

TACF CHAPTERS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

DATE: FRIDAY, AUGUST 19, 2022

ZOOM MEETING (RECORDED)

CHAPTER REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

Bruce Levine (Chair MD), Kathy Patrick (Vice-Chair GA), Mark Double (WV), Evan Fox (VT), John Scrivani (VA), Glenn Kotnik (IN), Jack Ostroff (CT), Yvonne Federowicz (MA/RI), Anne Bibigian (KY), Jack Swatt (CT), Hill Craddock (TN), Stephen Rist (OH), Al Faust (ME), Glenn Kotnik (IN), Doug Gillis (CC), Anna Sproul Latimer (VA)

CHAPTER REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT

Jason Cowan (AL), Curt Laffin (VT/NH), Rick Hartlieb (PA/NJ), James Curtis, Kathy Desjardin (MA/RI), Allen Nichols (NY), Ken Darnell (KY), Jack Rogers (GA)

GUEST

Steve Johnstonbaugh (PA), Mark McCollough, Eva Butler (ME), Martin Cipollini (GA)

TACF STAFF PRESENT

Jules Smith, Jamie Van Clief (Notes), Cherin Marmon-Saxe, Kendra Collins, Sara Fitzsimmons, Brianna Heath

CALLED TO ORDER AT 1:00 PM

Last meeting's notes with Jack Swatt's edits approved.

CHAPTER UPDATE: VIRGINIA 2022 – JOHN SCRIVANI

The Virginia Chapter started in 2008 and became organized under Cathy Mayes's leadership.

Backcross program

Has had a total of 13 backcross orchards of both Graves and Nanking.

12 orchards are still intact

Fully executed breeding program with Graves lines

Now have three seed orchards on public land in Northern VA.

Private land owners have been good partners with few exceptions

Lesesne state forest

Has a combination of radiated chestnuts, ~ 45LSA, and hybrids.

Their hybrids did not follow the backcross program of TACF. The major difference is that they did not inoculate the trees.

This has likely helped the trees with better growth form.

They have B1 B2 B3 trees. Many of which are still pure American.

Many of the Lesesne trees have been planted at Matthews and Meadowview.

GCOs

Chapter currently has three GCOs.

Jon is concerned about the long-term viability of GCOs as they have no resistance.

Let's take a look at the design as many families have died.

BxB and D58

State forest trees have been a real benefit for this material. Lesesne trees have been phenotype and incorporated.

D58 crosses have been made and had small success

State forestry service provides nursery, lab, and office space.

Questions:

Have you had your Graves trees been screened for PRR?

No, not yet we do not have a large PRR problem yet. We need to screen those line. We have a state forest site with PRR for a potential planting in the future.

Any evidence of hypovirulence?

Have not had evidence yet. May be interesting to retest some of the cankers.

Talk about the chapter's dynamic of TACF Research Farm being in the same state
More or less a big benefit. Downside is backcross breeding is overly centralized to Farm in southern VA.

Lesesne field resistance vs blight resistance?

Both good for testing. Nice to have examples from both, but yes this is very important.

Has there been any regeneration in LS forest?

No not a great environment for it. Worth noting.

ANNA SPROUL LATIMER

Chapter attrition

Lots of our membership loss has been chapter's volunteers aging out.

Other issue: we had no social media presence. Now have an Instagram, Facebook ect

Chestnut Festival:

The congressional cemetery has B2 chestnuts and sparked Anna's interest. Cemetery staff did not know what these trees were. She approached the staff and they were very receptive and suggested a festival.

Happening October 23!

Sierra magazine and Washington post to cover it. Goal is to spread awareness.

We need to have more vendors to help support the estimated 1500 potential attendees. Please email her for comments, support of questions.

Cemetery also want to plant more trees and establish a demonstration planting.

DENTATABASE: USE AND UPDATES- MARTY AND SARA

Sara

Labor of love and hate: History

Started with the need to transfer paper records to electronic copies.

Excel lacks consistency between sites, chapters, national. Hard to compare and work with data

Many databases from 2000-2010 did not work out due to lack of scope.

Scope was laid out with 9 goals.

\$750k has been put into the system. Which for a system is quite cheap

Example: 3 million is estimated cost for TreeSnap.

Hard to use, which came at the cost of functionality.

We are still developing it and adding items. New items include:

- Search everywhere bar
- Easy to add small planting
- More has been opened up to public

Marty

Centralizing data for GA chapter.

Wild tree data:

Leaf samples

TreeSnap

Allowed us to focus on area of importance

Cross module:

Create permanent record

Establishes pedigrees

Orchards:

Create permanent records

Data sheet generation

Maintain crosses, observations, plantings ect.

With this we can create cross chapter analysis for guiding future crossings

Cons

Getting the historic data entered

Replanting trees. Cumbersome to remove trees to open up spots.

*Marty ran quick demonstration (some chapter leaders have had little exposure)

Sara will look into: possibility for more trainings.

Questions:

Hill- What is this public user function? How do they access this data?

Sara- anyone who signs up to Dentatabase is automatically public until signed up for specific role.

Bruce- Data quality? Example: Graves B1 is actually a F1.

Sara- The DB has the ability to edit trees, crosses and orchard. As mistakes are made, we need to correct it.

Bruce- Do we need more input from chapters?

Sara- We will take all the help we can get! But it is crucial to send the data to TACF so it is entered. Our analyses are not possible without your data.

Anne- Issues with uploading wild trees due to conventions. Don't want to overlap trees, want to keep TreeSnap number

Marty- We have sorted by latitude and longitude and IDed copies.

Kendra has offered to help sort through this data.

Hill- Should trees be stored from publications? Can we use it for archiving historic data?

Sara- Better to have duplicates than none at all.

Bruce- Request to make a list of the information that is wanted.

TACF wants everything. Wild tree, planting, harvest, surveys ect.

Overall: Records are vital to the success of multigenerational work. Thanks to everyone who has been updating and using the system.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

Planning to meet in person during Chestnut symposium.

Next meeting: Thursday September 29th

Chapter: TBD

Discussion: What to report to the board. What chapters would like to do and take charge of in relation to TACF.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 2:35 PM