



**CHESTNUT CHAT – Q & A**  
**CHAT V: AN INFORMAL INTERVIEW WITH CHUCK LEAVELL**  
**DATE: FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2020**

QUESTION	ASKER NAME	ASKER EMAIL	ANSWER(S)
Hi all. Looks like we have a renewed resolve for growing trees and reducing our carbon footprint in a Post Covid world :)	Dr. Brian Roth	brian.roth@maine.edu	For sure - thanks Brian!
chuck's video is only filling half the picture screen.	mick saravitz	micksaravitz@yahoo.com	Yeah it's due to the portrait view on his screen. We tried to make it landscape during a trial run and weren't able to make that happen. Hopefully that doesn't take too much away from the chat.
sara	Bernie and Frank	mathob@icloud.com	:) Eating lunch. She may come up later .... !
where is your assistant?	Bernie and Frank	mathob@icloud.com	live answered
<a href="https://www.acf.org/our-community/magazine-archives/">https://www.acf.org/our-community/magazine-archives/</a>	The American Chestnut Foundation	taczoom@acf.org	Thanks for the link to TACF's magazine archive!
<a href="https://www.acf.org/resources/chestnut-chat-series/">https://www.acf.org/resources/chestnut-chat-series/</a>	The American Chestnut Foundation	taczoom@acf.org	Check out TACF's chestnut chat series here!
Is the land all contiguous? what is the breakdown on land use? How much is second growth forest, old growth forest, crop, pasture, etc.?	Bernie and Frank	mathob@icloud.com	live answered
I wonder if Chuck is familiar with Michael Dirr, at University of Georgia, and author the great book Manual of Woody Plants?	Paul	bensonward2@gmail.com	live answered
Can you describe your chestnut trees on your property, #, acres, size/age, health?	Steve Dick	mr.steven.dick@gmail.com	live answered
Chuck-just looking for clarification on the type of chestnuts that you are growing. Are they hybrids? Genetically engineered?	Theresa Church	theresachurchyoga@gmail.com	Hi Theresa - they are all hybrids. Genetically engineered chestnuts are not available outside of permitted research sites.



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Is it too early for tree farmers in the SE to start planting chestnuts, not for conservation, necessarily, —but for nut poly culture cropping? If so, what varieties? If not, when? (From upper South Carolina)	Amy Hayes	tangentsafari@Hotmail.com	live answered
Who are Chuck's personal music heroes?	Mark Stoakes	markymark@yahoo.com	live answered
What is the process you use for garden weeding? All mechanized/horse pull to concentration lots/drop and leave to decompose?	Steve Johnstonbaugh	gsjbaugh@verizon.net	live answered
can you talk about how you manage wildlife to minimize damage they can do, especially to the chestnuts?	Jim English	jenglish@netzero.com	live answered
Do you manage any of the property specifically for Bobwhite Quail habitat? Do you use any prescribed fire in your management plans?	Dan Snyder	dosnyder@verizon.net	live answered
Those new Chestnuts, are they hybrids?	Dr Luis A. Matos	doc4azma@gmail.com	Hi Dr. Matos - yes, they are advanced backcross hybrids from TACF.
i assume you are facing this problem. when land is passed on it is difficult to keep intact. the result is the fragmentation of forest land. any advice or comments on this issue?	Bernie and Frank	mathob@icloud.com	
are you getting any regeneration of your chestnuts? do you use fire as a management tool?	Bernie and Frank	mathob@icloud.com	live answered
What are your thoughts of transgenic vs. the backcross chestnuts?	Brad Johnson	bjohnson@usd246.org	
Amazing stories !!!!	The American Chestnut Foundation	tacfzoom@acf.org	For sure! Great session!



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Chuck - I think you would look great behind a piano made of reclaimed chestnut. If you think it would work and sound ok, I have some timbers salvaged from an old mill in Massachusetts	Rich Bray	rnbrayjr@yahoo.com	live answered
To your mind, what makes the chestnut so special?	Anonymous Attendee		live answered
Have you planted chinquapin chestnut for mast?	Steve Johnstonbaugh	gsjbaugh@verizon.net	live answered
Have you seen any Indigo snakes in the long leaf pine stands?	Paul	bensonward2@gmail.com	live answered
Any native oak trees on your properties or any plantings?	Steve Dick	mr.steven.dick@gmail.com	
Chuck, are you aware of the problems of clear cutting in the southeast forests to supply wood for biofuel electricity production? Huge amounts of pelletized wood is shipped to England and Scotland to be burned as renewable even though burning wood emits as much CO2 as burning coal.	Doug McLane	mclanedoiglas@hotmail.com	
How familiar are you with the restoration efforts to get a transgenic, OxO gene tree, approved, and do you a place for them on your plantation?	Jim English	jenglish@netzero.com	



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I have 4 large Chestnut trees on the ranch I bought 4 years ago. They are about 16 feet tall. Several are not looking so well. Listening to this conversation I realize they are even much more special than I had imagined due to their size. I also have 2 very tall long leaf pines and a 70 acre stand of lob lolly pines. We will be select cutting soon. It will be our first cut. What are the important items my forestry man should do to make sure the company that cuts does not leave my property damaged? I'm near Palestine Texas.	Lisa Ward	lisaward@swbell.net	live answered
Do your properties include any bottomland hardwood areas, perhaps along creeks, and if so, are they actively managed (and how or for what goals) or just sort of left to their own devices?	nickd	ndouglas@gmail.com	
my understanding is that all game birds love chinquapin mass	Steve Johnstonbaugh	gsjbaugh@verizon.net	That's mine as well.
To sow that 20 acres in grasses, was it necessary to take of the existing turf? Or what was that process? And finally thanks for Sea Level, and remembering Jimmy Nalls	Paul	bensonward2@gmail.com	live answered
Is it Garrett Wildflowers? <a href="https://garrettseed.com">https://garrettseed.com</a>	Anne Duncan	aduncan@lumiu.com	Correct.
thanks enjoyable talk	Bernie and Frank	mathob@icloud.com	