

THE GEORGIA SPROUT

Georgia Chapter
of

The American Chestnut Foundation

Spring, 2008

Volume 5, Issue 1

BERRY COLLEGE

CHESTNUT BACKCROSS ORCHARD (RE)PLANTED

By: Will Watkins & Dr. Martin Cipollini

On March 2, members of the Georgia Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation direct-planted nearly 200 BC3 nuts and 10 pure Chinese nuts at the orchard at Berry College. Additionally, five pure American and four F1 hybrid tree seedlings were planted as well.

This is the same orchard which was planted last year with seedlings grown in the Berry greenhouse. Those trees were first hit by the Easter freeze and those that weathered that first storm faced and succumbed to the drought.



John Lull inserts a Blue X tree tube through a slit in the black plastic into a pre dug hole in the ground. Each tube surrounds and protects a nut placed inside the hole with bedding soil. The irrigation system runs underneath the plastic next to the tubes.



With aching knees, strained backs and dirty fingernails, these hard working folks planted the orchard: L to R: Joe Nicholson, Will Watkins, Mary Pachinger, John Lull, Tom Pachinger, Tim and Lily Chesnut, Ken McDonald and Mark Stoakes. Marty Cipollini is behind the camera. Not pictured, Mike and Blake Hinson

Now, thanks to funding from the National Forest Foundation, the orchard has an irrigation system in place. The design of planting nuts directly into the soil follows the belief that the nuts can adapt to site conditions from the start better than potted trees that have been pampered for a year. Plus we are following a formula that other chapters have had success with for a number of years.



Sprout Lily Chesnut holds a nut destined to be planted in the Berry Backcross Orchard.

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UPCOMING EVENTS and ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SPRING ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The GaTACF's Annual Spring Meeting will be held at **Vogel State Park** south of Blairsville, Georgia April 19th starting at 9:30 am. Please see the following pages for a registration form, directions and more information or visit our webpage at **www.GaTACF.org** to register.



IN MEMORIAM

A long time member of TACF and a GaTACF member since its inception, Mr. Kyle Yancey, 82, passed away February 17 .

An "archetypical country lawyer" Mr. Yancey espoused many causes derived from his country roots—including the restoration of the American chestnut. His wit, charm and vitality will be missed.

A nice write up and obituary notice for Mr. Yancey can be found here from ajc.com:

www.ajc.com/metro/content/metro/obits/stories/2008/02/17/yancey_0218.html



Hike a Mile for the Chestnut

In celebration of the 25th Anniversary of TACF you can sign-up to hike any portion of the Appalachian Trail and spot American chestnuts along the way.

You can call or write Joe Nicholson for details to volunteer yourself or your group:

(770)862-0113

joenicholson02@comcast.net

Or visit our webpage—

http://gatacf.org/hike_a_mile1.htm

To sign up!

One Vision -

One Voice -

One Tree



President's Message

By: Carolyn Hill

It's been an exciting, rewarding and educational 2 years serving as the President of our TACF Georgia Chapter. As I look back on our many ups and downs, I am thankful for all the volunteers and contributors who have made my job so wonderful. It's hard to praise them enough, for as volunteers, the many hours they have contributed to our chapter is truly an act of love for this tree.

Mike Hinson: VP and upcoming Presidential successor has been invaluable. Not only has he served as presidential backup, he has also served as Membership chairman and Orchard Growers' Liaison helping our growers get trees in the ground and needed supplies. Mike has also helped with meeting cookouts, pollinations, release work and harvests. He's really a hands-on person and I'm sure you'll continue to see him enthusiastically involved in every project of the chapter as he moves into the position of President.



Mark Stallings: past President, advisor and Orchard Chairman has worked tirelessly to insure we have the best orchards available for our backcross trees. He has given countless talks about our cause and established wonderful connections with civic organizations in NW Georgia. Our orchard at UGA's Georgia Mountain Research and Educational Center is successful because of Mark's work and relationships. This spring another of Mark's successes, The Preserve at Callaway Gardens, was planted with test trees. Mark is also the producer and interviewer in "Chestnut Memories" as he helped tell the chestnut story.

