

## **MA/RI-TACF Quarterly Meeting Spring April 18, 2021**

**9am-1pm**

**Present:** Gray Curtis, Bill Davis, Rufin van Bossuyt, Brian Clark, Mike Novack, John Meiklejohn, Kathy Desjardin, Paul Wetzel, Jamie Donalds, Brad Smith, Karen Jones, Yvonne Federowicz, Laura Ryan, Tim Seale, Deni Ranguelova, Mark Meehl, Dave Lent, Joshua Soojian, Doug Miner, Colby Boyer

Introductions

Meeting recorded

### **Treasurer Report (Paul Wetzel)**

End of quarter report

Generous donations from the Estate of Harold Martin, of Chepachet, RI.  
And Rufin van Bossuyt, who has provided a donation to support our intern(s) this summer  
Active purchasers for Chapter have had a credit card for chapter

Fixed Assets discussion: Mike Novack: it makes large purchases look “better” for grants in years those were made

MOVE to accept Treasurer’s Report -- passed unanimously

### **Secretary Report (Kathy Desjardin)**

Membership 291 now; at end of December was 303.

Insurance renewal due on May 3rd.

Kathy expects to file annual Corporations (Commonwealth of Massachusetts) report. Is done online. She needs to submit payment online; alerted Paul. Uses check online.

Email from Colby Boyer -- U.Maine student -- interested in volunteering with us

### **Communications Report (Yvonne Federowicz)**

Youtube - Brad has succeeded in getting our Chapter Youtube account going; Sam Droege’s bee talk is up! Jesse Greene’s talk is next Youtube goal

Google Groups - our next goal communications goal

Minutes from Winter Meeting

Mike’s Science Report to be included

**MOTION** to accept Winter 2021 Minutes: passed unanimously

Brad Google Groups - Brad now will work on  
Brian Clark has numerous older meeting recordings including many excellent keynotes -- can we transfer them to our account?

- Eagle talk
- Hurricane talk
- Paul Sisco talk
- Not regular board meetings

Kendra: redesign of national website in progress; will be easier to administer our websites in person

How to attract more people with some interest in Youtube, other social media?

Laura our new intern has an art degree with significant photography background

Jamie -- volunteers who can help with social media

Brad -- Kathy puts things on FB.

Kendra -- TACF has a communications assistant for Jules

Deni -- look at the USFS Instagram account, get followers like they do.

Deni and Brad can work on that.

Goal for creating more social media outreach: get more younger people involved.

Active members a goal

Kathy: Laura will be traveling to orchards, can either post photos or send to Brad

Kathy: would it be worthwhile for Laura to post on website, FB? To discuss.

Content of Board: Diversity & Inclusiveness Issues (Yvonne)

TACF itself is very white, had significant gender representation issues on Board years ago. At Chapter level -- how to increase how we welcome people who are not like us -- covers many aspects of differences

Karen offered Yvonne support on this and would like to work on it --

### **ACTION ITEM**

#### **Science Report: Mike Novak**

Mike has not been able to read Jared's most recent new report in entirety -- full Chapter Science Plan

-- updated with new year (Kendra)

Jared includes predictions for our crosses

People agreed it is a "first pass"

Brian would like to help refine the model

Jared is saying to use the predictions in conjunction with looking at trees -- not to just go rogue everything

Mike: thinks that some of the results are too focused upon individual trees, not populations

Kendra: the model Jared is using will keep getting refined

Brian: Jared's scatter diagram of %American vs resistance is very, well, scattered. There is correlation but lots of departure from a regression line.

The more we learn, the more complicated things get. - Kendra

BCO is Backcross Conservation Orchard. 99% American is close to pure American. We might be able to make crosses from there.

Don't think of in terms of /16 any more (e.g. 15/16)

Mike -- we need to exclude from breeding, those trees that are less resistant.

