

# TACF CHAPTERS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

DATE: FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 2021

ZOOM MEETING (RECORDED)

## CHAPTER REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

Bruce Levine (Chair MD), Kathy Patrick (Vice-Chair GA), Doug Gillis (CC), John Scrivani (VA), Al Faust (ME), Mark Stokes (GA), Ken Darnell (KY), Mark Double (WV), Glenn Kotnik (IN), Jack Swatt (CT), Allen Nichols (NY), Yvonne Federowicz (MA/RI), Jack Ostroff (CT), John Scrivani (VA), Stephen Rist (OH), Glenn Kotnik (IN), Hill Craddock (TN), Kathy Desjardin (MA/RI)

## CHAPTER REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT

Jason Cowan (AL), Rick Hartlieb (PA/NJ), Anna Sproul-Latimer (VA), Curt Laffin (VT/NH)

## TACF STAFF PRESENT

Jules Smith (staff representative), Cherin Marmon-Saxe, Jamie Van Clief (staff recorder), Sara Fitzsimmons, Kendra Collins, Tom Saielli

## CALLED TO ORDER AT 1:00 PM

### INTRODUCTIONS

- Minutes from the December meeting approved
  - Attendance was updated after approval to correct an omission of attendees at the prior meeting\*

### LAYOUT OF MEETING

Bruce Levine and Kathy Patrick, have discussed how to run these meetings. It has been decided that at each meeting one chapter will give an update. The update can be on anything of interest including, membership, science, insurance, etc. Today's chapter will be Maryland. The chapter update will be followed by a short session on a topic of interest. Today the group will make the topic list. See below.

### CHAPTER UPDATE: MARYLAND 2022

#### SMALL STEM ASSAYS (SSAS)

- The old techniques for breeding were not working. To avoid having to plant trees just to cut them. Maryland will be following TACF and ESF and screening trees with SSAs. One modification they have made is the use of a liquid inoculation medium.
- Results: Survival after 120 days shows that (as expected) Chinese do the best, AM the worst, and F1s are between. On top of that Maryland has now been able to compare the results once planted in the field proving that there is a correlation (even if weak). This means this is a viable way of screening backcross families. Maryland has a few standouts, refer to the presentation.
- ResMap- repeating SSA in multiple locations. Maryland completed 1000 of this last year and they have been planted in the Matthews orchards in VA.

#### OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Best x Best crossing- Data was not in for 2021 but the chapter was able to make good selections. Sent down to VA for pollinations and are to be screened with SSA. For this season will be using Jared's analysis and genotypes from Virginia Tech, Maryland is moving ahead with selected controlled breeding.
- Phytophthora resistance - Musik-based backcrosses are not doing well with PRR and unfortunately, most of Maryland is Clapper prodigy. To help that:
  - RSC PRR screening used a Maryland strain and was planted back into Beltsville in 2021. Creating a good bank of resistance for future breeding.
- Replanting - Many backcross orchards have matured and it is time to replant some of the openings.

#### QUESTIONS:

How long does it take for your trees to get a large enough size for SSA?

- Minimum of 4.5mm. We start as early as we can in a greenhouse in February and usually reach the proper size get them by August. As a good practice, it is good to get them out of the greenhouse in May to avoid pests. We use 4x4x13 pots for our seedlings.

Can you tell us more about the slurry method for inoculations?

- Make PDA, with ¼ amount of agar, to get consistency of applesauce. Inoculate it with spores from the strain being used, let it grow for 5 days, until you see the mycelium (not orange). Put it in a blender. Let it sit for a day or two and repeat in a blender. Go to drugstore and get oral syringes. One syringe can hold enough inoculum for 200 trees. Buy a good syringe to control the slurry. Be careful as too much slurry affects canker size. Also works well in the field.

## **SELECTING TOPICS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

The second half of every chapter meeting will be a discussion, presentation, and/or Q&A on a topic of interest to the committee.

Members were invited to suggest future topics. The following were agreed upon (with additional comments):

1. Dentatabase
  - Mark Double: Could we have a presentation on Dentatabase?
  - Sara: Yes! We know it is so tricky.
  - Bruce: Suggest that each chapter should create a standard procedure as to what needs to go in and who needs to do it and how. Possibly each chapter should create this plan with RSC
  - Kathy: Marty has offered to help with presentation. Would be great to show the benefits of DB and why we use it.
  - Sara: Happy to do it. Let's set a date.
2. The membership list and how to increase it
  - Kathy: Adding chapter URL to signature block has increased membership
3. Insurance for each chapter
4. Chapter's place in the organization
  - Sara: Let's get on the same page about why chapters exist in TACF
  - Bruce: Another item under this is the 501 ck. To be independent or not?
5. Creating chapter leadership
  - Hill: How can we create more?
6. Social media
  - Bruce: A great tool to get more people involved.
7. Grant applications and funding experience.
  - Jules: Sam Bowers has offered to give a presentation on best practices to apply to grants.
  - Bruce: Yes, lets push to cover the bases
  - Jack O: Charitable platform Benevity (NY chapter uses it!) has been of interest. Successful up until deposit information was needed. Now is nervous.
  - Bruce: Maybe I could find a friend to talk about this
  - Kathy: We have one of these for GA. UGA suggested. Our problem is that it is too many organizations use it.

## **WEBSITE DESIGN:**

Cherin: Asking for a taskforce to help push this forward.

## **SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS**

Planning to meet the last Friday of every month at 1pm EST.

### **Next meeting:**

Chapter: Tennessee

Discussion: Social-media and website design (Cherin, Jules and Tamia). Please invite web admins!

## **MEETING ADJOURNED AT 2:00 PM**