

MA/RI TACF ORCHARD MANAGERS MTG.
 WACHUSETT MEADOW WILDLIFE SANCTUARY
 09.29.13

Board Members, Present: Yvonne Federowicz ,President, Lois Melican, Vice President, Mike Novack, Treasurer, Kathy Desjardins, Secretary, Rufin Van Bossuyt, Denis Melican, John Meiklejohn, Brian Clark, Kendra Gurney, Science Coordinator; Charlotte Zampini, Rich Hoffman

Guests: Elizabeth Hammond

Mtg 10:45	
Roguing	Most orchards are rogued out, Moore S.P., Medford, John Meiklejohn's & Brian Clark's
Squirrel Award	Current recipient of this award (Brian Clark) will select the new awardee, he suggested Paul Wetzel who lost a large number of his woodland plantings;
Herbivory	We need to find some way to discourage herbivory in woodland plantings. Possibly moth or pepper flakes. Optimally we would find a treatment to use on nuts before they go into the ground, ask Charlotte Zampini about this.
Demo Planting Committee	<p>Kathy will send out an updated list after this meeting. Charlotte indicated that we have about 30 trees and need 5 good sites, ideally each site would be a beautiful, historic landscape, with a signed a germplasm agreement, where TACF can raise awareness about our mission. Charlotte also suggested board members be assigned to call each of these cooperators to set things in motion.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) WAYSIDE INN – a Sudbury MA country inn, restored in the late 1940s with a Charlotte suggests that we designate someone to call each cooperator. 1) The inn boasts a working gristmill, and a very eager innkeeper. The Wayside Inn would be a great place for a program or table near the parking lot behind the inn. They would be very open about suggestions from us and would like to start ASAP. He thought we could get some publicity to cover the planting. 1) Worcester County Conservation District's Holden office would like a chestnut demo planting done on Arbor Day this coming spring. They have a camp at Buck Hill in Spencer. We can extend an invitation for them to join TACF. 2) TOWER HILL – Brad has not done a demo planting in the nutery, where we could install signs. Only 3 trees are left there and one does not look typically American. 3) OSV – we would use what we have for a demo planting on their town common.

- 4) Walden Woods, we haven't heard from John, Kendra has extras that we could use. He's very busy now, Kendra will follow up with Susan from Walden Woods, this would be a priority.
- 5) Fish & Wildlife – five 6' – 7' seedlings were planted in 2011 which had to be moved because of new construction. They didn't want trees planted within sight of the building, and suggested a site behind the Copan Building without good access. Kendra suggested a sit down meeting, especially if we're thinking about seed orchards there. We want to make sure people know the commitment and timeline involved . Kathy suggested placing an article about TACF MA/RI in their magazine to give them a better idea of what we do. Kendra said she will set up a meeting with them.
- 6) Audubon – Elizabeth said that all Wachusett Meadow staff have had an educational program about chestnut, but it's been slow with this group. Powder Mill Ledges Audubon Sanctuary are ready and Moose Hill Sanctuary in Sharon is interested.
- 7) Providence RI - Neutaconkanut Park has a germplasm agreement and are waiting for nuts.
- 8) Nimrod Rod & Gun planted 5 trees in the early spring and Rufin met with them today. They have problems with cages being knocked down, probably a bear. Rufin put some heavy duty hardware wire in. All five are still growing well.
- 9) Woods Hole Research Center planted a demo planting one year ago and these trees are doing fine.
- 10) Springfield College was looking forward to some trees to replace some hurricane damaged areas.
- 11) One tree died at Garden in the woods, it was probably too shady or there was too much root competition. Could be a dry site. They have some in a seedling bed.
- 12) Arnold Arboretum, has been slow to sign the germplasm agreement. As a research organization, they want to be able to select what they do with the trees. Also they like to plant out larger trees.
- 13) Sudbury Valley Trustees, are down for 3 trees.
- 14) Orleans has 4 surviving trees, planted out of Rufin's stock. One died, another grew 3' this summer. The other 3 have very small leaves, and don't look American. These trees are about 1000 feet from the bay and may not have salt resistance. There's about a mile of chestnut trees there that don't show salt damage. Rufin said there's