Why did Nanking show more consistent resistance in Fred's work? (an open question)

Graves and Clapper further along than Nanking in genetic modeling and breeding  
Jared suggested we make some inter-line crosses (we are doing)

Some orchards have pseudo-F1s that were misidentified, have been open pollinating...  
If we want some different pollen, Meadowview could collect and ship to us

Good BC1s or BC2s -- will be more American than an F1 -- to create crosses

3-5 plots of more-Chinese crosses per seed orchard? (Kendra)

Brian: wants to start getting some Graves into Clapper seed orchards where there are very weak lines, similar things

Outstanding Graves x Outstanding Clapper -- produce some good plots for next year

Sandisfield

Doug Miner is working on the seed orchard easement. They have children to help, chickens!

Brian is going to work with Doug

Joshua has purchased a sawmill with a trailer package -- will be able to help saw lumber, like dead mother trees -> planks !!!

Brad: Northboro Public Library has asked him to be a guest on their podcast series

Brian: we have received many Meadowview F3s -- we have many left from last year  
We can provide these more liberally now

Mike:

Yvonne: Burrillville Land Trust folks a great destination for some of Brian Clark's older F3 trees  
For them to test plant.

Gray: having a planting event at Scraggy Neck  
Gray will send info to Yvonne about that planting date.

## **Coffee Break**

### **Interns:**

Introduction of Laura Ryan, our new intern. Welcome Laura!

Other intern possibilities -- Norfolk student to work with Lisa this summer?

Brian: Lisa Collins at Norfolk Ag High School could use Chapter support for a summer intern to help with maintenance etc.

She has a student who can do this; is thinking that setup can be similar to Laura.

(Lisa is traveling today)

We would like to support Norfolk and Lisa's work there.

Lisa would supervise, so Bill Davis would not need to coordinate the intern

Lisa is teaching forestry this spring so she has great spring support! Eight plots can be most replanted. Brian says we have a lot of seed for that, and seedlings too

Paul: the Norfolk student is just for that one site, whereas Laura will be covering orchards all over (MA?)

Colby Boyer introduced himself -- forestry at U. Maine. He has a summer job; Jamie welcomed him. He is going to talk to Bill Davis to see if the internship might work in some way.

Bill Davis offered that Lisa use the same contract, payment, etc. and that Lisa provide supervision at Norfolk for the student.

Lisa would approve the time sheet, approval, and work with Paul to pay the student intern. Lisa may be on the call later so we waited to vote until 12:30.

Rufin: send information out more widely for volunteer workers and possible interns, to various groups -- in central & western MA.

Josh has also been in touch with his Forestry professors re. Getting an intern.

Paul will look for interns at Smith also.

### **ACTION ITEM:**

Kathy will get the email list together. Kathy, Josh, and Jamie are working on the advertising for

another intern.

**Orchard Report: Brian Clark**

They got hit with snow on Friday!

Sandisfield got a lot

National New Science Plan -- discussed earlier

Norfolk: a lot of planting will be seedlings

**Sandisfield (Upcoming New Orchard!)**

Doug is working on clearing, with a Bobcat from Brian -- would be hard to get fabric

Can the Burrillville people see photos? -- Yvonne

Can Doug get info to Yvonne to send to Burrillville folks? They may do similar work

Doug's Sandisfield site is now stumped, needs harrowing. Has surface stones. Woody debris.

Too rough for fabric. Was seeded with wild grasses 2 years ago.

Want to avoid disrupting topsoil with its fungi as much as possible

We gave Doug some background info on how weeds tend to get in around seedlings and compete for resources

Brian: wood chips good. Long term it's nice

Voles are a problem if you have good cover for them near the trees. John Meiklejohn will discuss vole solutions with Doug

Need an auger to get posts in

Westboro seedlings (new plus replacement, and Graves to mix sources),

Granville (4 plots to finish orchard) - voles took out more than half newer seedlings,

Norfolk -- significant plantings as replacements. Want to get all original 8 redone. Seed and seedlings.

