

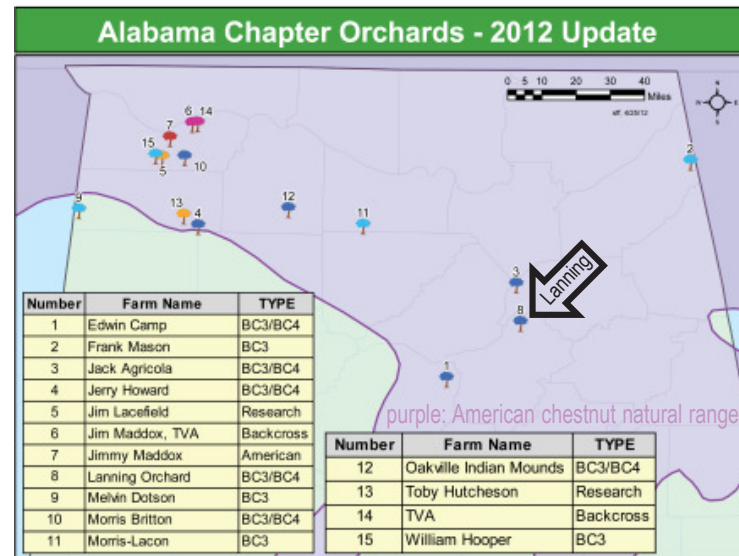
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By the end of the day, 174 trees were planted, deer protection tubes set in place, tree identification tags placed on each tree, fertilization done and data recorded.

While the FWLT is taking a leading role in the management of the new orchard, this is a great example of an equal partnership between organizations with a shared enthusiasm for a cause we all care so much about.

There are individuals we need to recognize for this important step in our mission. First, we are grateful for the generosity of Jerry and Joyce Lanning in donating this property. As evidenced by their presence and labor during the planting, Jerry and Joyce aren't just silent benefactors. They don't mind getting a little dirty in the cause.

Brian Rushing, the FWLT Director of Land Conservation, has been the real force in making this happen. Brian tackles every task with enthusiasm and good humor, but, he is a



Sara Fitzsimmons, the NE Regional Science Coordinator, put together the above map of orchards, demonstrating how serious the effort is in Alabama

**Continued**

We extend our condolences to Larry Brasher (Board member & past chapter President) whose father, Julius, passed away earlier this month at the age of 97. Like his son, Julius was intimately associated with the American chestnut tree, especially on the family property near Gallant, AL; Julius was featured in an article in the ACF's *Journal* a few years ago.

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*Our Goal: To restore the American chestnut tree to its native range within the woodlands of the eastern United States.*



**THE AMERICAN CHESTNUT FOUNDATION®**

**Alabama Chapter**

[www.acf.org/ChapterNews\\_al.php](http://www.acf.org/ChapterNews_al.php)

*Chestnut Restoration – the environment, the future*

*spring 2011*

**Forthcoming Chestnut Events**

Mon. June 4: hear Rebekah talk about the FWLT, BBG 7PM

between June 1 and 10: – collect pollen from various locations for use by Ala chapter in the TACF father tree program.

June 9 / AT MEGA-Transect Project training / Nantahala Outdoor Center, Bryson City, NC / contact tom@acf.org

September 4-8/ Fifth International Chestnut Symposium/ National Conservation Training Center Shepherdstown, WV

October 5-7 / Paul Bunyan Show / Guernsey County Fairgrounds, Old Washington, OH

October 7 / Annual West Virginia Chestnut Festival / Rowlesburg, WV

October 13 / 3rd Annual Chestnut Restoration Celebration / Hartwood, Abingdon, VA / contact: swvabanch@acf.org

**October 20-21 / TACF Annual Meeting and Chestnut Summit / Asheville, NC**

As we began to worry that we wouldn't find a suitable location in time for this year's planting, a FWLT Board of Directors member and Birmingham attorney, Jerry Lanning, offered to donate land



Mac-Jack-Marty (see masthead) earning their club officer's salaries (yes, it was *that* cold!)

**The Lanning Orchard**

by Mac Phillippi

There are many organizations in Alabama, both public and private, that are friends of our mission to restore the American chestnut. All of these "partner" organizations are important and each will play a role in restoration. As our efforts advance, more and more we will find the scope of restoration must extend beyond the capacities of any single group (including TACF). That reality was driven home recently in dramatic fashion.

