



**VT/NH Chapter**  
**The American Chestnut Foundation**  
**10<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**  
April 21, 2018  
10:00 am-12 noon  
**Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests**  
**DRAFT Submitted by Secretary Jim Talbot**

10<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Started at 10:00 a.m., convened by President Yurij Bihun.

**Attendees:**

**Officers:** President Yurij Bihun, Vice President Gary Robertson, Secretary Jim Talbot.

**Board Members:** Terry Gulick, JP Powers, Doug McLane, Curt Laffin, William Coder. Absent were: Daane Crook, Gary Hawley.

**Members and Guests present:** Kendra Collins; Chris Penny, NH; Steve Salore, NH; Susan Barnes, NH; Noel Everts and Sharon Everts, NH; Carol Wallace, NH; Corinne Null, NH; Paul McPhie, NH; Steve Gaines, NH.

**Introductions by Yurij Bihun:** Welcome to all members; thank you to host organization and to Will Abbott and to Jared Westbrook for coming up from National office; went around room to introduce ourselves individually; noted raffle to be held at end of meeting. Progress during the 10-year existence of the Chapter has been significant, although we were one of the last chapters to become operational: in last phase of seed orchard establishment/management; producing back-crossed B3F2 seed to re-establish the American chestnut in the forest. Whereas Maine, Massachusetts and Rhode Island are well ahead of our chapter, we are nonetheless moving forward.

**Election of Officers and Board Members, presented by Nominating Committee of Doug McLane, Yurij Bihun and Terry Gulick:**

Existing Board Members nominated to three-year terms ending spring 2021:  
Terry Gulick, James Powers, and Doug McLane



New Board members nominated and approved for three-year term ending in 2021: William Coder, Gary Hawley, and Curt Laffin. All three were provisional and effectively functioning as Board members since November 2017.

**Past and Present of the Forest Society and future of Partnerships – Will Abbott, Vice President for Policy and Reservation Stewardship, SPNHF:** Will noted from their website, [forestsociety.org](http://forestsociety.org): Founded by a handful of concerned citizens in 1901, the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests is now one of the country's most effective statewide land conservation organizations. Our mission statement, developed in 1904 is: "We are a forestry association seeking to perpetuate the forests of New Hampshire through their wise use and their complete reservation in places of special scenic beauty." As a non-profit membership organization, the Forest Society is dedicated to protecting the state's most important landscapes while promoting the wise use of its renewable natural resources.

Our accomplishments include:

- Helping to protect over one million acres of open space in the state.
- Effectively promoting good land stewardship, through education and by example.
- Advocating public policies that encourage the wise conservation of natural resources.

Our 10,000 members make us what we are today – a unique blend of visionary land trust, balanced environmental advocate and intelligent forestry association. We think it's a winning combination – for New Hampshire's beautiful landscapes, its caring people and for the many generations to come.

Will mentioned that they have a robust volunteer network, for example, on the Monson property there are 180 volunteers working as land stewards to help TACF for around 25-30 workdays in 2017. The training program is a 2-day event for land stewards. During the period 1990-2018 the society has put a lot of effort into preserving land using conservation easements (100,000 acres protected in this manner). SPNHF is the third largest private landholder in the state of New Hampshire. Whereas they spend a lot of time on stewardship they also must fund-raise to pay for all the land management activities. Specific activities and projects are found on their website. He urged our chapter to explore partnerships for seed orchards and germplasm conservation orchards.



**Keynote Address – “Restoration of the American Chestnut: A Marriage of Breeding and Biotechnology” by Dr. Jared Westbrook, TACF Director of Science, Asheville, North Carolina:** Powerpoint used and key topics covered; a copy of his Power Point presentation was forwarded to all members of the chapter Board; Dr. Westbrook also entertained a number of questions from the audience.

All members in attendance were encouraged to participate in a site visit and tour of educational plantings at the McLane Audubon Center, Concord, NH from 1-2 pm.

The Annual Meeting program concluded at noon.