	<p>a black locust trees nearby and they have an allopathic effect on the chestnuts, so they tried to stay away from these.</p> <p>15) Bruce Spencer planted 5 in 2001</p> <p>16) Dover Sherborn is a highly regarded school district and if they have land set aside for TACF this would be a great site for vetting. It would be an excellent opportunity for an onsite partnership with high school students.</p> <p>17) Blythewood became sponsors of TACF and got trees that way</p> <p>18) Westerly R.I. already planted , they are sitting in a holding area waiting to be planted.</p> <p>19) Wachusett Meadow Audubon Sanctuary planted 5 and we're replacing 2 today.</p> <p>20) Fruitlands - Jamie called and has not made contact yet.</p> <p>We could over winter some trees and let them get bigger for demo plantings. Demo committee will handle this.</p>
Harvest	<p>This year's harvest seems to be very good.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Granville harvested 160 from one tree, other trees are producing less. These are not the same line. • Brian has enough seedlings from Tower Hill for one plot and has some rogued out Clapper, possibly 5 or 6 lines from 25 trees. • Wrentham, Clapper line may have some issues. Charlotte and Rufin checked and some of the trees look Chinese, not 100% but with some characteristics. They harvested 5 or 6 trees, and Rufin has burs in his truck. • John Emery reported many Clapper nuts from Wayland and Lincoln may be Graves these are completely rogued. 6 totally selected orchard and 2 Moore and Wrentham are a bit iffy. • Hawley/Ashfield - tree had Chinese looking leaves, we need space for about 7 lines this year. Brian has 5 or 6, hopefully all full. Make sure to send each tree number to Kendra.
Grant Purchases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Ladders</u> – about \$300 - Michael suggested that we purchase one for Ashfield, not more than 14' tall for transport purposes. Right now Gary & Charlotte have ladders, Ashfield/Hawley & RI could use ladders, we probably only have to purchase one this year. Brian said he would pay for ½ of his as he may use it on apple trees. • <u>Tubes and stakes</u> - let's purchase as many as we need for 20 lines, 3,000 or so. Brian can store these if needed. Miracle tubes can't be reused, but they're inexpensive. For \$3000 we'd need to look into the quantity discount. TreeCo, in Indiana has nice sturdy poles. Tubes and bamboo is about \$2000. so we can submit this now and

	<p>hopefully get the grant renewed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Deer fencing</u> – we have some of this; Kendra has had experiences with fencing that photo degrades over time, and is not longer effective. It can sag and is hard to maintain. Woven wire is more expensive but holds up better.
Seed orchard committee	Jamie cannot be here but he's been working w. Gini from National on strategy about what it is that'll we need at these new sites, Kendra is working on this also.
Walker Farms 1290 W. Brookfield Rd. New Braintree 01531 508-867-6928	<p>John Meiklejohn and Denis Melican had a table at The Mass. Tree Farm's annual meeting. They met many people, including the owner of a 400 acre farm in New Braintree. Randy Walker and his wife Joanie already have a CR held by the East Quabbin Land Trust on some of their land along a highly visible main road and would like to see the entire 400 acres protected and in some type of forest protection status. TACF could have an orchard near the road They have a forester helping them with their property and who's walked every inch of the land. This collaboration has great long range potential, they are very interested. (John M later said he was the best prospect to help with our work that they ran into that entire day. The land owner mentioned the name Monsanto, and was very fearful of the effects this company has had on agricultural in the past.</p> <p>We also discussed the work involved in preparing and maintaining a seed orchard, and how difficult it is to get people involved. The group in this case is the East Quabbin Land Trust, who holds the conservation restriction on this property. Denis suggested that he, Rufin and Lois go see the property and answer his questions about locations, soil types, etc. We'll invite him to our annual meeting.</p>
Garden in the Woods	They now have an entirely new design pattern, and they may not have room for a seed orchard. They have some land in Western Mass and Paul Wetzel was going to talk to them about seed orchards there.
Appalachian Mountain Club	Charlotte looked at some properties that were very good spots, she and Kendra went to AMC headquarters and talked to them. When they surveyed the trees there it was a nice open meadow on a hillside. Would they get together to work on it?
Army Corps of Engineers	Sarah Fitzsimmons already has orchards on ACE property and the sequestration did not hole them up. She suggested that we have a conference call with Jeff Kraus to start the process. They have a hand shake agreement that comes with \$2500 worth of funding. This could possibly be used to get a fence up, etc. This is worth pursuing and we should work on it over the winter.
Hebert Arboretum	Brian C. sent a proposed MOU months ago and has not received a response. He spoke s. Bob Prosutti last night and made a few changes. They need a detailed list of responsibilities that we could put before the city. John Mirick said he had a draft of an agreement ready for them.