The Freshwater Land Trust ([www.freshwaterlandtrust.org](http://www.freshwaterlandtrust.org)), headquartered in Birmingham, is a highly successful non-profit entity whose mission is to restore and protect our natural waterways in central Alabama. This organization has also been a loyal and steady friend to the Alabama Chapter of TACF and our work. In the fall of 2011, our chapter approached the FWLT with an invitation to join with us in the breeding program. In doing this we sought to address two issues. First, we are beginning to outgrow the physical limits of our current breeding orchard sites and secondly, our need for those willing to dedicate volunteer time necessary to orchard operations grows with the expansion of the overall effort.

The people at the FWLT enthusiastically embraced our mission as their own and together we began the search for a suitable site on FWLT holdings. Our initial efforts proved frustrating. The FWLT owns or controls a great deal of land but the specific requirements of a working breeding orchard site aren't easily met. Soil type, adequate drainage, adequate access and other concerns ruled out site after site.



Jerry & Joyce getting dirty (& cold) "for the cause"

for the orchard. We arranged to visit the site, hopeful, but with the usual reservations. What we found was a site that met all the requirements for an orchard and more! The site is located atop Chandler Mountain approximately one hour north of Birmingham not far at all from Horse Pens 40. The location is open, well drained, has good soil conditions, is free of soil borne pathogens harmful to chestnut and even has a nearby water supply. It would have been difficult to invent a better location.

This past February, after a brief meeting at the nearby Lanning cabin, a group consisting of AL-TACF and FWLT volunteers set to work on a brilliant but COLD Saturday afternoon planting the first backcrossed chestnut seedlings in what is now officially known as the Joyce and Jerry Lanning Chestnut Orchard.

**Continued**

## Message from the President

In our last newsletter I let you know of the limited amount of potentially blight-resistant chestnut seed available to the state chapters for planting projects within the respective states. I'm pleased to report to you that the Alabama Chapter was selected to receive 300 of the "B<sub>3</sub>F<sub>3</sub>" seed. Given the small amount of seed available this year for planting projects beyond the national breeding program, this is a major "win". The projects targeted for planting are:

A wild turkey and wild quail habitat demonstration project is to be developed on several hundred acres at Wind Creek State Park. This project is a joint venture involving the Alabama Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources, Alabama State Parks, the Wild Turkey Federation and Quail Forever. We look forward to working with all involved to make chestnut restoration a part of this project.

The Alabama Forestry Commission is the entity in our state government that deals with forestry issues important to Alabama. The AFC has also been a friend and supporter of chestnut restoration. We are looking forward to furthering that relationship with test plantings at the Choccolocco Wildlife Management Area.

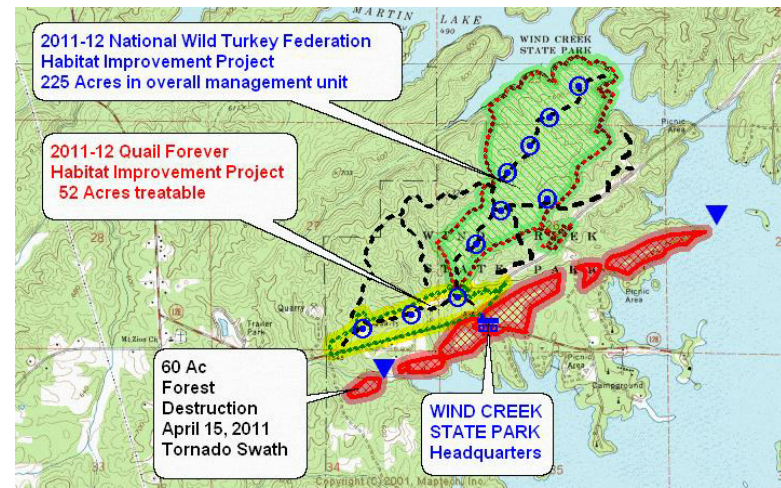
An F4 tornado struck the Lake Martin area in 2010 and largely wiped clean a large area of waterfront property of development and trees. Russell Lands, a family owned land development company with large land holdings on Lake Martin, is to develop this area as a low density residential development with heavy emphasis on natural restoration for the vast majority of the property. American chestnut once grew in the area and we are looking forward to our involvement with Russell Lands and hopefully the Lake Martin community in seeing its return.



David Dionne (park Director, lower left), David Morris & Mac Phillippi inspect a potential planting site near the #10 mine @ Red Mountain Park, Bham

The 300 seeds have been given to the Westervelt Company, a family owned, 100 plus year old timber company headquartered in Tuscaloosa. Westervelt has volunteered to grow the seedlings for us in pots for transplanting next Fall or Winter. We are grateful to the people at Westervelt for selflessly taking on this task for us. It is important that these seedlings be grown in pots to facilitate transplanting to the different sites over a significant period of time. This would be impractical with direct seed planting or transplanting by the bare root method from our own orchard seed beds.