Mark to talk about GCO orchard

Inoculations & ratings

Did not get ratings at many places

Controlled pollinations - cross family between outstanding trees

Brian has many seedlings

Irrigation work at Granville, Westboro

Assessments and inoculations

**SKLT Orchard Report: (Yvonne)**

All white tubes now off

URI-MGP program has volunteers available but small number at a time; Covid restrictions  
Inoculations and initial ratings

Need to get number of plots for Kendra; Can we inoculate more -- yes:

2019 inoculated plot - Deni can help with -- she will be vaccinated soon

Brian can also help

Redoing white marker numbering on orchards is very helpful -- Brian has a good system

Only 2 lines inoculated so far, some getting fairly large

Need to re-do markers

Brian: F3 and F4 seedlings available

We are now putting all kinds of controls in seed orchards

Chinese controls started

Mark has male-sterile F1s we can plant as controls from last year

Jared's Science Plan: phenotypic rating -- criteria is fairly comprehensive. Canker size, main stem alive, what percent canopy alive. Some is subjective though. E.g. are cankers larger than 15 cm? After 2-3 years most trees have that. Also many trees have many cankers, others just a few. There is no factoring in of how long it's been since trees inoculated. Over time, selected trees change dramatically but the phenotypic ratings don't factor in time effects. How long since root sprouts came up. Jared can pull the year of inoculation from DB. Unclear how modeling is using that. Tracking how long main stem survived?

Many people have had a gorgeous BC tree, but sometimes then those trees suddenly die. Phenotype is difficult.

Sandisfield easement -- John Meiklejohn has 2 easements? possible but different.

MOU sets an understanding of our long-term access to land to do our work.

Easement that Kathy has copy of will be sent to John M. who will pass on to Doug.

Many of our easements are w/groups that have public land.

Better templates will be re. Private land. Kathy just sent John M.'s easement/MOU to him and Jamie. Brad's wife may be able to review.

**MOTION:** spend up to \$2500 to install Fencing at Sandisfield Seed Orchard

Passed unanimously

**MOTION:** Approve Brian's orchard report

Passed unanimously

**GCO news: Mark**

Signed agreement with town of Lincoln

2 acres in town's historic district. Former winery. Overgrown w invasives though. Wondering what to plant to help keep that down.

Gray: learned not to plant grass at plantings! Mike says annual white clover can be removed if you don't let it go to seed.

Town conservation commission going to mow with bushhog. Mark has 127 seedlings, most eastern MA

Will likely have 1 acre left after GCO.

Mark has many wild American nuts; many thousands went out to neighboring chapters. 1600 went to TACF sales. 600 to Michigan for a study. 600 to NH/VT. 100-200 to ME. 2K to NY. Need more central MA trees and RI trees.

Mark will send Kendra extensive notes and maps for the Lincoln planting.

Brian McClean not needing to replant the Harvard GCO.

Mark: wants direction from science people.

Bill thanked Mark for generously providing seeds to a Fish and Wildlife person, helps the relationships.

**MOTION:** Board is authorizing up to \$2K for an intern for Norfolk seed orchard this summer under direction of Lisa Collins.

Passed unanimously.

### **Upcoming Meeting Dates:**

Summer meeting: Sunday July 11, 2021

Autumn meeting: Saturday October 16, 2021

When can we get groups together in person?

2 vaccinations and willing to meet in person:

Brad, Paul, Michael, Dave, Mark, Brian, Gray, Rufin, Karen, Kathy, Jamie, tentatively John M. and Yvonne. Outdoor summer place with roof. Camera.

Brian's Zoom account good to use for summer, Kendra will be on leave.

Jamie has a place near him, has open areas with roofs. Possible summer location.

### **Chestnut bee planning & news:**

We can send a list of the sites and ask managers who will be willing to monitor their trees for male flowers. Need procedures and info to get. How accessible are the trees, how many flowers: to be sent to orchard managers by Yvonne

Meeting Ended 1pm