

## **MA/RI-TACF Autumn Quarterly Orchard Meeting**

**10/17/15 10:35am**

### **URI Master Gardeners building at East Farm, Kingston, RI**

Guests:

Jim Digits (Dighton MA Environmental Commission),

Rudi Hempe (URI Master Gardeners), Clark Collins (South Kingstown Land Trust)

Grey Curtis, Mark Meehl , Dave Lent

Board:

John Meiklejohn, John Emery, Brian Clark, Mike Grames, Rich Hoffman, Lois Melican, Yvonne Federowicz, Denis Melican, Rufin Van Bossuyt, Jamie Donalds, Mike Novack

Brian has heard from most people re. Orchard harvests.

It is good to keep any numbers of seeds – even if smaller than a full “plot”

Orchard name – 4-character ID

BC3 orchard “selections” will have tags

Bags of seeds: clear naming of

Orchard name, 3or4-digit tree number, line ID, and harvest year

Roguing to do still:

Stockbridge, Princeton, Foster, Gloucester, SKLT, NEFF-Littleton, others?

Signs for our B3 Orchard Selections so that people at these locations understand why the selections look scruffy (blight inoculations)

Sterling: lines are duplicated elsewhere; We can ask Kendra to talk to Mr. Delessandro

Grafton being harvested. Rogued trees there resprouted and were flowering.

Jamie would like to contact the Stockbridge contact person.

John Meiklejohn will work at re-establishing a relationship with the the Stockbridge people; Lois and Jamie can help. Need to know how to dispose of rogued trees there; Jamie's team can help. Denis can help too.

River Bend: finding out what trees are, what inventory is. Lois can work on that, hopefully with Kathy.

Yvonne also.

Please keep in mind that Tower Hill seed orchard plots are now irreplaceable; we might consider being conservative at removing.

**Americorps** – getting an agreement in place for next spring

They get applications early;

Weston – last week of April  
Westboro – 15-18 lines  
Can they cross state lines  
Weston had a crew in 2005; Denis can fill out grant

Busby/Orange – Norcross Grant for fencing; could they transfer their own grant to their own orchard?  
CT might be interested in collaborating on a seed orchard?

**=>> We need legal advice for MA/CT (Norcross) – this is top priority**

9 replications means lose only 5% of genetic info of a line  
More than 20 lines means fewer than 9 blocks?? - Mike's statistics;  
Mike will write this up for us! we have more than 20 Clapper lines (more like 30)  
Weston could fit more than 20 lines; could do 30 Clapper, 20 Clapper/20 Nanking  
Jared thought multiple sources of resistance could be great at one seed orchard but this is still under discussion

How many seeds/lines/etc. Will we have for Americorps people to plant

Answer: **All current seed orchards will need 2016 planting help**

Mike: discussed with Jared at National – can grow seedlings in Stuewe pots

Smith 7 more  
Weston 15 more  
Westboro 12-18  
Granville 18  
SKLT

Superblock: place for it?  
How big? 5 blocks worth of space is a possibility  
5 is a good size per Mike – don't need to end up with as many additional trees for Clapper  
4 acre

**Americorps** is possible group for ongoing orchard support, per the New England Regional Meeting presentation last month. They do great work

We need to talk to Norcross about Superblock idea  
Norcross: Americorps for ongoing one or several weeks/year

- with 20 miles of Hawley can do on a day basis
- **scheduling is done by December 1<sup>st</sup>**
- Who is owner?

- Do we need part-time staff – someone with time...
- => Board member with paid intern/staff with Americorps as model

Leslie might be willing to recommend people near Norcross who can be paid person  
Lois will talk to Bullet and Norcross for 2016

**Bullet Reservation:** next year? - we will try for it  
They are close to Americorps – would be great

F&W has land, agreement – can they do a Superblock? The staff have real interest themselves  
They have restored bald eagle, turkey, falcon, osprey – this is another species to restore  
Several more clapper?  
Rufin will talk to F&W re. More

### **Demo plantings**

Bullard Memorial Farm in MA – Grey Curtis

- working farm, has demos, National Register of Historic Places
- demo chestnut planting
- connection with Nanking, China – some are survivor
  - Prof. J.H. Reisner, Nanking U. – Chinese chestnut
  - Grey can push forward on this
  - Maybe they'd like Nanking BC3F2 seed orchard
- 100+ chinese chestnuts there!
- Elm Bank Mass Hort. Would like Demo trees

### **Future Demos:**

Elm Bank

Dighton Demo Planting – Town Hall – Jim Digits talked – some up to 4 feet already!

Dighton Forest planting – most are doing well! YF, Jim  
Lots of forest floor sunlight because of gypsy moths

Nov. 21, Westboro MA Annual Meeting at Mass Fish & Wildlife

Jamie has 10 seedlings – restoration trees

Rich Hoffman might put in a demo planting near him

Pollinations next spring

Nanking: 2 more next spring; Carver tree is exceptional, would be good if can be pollinated

Edge of tornado has many possible flowering chestnuts right now

Brimfield/Wales MA border

Rich Hoffman: Manchaug site – many flowering trees

Mudpacking to control individual cankers on valuable (BC3 selection) chestnuts –

Dave and Mark did 4 trees for John Meiklejohn

→ plan to do 6 trees at Wrentham

→ Granville – John Meiklejohn

→ Conway – Brian

Sharon – Audubon sanctuary – Moose Hill chestnuts

Lois – volunteer protocol – manual needed

Harold Parker tree – will watch for next year?