It is important for us all to bear in mind that these seedlings still must be considered "test" trees in regards to blight-resistance. Additionally, we will experience losses to natural causes normal to all transplanted seedlings. With that caution noted, there's nothing like trees in the ground to get people excited about chestnut restoration. It's been said that restoration of the American chestnut will not arrive like a parade. It will come in small steps that grow over time. The planting of these B<sub>3</sub>F<sub>3</sub> seedlings will be a small but significant step in the restoration of the species in our region.



turkey, quail & chestnuts outside Alexander City

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L to R: Brian Rushing (FWLT) Ronald Brothers (neighbor/volunteer, Lanning orchard, #8 on map) Mac Phillippi (Pres) David Morris (past Pres) Jimmy Maddox (AL orchards, #'s 6-7-14 on map) Jack Agricola (Vice Pres & Gadsden orchard, #3 on map) Marty Schulman (newsletter ed) Jerry Howard (Phil Campbell orchard, #4 on map)

us in the mission to return the American chestnut to Alabama. You are a part of this now. Welcome to the frustrations, hopes, dreams and joys of bringing back the King of the Forest.

\*Ed's note: You are cordially invited to hear Rebekah's talk about the FWLT to the local Blanche Dean chapter of the AI Wildflower Society: Mon. June 4 @ 8PM B'ham Botanical Gardens 2nd floor

### Become a Member Today

As a member of The American Chestnut Foundation, you will be part of an extraordinary journey that began in 1983 when a small group of prominent scientists established the premier organization dedicated to restoring the American chestnut. As a member, you will receive the following:

- All TACF publications
- A special TACF car decal
- Membership in one of our state chapters: AL, CT, GA, IN, KY, MA, MD, ME, NC/SC, NY, OH, PA, TN, VA, VT/NH & WV
- Access to expert advice on growing and caring for American chestnut trees
- Opportunities to participate in local breeding and research activities
- And much, much more

TACF does not sell or otherwise disclose member information outside the organization and its chapters. This policy has no exceptions. We do not sell or exchange your information with any other organization, public, private, or non-profit.

no nonsense achiever. Rebekah Pine (now Parker), the FWLT Land Steward\*, has been a key player and constant presence in the land search and in handling the mechanics of getting this done. Rebekah does get it done and is a real pleasure to share time with.

It's hard to find an adequate way to thank Ronald Brothers, the Lanning's neighbor atop Chandler Mt, a semi-retired farmer who has done the heavy lifting work of preparing the land for planting and other work necessary to start and maintain the orchard.

Lastly, we want to thank the FWLT Director Wendy Jackson and their Board of Directors for joining with us in the mission to return the American chestnut to Alabama. You are a part of this now. Welcome to the frustrations, hopes, dreams and joys of bringing back the King of the Forest.

**S**o you think you may have found an American chestnut? Be aware that all chestnuts can cross-pollinate, so that the chestnut you are trying to identify may actually be a mix of two or more different types of chestnuts, known as a hybrid.

We can attempt to identify your chestnut if you are unable to do so by means of a leaf and twig sample.

Please press one or two fresh leaves between cardboard with a 4-6" twig. Don't use plastic unless it is perforated or the leaves will mold. Crushed and bent leaves will not be in good enough condition to positively analyse.

Along with your contact information & the location of the tree, mail to:  
American Chestnut Foundation  
14005 Glenbrook Ave.  
Meadowview, VA 24361

## Join the Crusade

Invite others to become TACF members

I want to help restore the American Chestnut tree!

- Chestnut Leaf (\$5,000+)       Bronze Leaf (\$250-\$499)  
 Gold Leaf (\$1,000-\$4,999)       Green Leaf (\$100-\$249)  
 Silver Leaf (\$500-\$999)       Regular Member (\$40-\$99)  
 Student (\$15)       Additional Gift to Alabama State Chapter: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City St Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_

phone: \_\_\_\_\_ alt ph: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to **The American Chestnut Foundation**

or  Please bill my credit card (Visa/Mastercard only) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Exp \_\_\_/\_\_\_ CCV \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this form to: TACF  
160 Zillicoa St, Ste D Asheville, NC 28801

TACF is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. The non-deductible membership services portion of your TACF membership is \$15.

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www.acf.org (apply online - MC & Visa accepted)