Smith College Signs	There's custom text on this that is pending. Paul asked about deadlines, and Brian said it would be good to put the signs up before it freezes. Brian mowed this orchard a week ago and it's growing better than Brian's orchard. He fertilized these once this winter. One of the Wayland lines did not come up at all. It's hard to tell between the seedlings and the nut plantings.
Seed storage	We need to be extra careful with our seeds and should have a dedicated fridge. The walk in cooler used for seedling is set at 40, refrigerator is set closer to 34. Jamie also has a couple of refrigerators. Brian could store nuts for the Western Mass orchards, S. Kingston probably has a cold room that we can use. Charlotte suggested that the closer they are to the people who are going to plant them is the best thing. We'll try to get them to the closest person.
Meeting adjourned	12:20 p.m.

MA/RI TACF BOARD MTG.
 WACHUSETT MEADOW WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Board Members, Present: Yvonne Federowicz, President, Lois Melican, Vice President, Mike Novack, Treasurer, Rufin VanBossy, Denis Melican, John Meiklejohn, Brian Clark, Brad Smith, Mike Meixsell, Rich Hoffman, John Mirick,

Guests: Elizabeth Hammond, Adam Wyskofske, Charles Whittlesey

Meeting opened	1:50
Summer Minutes	Motion made and seconded and to approve the summer minutes; minutes approved.
Treasurer's Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revenue - let's add Rufin's donation for the cost of moving the trees to donations account. • We have about ½ the grant money spent, and we will use the rest on orchard items mentioned this morning. • Orchard irrigation costs are low as we bought ahead. • We need a little more roguing, we can use the Howard money to pay our intern to do this. • Demo plantings are a new line item, we didn't plan to have expenses on these, but that has changed (moving trees.) • If anyone wants to sell books (Mighty Giants) they should go through National. Lois promised a book to Lancaster at her last presentation to the Nashua River Green Party at the Worcester Public Library. <p>John Meiklejohn makes a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Motion seconded and approved.</p>
Secretary's report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership is 291. • National is collecting photos for the 30th annual meeting. If you have a good picture from the past 20 years, send it to Mila. Kathy will send notices about this. • Curt Laffin gave a presentation with about 60 people. He will give another at Carlisle library. He's a wood worker. • We decided to give copies of Mighty Giants to local libraries when the opportunity arises. • Received correspondence from USDA about a lone standing chestnut at Walden Pond, near the site of Thoreau's cabin. • Hiker in New Salem MA came across 4 chestnuts 30 – 40 feet tall. He took some seeds; he also purchased trees from Dr. Sandy. Kendra heard that she was going to have material for release, possibly B3F3's with Japanese trees. She has Graves and Mahogany trees. <p>Motion made, seconded and approved to accept secretary's report.</p>
Dover Sherborn	Charles' presentation talked about the school's #1 ranking in Massachusetts &