Don Davis: past President and advisor, is the co-founder of our Georgia Chapter. Without his tireless efforts there would be no Mother trees or orchards for our Georgia genetics. We all owe a big thank you to Don for all the speaking engagements, special presentations and memorials that he has sponsored for us. He too, has helped with pollinations and harvests and has been a stand-in for me for some TACF meetings.



Martin Cipollini: Our Mother Tree program is what it is because of the hard work of "Dr C". When the chairmanship position became vacant, Marty stepped in and organized the Georgia Mother trees, their pollination and harvest schedules and the planting of their progeny. He is also responsible for acquiring the orchard at Berry College which now holds 2 lines from Georgia Mother trees.



Mark Stoakes: As Fund Raising Chairman, Mark has done a remarkable job applying for, and obtaining the many grants that we have used for orchard and mother tree expenses. He has even obtained American chestnuts from TACF and sold them for chapter supplemental income. Because of his efforts, we have been able to do much more



Jerry Smith: my go-to person for Prater's Mill work, chapter co-founder with his wife Dianne, supporter in pollination and harvest work, and chauffeur for our honorary Board member, Mary Belle Price.

Dianne Smith: Chapter Treasurer and absolute necessity, also a co-founder of our chapter. Without Dianne's detailed mind and organizational skills, our chapter would be in a mess. Somehow she gets all the bills paid on time, all the IRS and State requirements fulfilled each year and relieves a lot of stress that government regulations can put on a chapter. She's a wiz on Quicken now and can whip out a report in no time.



Jack Johnson: He is alone in the far NE corner of Georgia and works tirelessly to find grow and care for American chestnuts in that area of the state. Although hours away across the mountains, he has attended many of the board and membership meetings and can always be relied upon to give good advice based on his wealth of scientific knowledge. Jack was also a member of the Carolina's Board of Directors and has shared knowledge and procedures for both chapters.



Tim Chesnut: A man of many hats – PR, education, radio "personality" and speaker. Whenever I needed something done, Tim was there with his hand raised. As owner of his own forestry company, Tim has been known to search for American chestnuts as he surveys property and spread the word about our cause to everyone he meets. Because he was able to squeeze in a little more chestnut time, our Sprout is being published today.

Ken McDonald: noted as a tree finder and for his release work, Ken is usually found working alongside Mike Hinson and Tom Pachinger someplace among the trees. Always present at meetings and chapter functions, Ken has been a staunch supporter of the TACF cause and continues to enhance our chapter's work.



Tom Pachinger: someone always there willing to help out and lend a hand. Recently, Tom took over the recording secretary position on top of all his work pollinating, harvesting and hiking the Appalachian Trail. Among the first members of the chapter and in on its organizational meeting, Tom constantly insures that the chapter is going in the right direction.

Scott Merkle: Scott has been on the cutting edge of genetic research and cloning of American chestnuts and, no doubt, will soon be instrumental in spreading the final American chestnut product across its native range. Because of Scott's association with the University of Georgia, we were able to acquire UGA's research facility in Blairsville for our backcross orchard





THE TORCH HAS PASSED

By: Carolyn Hill

Georgia Chapter Officers and Board of Directors:

Carolyn Hill
President

Mike Hinson
Vice President
Membership Chair
NW GA Pollination Coordinator

Tom Pachinger
Secretary
Education Chair

Dianne Smith
Treasurer

At Large Board Members:

Dr. Martin Cipollini
Tree Breeding and
Tree Preservation Chair

Mark Stallings
Immediate Past President
Lumpkin Co. Pollination Coordinator

Dr. Donald Davis
Co-Founder

Ken McDonald

Jerry Smith

Scott Merkle

Jack Johnson

Mark Stoakes
Fund Raising Chair

Tim Chesnut
Program and Publicity Chair

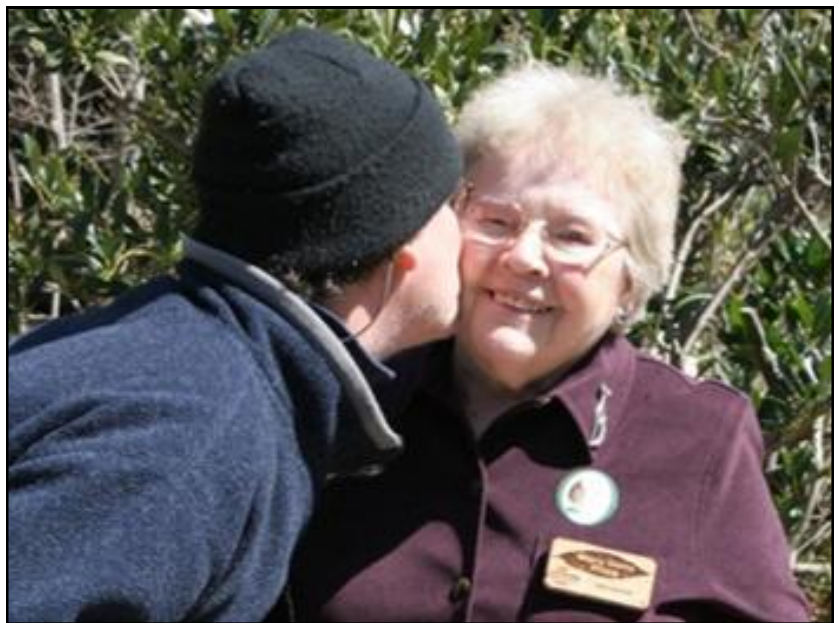
Mary Belle Price
Honorary

The torch has passed!

In celebration of the 25th Anniversary of The American Chestnut Foundation, everyone is invited to “**Hike a Mile for the American Chestnut**” along the Appalachian Trail from March 1st until our anniversary celebration in Chattanooga, October 24-26.

On March 1st, Mary Belle Price hiked the first steps for the Georgia chapter as she carried the symbolic chestnut baton and handed it off to Mary and Tom Pachinger at Amicalola State Park. During the AT Celebration festival at the park, TACF Science Board member Dr. J. Hill-Craddock helped visitors identify the American chestnut that hikers will see along the trail and chapter members handed out identification packets, stickers and tokens to all future AT hikers. Our goal is to hike the 79 miles in Georgia at least 25 times. If you belong to, or know of groups such as Master Gardeners, Boy and Girl Scouts, 4-H etc. that can hike for us, please sign up at gatacf.org so we can send them stickers, tokens and chestnut id cards.

The TACF's Appalachian Trail journey won't be hiked in a “linear” fashion, so participants can start at any point on the trail and even hike the same portion more than once. Once hiked, miles can then entered on the Ga website (gatacf.org) and the entire hike's progress can be seen at acf.org. By completing as much of the Appalachian Trail as possible before October's annual meeting, we will bring focused attention to the importance of restoring this mighty giant, the American chestnut, to its native forests as well as to the ongoing work of TACF, its state chapters and its volunteer community.



Dr. J. Hill Craddock acts for us all as he gives Mary Belle Price a kiss as he dedicates and passes the chestnut baton to the Chapter in her honor.





Georgia Backcross and Demo Orchards (Current and Immediate Future)

Berry College	Rome.....	Two BC3 Lines
Univ of GA (GMREC).....	Blairsville.....	One Line
The Carter Center	Atlanta	Demo Orchard
Ga Power Company	Cartersville.....	B2F2 (non Georgian)
Calloway Gardens	Pine Mtn	16 Test Trees
Elachee Center	Gainesville	19 Test Trees
Morning Glory Farm	Blairsville	
Wright State College	Dayton, OH.....	Mother Tree Preserve
Reinhardt College	Waleska	
Barry Pritchett	Ellijay	10 Demo Trees
Joe Kilpatrick	LaFayette	Demo Orchard
Mark Stallings	Blairsville.....	13 Test Trees
James Hill	Calhoun.....	13 Test Trees
Don Cipollini	Waterman, PA.....	Mother Tree Preserve
Loy Cook	Blairsville	
Scott Pryor	Buford	
Bryce Durbin.....	Blairsville	
Stephen Barber	Gainesville	

For more information on how you can become an orchard steward, contact us at www.GaTACF.org!!!

