fencing, with reimbursement from National; also \$1000 for land prep; URI - Kingston has not purchased anything yet except irrigation, & will spend about \$400 on a ladder, then have about \$2400 left; nothing has been bought for Granville yet; Kendra said if you need things it would be good to purchase them now. Yvonne F said that we may have funds left over. Brian has a friend who has a lift that the chapter can use for free
GRANVILLE ORCHARD	John M passed out a sheet with figures and is trying to emulate S. Kingston as they did such a great job. There is a small labor question - we had allotted \$3500 and have about \$800 left which should cover de-stumping and rock removal so we can do this within the allotted costs. Voles can be a problem, electric fence needs to be able to be disconnected at the bottom during heavy snow as they can short out if they're buried. Yvonne F suggests that we keep monitoring this to make sure costs remain stable and we are on target. Mike N suggests regular fence rather than electric fencing may be better, as many people in less rural areas are not familiar with electric, which may cause some problems.
Memorandum of Understanding	<p>We can use the Granville draft MOU as a model for R.I. John explained the document and the status. Everything is on target, (this will be addendum #1) Kendra said inoculation or anything else required could be added. Gary J asked about water. Future water access should be addressed. Roy N asked how many gallons of water would be used each week on an orchard and said that drip irrigation is about ½ gallon per hour. Rudi zones his systems, and tapers off each year. Maybe we should think about equipment access. John Mirick suggested leaving the language fairly general in the easement restriction, rather than too specific.</p> <p>Distribution committee asked if ½ of our chapter nuts must be given to National or the Forest Service? The MOU with the Forest Service states that they are the preferred recipients, as material is available. They usually work with Fred on this. John M asked if the MOU should be run by National and maybe Bryan would like to see this. The document is pretty standard, however, and should be able to be used as a template for other orchards on private land. Rudi H. suggested some boiler plate wording that is acceptable to National. Kendra suggested there are a few articles out there which we could use. It was suggested by Roy N. that the language be changed on access so that outside contractors are allowed on the land, not just TACF members and volunteers. The term "agents" could be used. Kathy D. would like a spreadsheet of germplasm agreements to keep on file. Kendra suggested we may change #7 from 30 years to "the amount of time needed"</p>
SUMMER MEETING MINUTES	Summer meeting minutes were approved with one abstention (Gary J, I believe?)
TREASURER'S REPORT	Mike N. passed out the balance sheet and had some question about the RB event. Restoration Branch dinners were paid for along with the silent auction and Kathy D. said we need to send what we received to National. We must send a reporting to them with what we've taken in with the check we send them. Mike N. does not have all the expenses yet and Kathy D. has not filed the report; she asked whose responsibility this is. A check has to be written to National and Kendra thinks they will do the accounting, memberships that were received that day will be counted differently. Elizabeth H. said there is a pamphlet available, breaking down the finances between a branch event and chapter finances. We need separate accounting from National and we need to make sure we cc Mike N on this so he can keep track of the differences. Some things must come off of our chapter books and go on

	National's books. The accounting for the restoration branch event has not been computed yet.
NEW CHAPTER REPORTING	<p>Yvonne sent out an email asking for information including chapter activities and financial events. National asked for an audit, but the cost would be over \$1000. Mike N mentioned before that he would like someone to check his statements, similar to an audit, and Jamie asked if we could just run this by Bryan as we cannot afford an audit or could National do an audit? And is this necessary each year? Maybe just someone looking over Mike's shoulder . Kathy asked if we could do a check online? Mike could send a copy of the software, however he doesn't think it will work as he does not have the bandwidth for this.</p> <p>Can we set up an assistant auditor position? Roy would be on this committee and Kathy suggested that any officer can go to the bank and ask for a statement. They should be able to ID the officers, then provide the information. Kathy had to file an annual report with names of officers. Jamie thinks this should be done by one of the officers annually and each time Mike does a quarterly report, he could bring a copy to the meeting and Board Members could check this out.</p> <p>Kathy can go to the bank twice each year to get a copy of the bank statement then give it to Roy. This should be put in the regular minutes. Kathy brought this up with Dennis Kimball about writing a check or going to the bank getting a (counter ?) check. Kathy is not comfortable doing this without Mike's approval. Kathy and Mike need to talk about expenses.</p> <p>A motion was made by Roy that the secretary and Roy are appointed as a financial subcommittee to review the financial statement of the treasurer and report to the board at each quarterly meeting. Motion is passed unanimously.</p> <p>Motion is made to accept the Treasurer's report</p>
SECRETARY'S REPORT	<p>The chapter now has 309 members & Restoration Branch event took in 4 new members and 3 renewals. Nate Johnson from Westminster called describing chestnut re-growth on his land. Hopefully he will become an active member. Elizabeth H will take this.</p> <p>From RI – who took a sample of chestnut and someone told him it was an American. It is a 7 foot dbh tree, 35 feet tall, with no blight – maybe Chinese tree? He was happy with contact with Yvonne. He is interested in the edible aspects of chestnuts. He is near Westerly and will send a leaf sample to Kendra. Yvonne explained that his tree may be a hybrid.</p> <p>On 10/1 Clint McFarland gave a talk and update about ALB and said someone found a 30" dbh American chestnut and could we ID it? Kathy will follow up on this.</p> <p>A call came in from Richmond NH and Kendra asked for a leaf and branch sample and a location. Jamie said that is near him and he could go and check this out.</p> <p>Rufin said there's a new tree found on the Milford bike trail and the Upton Town Crier wrote a store about the ghost tree, and a gentleman from Mendon found a tree that he is 90% sure that it's American, but would like to Charlotte to check this out.</p> <p>Brad and Rufin did a talk at the Orleans National Trust and led a walk for the Orleans Pond Association on 9/25 where 50 people showed up. They gave out all their brochures, and have been asked to lead a walk in the Kendrick Woods.</p>