Middle School presentation	<p>MA is ranked #1 in USA.</p> <p>This is a forward thinking school with acres of land that lies idle at the moment. Dover is a young, affluent community where science is a priority. They would like to become involved with TACF. (The science teacher (Adam) who came with Charles is a former student of board member Prof. Charlotte Zampini. Their agenda is:</p> <p>Goal #1 - to inspire a younger generation to gain knowledge and to care for the American chestnut tree. They have students who will plant, inoculate, and rogue orchard trees.</p> <p>Goal #2 - to support TACF with research and new members. They can collect data and have more hands on science. They haven't had a project like this for at least 8 years. Other goals are to inspire the next generation and foster environmental stewardship.</p> <p>They haven't approached their school board (wanting to talk w. TACF first.) The property is mowed a twice a year, and water is available. This is a joint middle and high school.</p> <p>The new school administration is pro hands on and community oriented. As administrative support is important, this could be a good match for our chapter.</p> <p>Mike Novack stated that hands on science is very important for students as they enter college, and collecting real data for TACF would certainly qualify for this. Charlotte Z pointed out that there are lots of different sciences that can be done outside of regular orchard work.</p> <p>Kendra asked about the availability of people in the summer, Adam said the science teachers understand this need and students who love science would be available to do things then. There are 180 kids in 7th grade with a community action group in the 8th grade that could start a club for this. They now have environmental community action group, among other. Students present their work a few times a year at assembly.</p> <p>Denis M. asked if someone could come to the school to talk w. faculty, as the next step is to talk to science teachers, and maybe do a presentation.</p> <p>Carol County in Maryland has a curriculum posted, there may be some contacts/info there. The Common Core is doing a botany unit there.</p> <p>Charlotte Z said we have 3 types of plantings, demo planting w. record keeping, backcross orchards, and seed orchards. All require a germplasm agreement with a commitment of 30 years for seed orchards. She indicated that they could do progeny testing in a forest setting, which the school does have.</p> <p>Kendra will send this info to Adam. A seed orchard would need an acre, and progeny tests would require maybe 2 acres.</p>
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	<p>At our 11.16.13 Annual Meeting we'll be touring a seed orchard and a B3 orchard where we could get pictures to forward to them.</p> <p>Mike Novack said that the science involved is wide ranging as this is the first time de-extinction of a species is being undertaken.</p> <p>Yvonne suggested that they take a copy of Mighty Giants, have meetings for staff, then schedule a presentation at the school. ce.whittlesey@gmail.com</p>
Annual Meeting	<p>The beautiful S. Kingston Land Trust building is the venue for our annual meeting, and Leila Pinchot is our guest speaker, who will talk about restoring chestnut on private lands. She works in Milford CT and works in PA. Forest reintroduction and plantings is a great topic on the private model for this.</p> <p>We'll do a silent auction – who can handle this? Elizabeth H. will send a template to Mike Novack and Yvonne will ask Rudy and other RI people about publicity. The S. Kingstown Land Trust will post the event on their Google calendar.</p> <p>Printed materials we need: Agendas</p>
Election	Roster was passed out. A motion was made & seconded and carried to approve the slate of nominees and nominations may be made from the floor.
<p>Energizing the Sector 11.06.13 program hosted by the Rhode Island Foundation Development skills</p> <p>We are looking for board members who:</p>	<p>Yvonne will attend a RI Foundation program matching donors with projects. As National is asking us to step up fundraising, this is an opportunity to get together w. RI folks who may be interested in our work.</p> <p>Many actively recruit for skill sets, should we want to use this model? Are we interested in members with development skills, or individual donors? M.N. reminded us that the IRS keeps a closer eye on how we spend money, even when a board member gives a large amount.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. can help facilitate new partners 2. with connections to other organizations with things that we need like land to plant on (although our current problem is volunteers to do the work) 3. People to help out in Westerly. 4. A well established forester who knows landowners for us to connect with. 5. Tree farms
National Annual Meeting	The governance structure of TACF, will be discussed, with possibly a retreat to discuss this further; Kendra will be hosting a college alma mater gathering,
Harvest	We have close to 20 lines with a mix of the 2 lines of resistance, CZ will send a total list to us by tree, and will store these then we'll store these for the winter. Charlotte asks to bag in lots of 150, that's possible.
Brian's drone	He has great pictures of trying to pollinate trees with this
Grant decisions to vote on	We should approve plans for grant money for an orchard ladder and \$3,500 for plantings. Brian will handle this purchase . We'll use up what we have now of