American Chestnut Foundation Receives Gift and a Challenge

The American Chestnut Foundation, kicking off its 25th anniversary this year, has even more to celebrate with the recent \$1 million lead gift from the Stanback family of North Carolina. This gift serves as a challenge grant as TACF crosses the halfway point in a \$2.5 million capital campaign.

“This is an historical moment not only for our Foundation, but also for our state chapter network and our volunteers, especially when we know the American chestnut tree will be the beneficiary,” said Marshal Case, President and CEO of TACF.

The Stanbacks have taken a special interest in restoring that grandest of trees, the American chestnut, which was destroyed by blight in the first half of the 20th century. They have long been supporters of efforts to preserve and enhance ecosystems on a national level, as well as in and around their native North Carolina.

“The American Chestnut Foundation has worked on a limited budget for 25 years towards the goal of developing a blight-resistant American chestnut. Now that we are on the cusp of success, we need this new investment to push us clearly and decisively to the point where we can declare that success. The next stage of our mission, to restore the American chestnut to the ecosystem,

will be more of a self-sustaining and self-funding program,” said Brad Stanback.

Berry Chestnut Backcross Orchard



**YOU CAN SIGN UP FOR THE SPRING MEETING
ONLINE AT www.GaTACF.ORG OR
CONTACT DIANNE SMITH AT 706+259-9010**





Board Nominations and Officer Positions

According to current by-laws, nominations for board and officer positions are published one month before the annual meeting.

In the case of any nominee with an expiring board position, the board term will be extended for an additional 2 years.

The nominating committee has selected the following:

New board members selected for a 3 year term:
Joe Nicholson, Ronnie Camp, Mickey Cummings

New Officer Slate:

Mike Hinson, President
Tim Chesnut, Vice-president
Tom Pachinger, Recording Secretary
Dianne Smith, Treasurer



"...The nut of this tree is hung high aloft, wrapped in a silk wrapper, which is enclosed in a case of sole leather, which again is packed in a mass of shock-absorbing, vermin-proof pulp, sealed up in a waterproof, iron-wood case, and finally cased in a vegetable porcupine of spines, almost impregnable."

Whenever you see something kept under lock and key, bars and bolts, guarded and double-guarded, you may be sure it is very precious, greatly coveted. "

"There is no nut so protected; there is no nut in our woods to compare with it as food... "

—Author Unknown, Circa 1935



Photos of the Georgia Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation in Action



President Carolyn Hill smiles for the camera during the Appalachian Trail Kick Off Celebration



Ken McDonald and Tom Pachinger appear ready to tackle the orchard planting



John Lull, Mary and Tom Pachinger, Dr. Cipollini and Joe Nicholson plant nuts at the Berry Orchard



Dr. Don Davis clutches his copy of Mighty Giants: A Chestnut Anthology. Order yours from our Website!



Mike Hinson gets some help from his grandson Blake and Lily Chesnut.



Mary Belle Price Hands the Chestnut Baton to the Pachingers during the AT Kickoff



GaTACF Annual Membership Meeting

April 19, 2008

The Annual Meeting of The Georgia Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation will be held at Vogel State Park just 11 miles south of near Blairsville, GA. off Hwy 19/129. [See map below.](#)

9:30-10:00 am	Registration
10:00-11:15 am	President's Message By-law Change Approval Committee Reports Board Elections
11:15-12:30 pm	<i>How to Plant and Grow American Chestnuts</i> Presented by Dr. Paul Sisco
12:30 pm	Lunch (donations accepted)
Field Trips and Activities	Possible visit to GMREC Backcross Orchard Trail Hikes Boating



Dr. Paul Sisco joined TACF staff in April 1998 as a staff geneticist at the Meadowview Research Farms. In April 2002, he became the Southern Appalachian Regional Science Coordinator. Paul develops, coordinates, and oversees cooperative breeding projects with our regional partners. Paul received a PhD. in plant breeding and genetics from Cornell University. He comes to TACF from the USDA's Agricultural Research Service at North Carolina State University, where he worked with molecular markers in crop genes, and isolated and characterized genes from corn.

