

The BUR
 The New York State Chapter of the
 American Chestnut Foundation Inc.
 Richard R. Radel
 23 Carriage Circle
 Williamsville, NY 14221



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This year's annual meeting was a milestone for TACF-NY and has fulfilled a personal eighteen year ambition. Now that a multi-pronged plan is being utilized I believe that the TACF program for blight resistance is on the best track possible since TACF started. This plan includes our New York Chapter's Genetic Modification approach as a significant contributor.

Two years ago when the national TACF Board of Directors approved the Genetic Modification of American Chestnut plan at their October 23, 2009 board meeting, it opened the door to all other American Chestnut disease research being included. During these intervening two years it helped others to see how their research compliments the overall program and can be a part of it. This complimentary perspective seemed to come into focus this year at our joint annual meetings at Beaver Hollow.

It was clear to me that scientists who have battled the blight problem in singular ways are now recognizing that their individual research is complimented by an overall program that includes genetic modification. I believe that these scientists will work together to get the very best solutions to having the highest blight resistance possible.

For his leadership of the committee and authorship of the Genetic Modification of American Chestnut plan, Dr. Kim Steiner was awarded the TACF-NY Board of Directors' Award. We honor his foresight and fortitude. Thanks Kim!!

The combined meeting of TACF and TACF-NY at Beaver Hollow was the first time I could sense that most people agreed to the new integrated approach to research including; backcross breeding, blight hypovirulence Phytophthora and, genetic modification. An approach that has us all working TOGETHER towards discovering the most resistant American Chestnut possible and ultimately restoring the American Chestnut tree.

Long Live the American Chestnut!
 Herbert F. Darling, Jr. President, TACF-NY

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genes. We expect resistance differences of Chinese and American species. This knowledge helps define the construct design decisions.

Regional Performance Trials Highlights

NY-TACF has established six NY-based "USDA APHIS BRS-permitted" field tests for evaluating transgenic American chestnut trees. CESF has two university field research forests near Syracuse. Deer fencing has been added to research plots.

Transgenic American Nuts Highlights

Another exciting event occurred in 2011 in the oldest Chestnut planting in Syracuse. In the spring of 2011, we observed female flowers on some of the non-transgenic control trees, and male flowers on one of the transgenic clones. We quickly bagged the transgenic trees as well as enough female flowers to make our first control crosses between transgenic male parent and several of our flowering females. In late September, we collected the burs and extracted 41 apparently viable chestnuts. They are stratifying in the refrigerator and we plan to grow them into whole plants as soon as they germinate. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first time a transgenic American chestnut tree has been crossed with anything!

Conclusions

In conclusion, in 2011 we have increased dramatically the number of genes being transformed into chestnut, the number of transgenic trees in the development pipeline, and have started field inoculations and canker evaluations of our earliest events. We also increased the number of field test sites to six.

Most importantly our knowledge and skills base is expanding rapidly. It is an exciting time to be involved with all aspects of the chestnut restoration project; biotechnology, genomics and backcrossing.

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Treasurer's Update

What a great membership we have. THANKS TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE 2011 FUND DRIVE. The total donated as of December 19, 2011 was \$18, 834.00 and we paid Grants to SUNY-ESF of \$10,000.00 and to University of Georgia of \$8,000.00. We still owe \$6,000.00 to SUNY-ESF Research Fund by April 30, 2012 in accordance with the Grant we made them in 2011. We are sure our membership will come thru again. *THANK YOU.*

Do you know how much the Grants we have made total for the last seven years? It's (\$711,127). Thanks to all who donated. The breakdown is as follows: \$572,650 to research at SUNY School of ESF & University of Georgia Research Department, \$90,000 for Growth Chambers, & \$48,477 for other research, fencing, plant identification & culture initiation.

Remember this in addition to all our normal income and expense we have every year such as taxes, postage, insurance and meeting costs.

Again Thank You, Respectfully Richard R. Radel Secretary/Treasurer