	<p>Jamie suggested that we collect moneys from memberships, and Kathy prefers that new memberships go right to National. If someone fills out a brochure at a presentation and gives us a check, this check should go to National. They have a card swiper and can we use this, or can we take a credit card number? Kathy said this is OK if they don't mind writing the card number on a membership application. She only processes these if they are sent to the MA/RI Chapter. Rufin got a note from National saying that they got a donation from the Orleans Conservation Trust.</p> <p>Anytime someone does do a presentation, they should please report this to the board.</p> <p>A motion was made to approve the secretary's report seconded and approved</p>
E-SEEDLINGS	<p>The e-newsletter designed and created by Brad, will include the Restoration Branch Event, Frank Howard's award presentation, and the land clearing in Granville.</p> <p>There is a MA/RI chestnut news mailing list that can be added to. Just send the names to Yvonne, and she will add them to the e-list</p>
PURCHASING EXTRA MIGHTLY GIANT BOOKS	<p>The question of buying extra books at wholesale price came up, should we want to sell or donate books. Kendra has books for aprox. \$25 each, with hard covers wholesale at \$30. They are a great addition for schools or nature centers. We should be able to buy books at wholesale cost, with a chapter price of \$30 for a hard cover book. Judy in the main office could help with this. Lois asked if chapter members individually could purchase these at the wholesale cost, then give them away, as she and Denis usually leave a book when they do a presentation to a garden club, Audubon Society or other group. Someone suggested creating a link on our website where people can buy these books. Jamie suggested that we purchase a case then pass them around between members so that we can take them to presentations to sell or give away.</p> <p>Jamie made a motion that we purchase a case of soft cover Mighty Giants for chapter members to use.</p> <p>Was this motion seconded and passed?</p>
GRANT MONEY	<p>Kendra suggested that they will apply for the grant again this year, so if there are things you think you may need, please submit this now, creating a wish list. We can do this online, and if we have extra funds, we can always use more deer fence. It was suggested that we make a motion to purchase extra supplies as we have one more month before the annual meeting</p>
WISH LIST	<p>Roy asked if we should be concerned about liability for any of our equipment. John Mirick wrote that we, as board members, could be responsible. If we (as members) are using equipment ourselves, the policy is different. It was suggested that a liability waiver may be needed and does national have a Board of Director's policy? Kendra can get more information on this for us. Elizabeth H said there is a hold harmless agreement that prevents liability. You can't sue a landowner in Massachusetts for things that happened on a trail. Doing work on a private property is different. This type of insurance is quite expensive – could National look at this? Kendra said chapters have been doing this, not on a national level.</p>
RESTORATION BRANCH ROUNDUP	<p>The OSV event was successful and other venues for this event were discussed. Roy brought up the fact that the South County Land Trust has a great sites. Carl Alley Shank in Westminster was mentioned. Bryan suggested that we try to get people from other states to come to our events.</p> <p>Kendra said that we will be doing a RBE workshop at the Regional meeting on Nov 5, which will be held from 10 – 4 in Portsmouth, NH. There is a \$12 charge for coffee and lunch and the program will include a research presentation by a graduate student, a little science, some development and anything else that we want to talk about. It was suggested that South Kingstown would be a good area for this also. Kendra suggested going back to the same areas</p>

	each year to build support.
ANNUAL MEETING AT HARVARD FOREST, 11/20/11	The date for our 2011 Annual Meeting is 11/20 at Harvard Forest, in Petersham from 11 - 4. We will have a tour of the forest and ID sites that relate to chestnut. Our keynote speaker is Fred Hebard, who will talk about seed orchards, now and in the future. Mike N will give his seed orchard presentation on the re-use of orchard space. Brad talked about offering updates on each topic. Possibly Bruce Spencer can talk about the national conference he went to and John M can give a small presentation about the status of the Granville seed orchard. It would be nice to have the Learning Box at the Annual Meeting for everyone to see. A potluck was suggested, and we agreed to coordinate this online. It was suggested that we serve as much chestnut food as we can.
2012 ROSTER	Motion was made to accept the roster for board members and officers for 2012.
IRS FORM 8734	Is something we need to re-file with the IRS because it's been more than 5 years since we last filed this. Mike N said that National must help us with this. At least 1/3 of our support must be from outsiders, not members. How much money was donated by non-members? We need to do this quickly.
ANNUAL REPORT	Yvonne asked what was our Chapter's biggest effort this year? We started 2 seed orchards, and ongoing projects would be the Nanking lines. Chapter's biggest liability was lack of chapter consistency on data collection. Other news was special chapter projects, like various forest plantings and lots of good newspaper stories published.
WINTER MEETING	Date for January meeting would be the 3 rd Sunday January 15. Lois will call and see if Purgatory Chasm State Reservation in Sutton, right off Rte 146 is available.
OTHER BUSINESS	Rufin asked about our orchard list, adding that the Legg farm orchard in Uxbridge is non-existent as the scout that was working on that never finished the project; also the Dartmouth orchard is not active either.
	Meeting was adjourned at 4:25