**To register, please visit our
webpage at
www.GaTACF.org
Bring a Friend!!!!**

Dr Sisco has provided pure American chestnuts to our chapter and will be available for our members for a donation and plant in their own backyard.

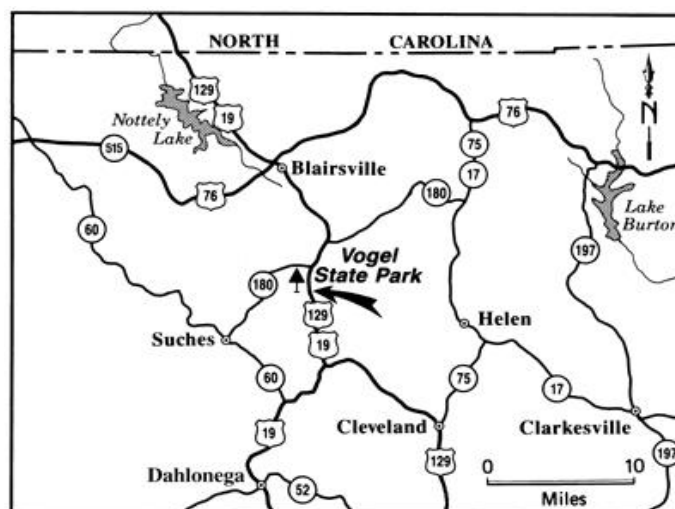
The "ready to plant" nuts will be a fundraiser for the chapter and go toward the upkeep of our backcross breeding orchards.

We thank you for your help.

The Mission of TACF to Restore the Chestnut from "Ghost to Glory"...will take time—but look what we've accomplished in just 24 Years!



"I can think of nothing better than the goal of getting blight-resistant American chestnut trees. What I hope to do at TACF is develop the best possible molecular markers for blight resistance. Molecular markers are like signs that say 'genes for resistance are present.' Found in a bit of DNA from a chestnut leaf, they'd be all we need to decide which trees to keep and which to cull."





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The American Chestnut Foundation**

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**Membership Application
The American Chestnut Foundation, Georgia Chapter**

Enclosed is my TACF membership support of:
☐ Chestnut Leaf, \$5,000
☐ Gold Leaf, \$1,000
☐ Silver Leaf, \$500
☐ Bronze Leaf, \$250
☐ Green Leaf, \$100
☐ Regular, \$40
☐ Student, \$15
☐ Special Gift to State

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____
☐ This is a gift membership from: _____
address: _____
☐ Check Enclosed (Make payable to The American Chestnut Foundation)
☐ Credit Card please check: ☐ VISA ☐ MC # _____
Exp. Date: _____
Billing Address for Credit Card if different from above: _____
Name on Card (please print): _____
Signature: _____
Date: _____

Amount Enclosed : \$ _____

Membership includes subscriptions to *The Georgia Sprout*, *The Journal of The American Chestnut Foundation*, *The Bark* and enrollment in the Georgia Chapter of TACF

Please make check payable to:
The American Chestnut Foundation
P.O. Box 4044, Bennington, VT 05201-4044.

TACF is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit membership organization.
Except for the member services portion of your contribution (valued at \$15), your gift is tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.



***"This majestic
and useful
tree...no other
tree received
such respect."***

—Jimmy Carter—
(an excerpt from *Mighty
Giants*)

Join us in our effort to restore the King of the Appalachian Trees to the Throne of the Forest!! Fill out the card to the left and send it to our National Address. You too can become a part of an ecological success story that is the Restoration of the American Chestnut!!

ARE YOU A WEB DEVELOPER, DESIGNER OR TRAINER?

We are in need of someone like you to assist us with the GaTACF.Org webpage! We want our site to reflect the spirit of the Chapter and become a repository of information, forum and discussion board for all members and non-members alike! If you'd like to help the Chapter, please contact Carolyn Hill at gatacf.president@yahoo.com or Tim Chesnut at Tim@ChesnutForestry.com