Freetown MA is pure American (Dave)

Orleans has some trees very near Pleasant Bay, incl. The Westerly RI “Orleans” was about 600 feet from Bay, no salt damage; we hope that we might be breeding some salt tolerance into our lines by including its genes

### **MA/RI-TACF Autumn Quarterly Board Meeting 10/17/15**

**approx. 1pm**

Lois Breault-Melican, Rich Hoffman, Mike Grames, Brian Clark, John Emery, Jamie Donalds, John Meiklejohn, Mike Novack, Grey Curtis, Brad Smith, Rufin Van Bossuyt, Yvonne Federowicz, Denis Melican, Josh Soojian arrived afterwards

#### **Motion:**

Accepted minutes of Summer Quarterly Board Meeting  
moved Mike Novack, 2nded Jamie

#### **Treasurer Report**

Michael would like updates on Manton Grant expenses

Orchard support incl. Non-tree-related support work for orchards (SKLT port-a-john)

T-shirts are expense given to volunteers

Books: we would like another 2 boxes. National may run out soon, as they are not planning on another printing and have just a few hundred left.

#### **Motion:**

Brian: Move to accept Treasurers Report

Second: Brad. Unanimously accepted.

Kathy – please check bank figures to confirm Michael's numbers.

#### **Motion:**

Books: Jamie proposes that we order 2 boxes and be more cautious in handing it out all in favor of ordering – unanimously

Discussion: many people love Mighty Giants; it is very helpful in our work and we hear very positive feedback from readers

Mike Grames might be able to have his daughter do a small printing – publishing company. Jamie and Michael suggest an additional 10 year chapter

**Motion:**

Yvonne proposed we mention to National that we love Mighty Giants, use it for many purposes and would appreciate a second printing. Mike Grames' daughter might be able to help publish.

Secretary not present (out of town)

**Orchard Report:**

Grant money to be used for 6-8K tubes for next spring

**Motion:**

up to \$4K for planting supplies for seed orchards

Brian Clark to buy thousands of tubes/bamboo for spring planting

Unanimously approved

Graves: we have 16 viable Graves lines; 1 seed orchard block

Reach out to other chapters and do Graves as regional?

Jamie: possible way to

(30+ Clappers)

Kendra may have suggested regionalizing Graves before

Maine, CT have Graves; how many, and would they like to partner in seed orchards

John Meiklejohn will find out about this and report back to us in January

Several of us are going to Penn State and will listen for relevant info

Jared was talking about changing the testing

We might have enough replications if you group them all together. In our standard model we would kill all be the best one but good change some plots will have more.

Michael can email his ideas directly to Jared; Brian will talk to Jared also to mention Michael's ideas

We encouraged Michael to email Lois, Brian, myself etc. before TACF annual meeting

**Communications Report:** Yvonne

Wordpress is the “content management system” being implemented by National  
Our current invoice would be \$300 – transition might take longer than we think

**Motion:** we pay David for another year – Michael Novack  
unanimously

**Nominating Committee**

Jamie has spoken to all officers; all willing to serve  
Michael and Kathy would both like to have someone in training  
Each has been in position for over 10 years  
Board members whose terms expiring also:  
John Mirick not contactable  
Charlotte would like to stay on Board; plans to come to MA to work on trees  
...Will help Brian

**Annual Meeting**

Marion Larson – Mass Wildlife  
Chestnuts 101 Brad  
Bristol Aggie forest planting? YF to ask  
Tour of Mass Wildlife building

Annual Meeting – put notice on website (YF)  
Ask the Mass Wildlife people to advertise to their communities  
Ask Bristol Aggie to bring students YF

Food coordination:  
Authorize purchases if needed – Exec committee

Silent auction – items' proceeds to be donated to Chapter  
Tshirts – sale?

**Seed Orchards:**

Legal issues: Busby orchard  
Orange document looked good per Brad's wife, Lauren Smith  
(it was a draft)  
Fencing grant may have had info about the fencing be installed

Lisa Sousa at National is the contact re. the Orange seed orchard Grant  
\$2700

Brad will talk to Lauren re. getting legal work completed on Orange land use for seed orchard

8' vertical deer fence might work, similar to Westboro

### **Public Outreach**

Curt Laffen can help give presentations

All-weekend events are difficult

Mike Grames showed the new MA/RI logo that his daughter designed as a draft; positive responses

We asked that Mike email us a higher-resolution version

### **Member Outreach**

We need to have regular events that people can schedule

Ask Judy to set this up for us – proximity to orchards

Social media – Pinterest

John Meiklejohn would love a social web-based setup to help him contact volunteers

January Meeting: January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016 Sunday

### **Strategic Planning at Lois'**

January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Signage: Yvonne will ask Rudi for contact about the sign

Jamie has investigated signs; he has one on a timber mount

Hunters are liking chestnuts... "Chestnut Deer Attractant" is illegal though shows the understanding that deer are highly attracted to chestnut

Possible purchases: mower; could be a used one, would need a portable shed for it.

Are riding mowers needed? Power mower at least for each orchard?

We would like to try for a donated riding mower

Refrigerators: John Meiklejohn needs more fridge space – people suggested that new ones are so much more efficient that a new one be purchased

Meeting adjourned 3:34pm