	<p>the \$3500, and apply for more later if needed. A motion is made, seconded and approved for up to \$3500 for tubes, stakes, landscape cloth and staples.</p>
<p>Seed orchards/legal agreements</p>	<p>We have 2 agreements signed and recorded:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Smith College 2. John Meiklejohn 3. The R.I. agreement is being discussed. <p>John Mirick reported that the Hebert Arboretum will not give us an easement, however agree to an MOU. They are very enthusiastic however should something come up later and they need to use the land for something else, we would be out of luck.</p> <p>Brian C. expressed frustration that the process with Pittsfield has been slow, and expressed that he would prefer to be the sole contact on this, as there can be some confusion when too many people are involved. It was decided that Brian will be the contact for all purposes, including legal agreements he will share with John Mirick.</p> <p>For seed orchards we really would prefer people who want to plant more than one block.</p> <p>Many organizations require an endowment before they commit to any action, possibly this is something we should be considering. There are organizations that donate to causes, however funding down the road must be considered.</p> <p>Suppose an orchard with 3 blocks was run by a seasonal staff, how much would that cost per year? How intensely do they want to manage this? If we had an estimate we could work out an endowment. Can Kendra ask Fred if he has a sense of an hourly cost for a 5 block orchard?</p> <p>It would be good to know how much work is necessary for us to come up with a number. Fred does this so maybe he could come up with some numbers for us?</p> <p>Membership by potential partners is another thing to consider. Membership to ACF denotes more commitment.</p>
<p>Strategic Plan Committee</p>	<p>We came up with a few bullet points but it needs more work. We need another meeting or retreat to work on this. Getting more ideas on how to get more seed orchards with endowments, and the financing that these need.</p>
<p>Memberships</p>	<p>John Meiklejohn & Denis Melican both manned a table for the Tree Farm Program's annual meeting. They met Randy & Joan Walker of New Braintree MA who've done substantial harvesting on their 400 acre farm and are a past recipient of Tree Farmer of the Year award. Denis suggested that we give a complimentary membership to him. It would thank them for their interest. They have a lot of enthusiasm about partnering with TACF and may be interested in a seed orchard. Denis also suggested giving a membership to the winner of the Mass Tree Farm of the Year and suggested that we make a presence there every year there with a booth or table.</p>

	John Mirick said that when we get around to planting in the forest, these people may have the land where we could do this. They could also help us improve our forest planting skills using nut trees. John M makes a motion that we give an honorary membership to Mr. McDonald (Tree Farmer of the Year) from the Tree Farm Assn. Motion was seconded and approved.
Event Planning	New England Grows would like speakers. Kendra is working with Jamie about getting speakers could represent TACT at events such as the Mass Tree Farm Program's annual meeting, the Mass Tree Wardens Association and the Mass Arborist Association. Feb 5 – 7 is New England Grows and we need to reserve a spot for this. Kendra would be willing to give a talk for them, just remind her of the dates.
Dec 7 regional meeting	The Urban Forestry Center in Portsmouth NH will host the New England Regional meeting with training in the a.m. on the database with a presentation later on fundraising and developing partnerships. Paul Wetzel will give a presentation about his project.
Registration needed for RI Land and Water conference and URI Master Gardener event	These have a small fee. A motion was made, seconded and approved that we OK the fees for these exhibition tables. If it's more than \$150 it can be agreed on by the executive committee.
Wachusett Meadow	April 5, Friday night, Friday night seminar series. Yvonne may be able to do a day, Lois & Denis can do a day.
Chestnut push cart	The benefits of having our own chapter chestnut push cart for events and programs. Mike Novak will work on this.
4:13	Program is adjourned.