

# THE GEORGIA SPROUT

Georgia Chapter  
of

The American Chestnut Foundation

Autumn, 2008

Volume 5, Issue 2

**LOOK AT WHAT WE CAN DO!!!!** —Tim Chesnut, Editor



*The Berry Orchard in March.....*

**LAST MARCH**, Members of your 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 OF SEPTEMBER 1**, 176 of the BC3 plantings were alive, and most were 2-4 feet tall, with some over 6 feet tall!!! (A full report on Page 6).



*...and in September!!!!*

**FROM MAY TO JULY**, a steady wave of intrepid souls made the 300+ mile trip to the Chestnut Foundation Research Farm in Meadowview, Virginia, some more than once to bag the emerging female flowers and then pollinate them with pollen from a number of native Georgia trees (A full report on page 2). It was impressive to see the sheer number of trees which were covered with

paper bags, indicating they had been pollinated.

In addition, the Georgia Chapter performed several “in house” pollinations, pollinating “mother trees” here in Georgia with pollen from “father trees” also from Georgia. (A summary report is on Page 3).

**So we’ve been busy—literally as bees—and we hope to harvest many burs from our efforts!!!**



*Sprout Abby Chesnut pollinates.....*



*Bags on pollinated chestnut flowers*



THE  
AMERICAN  
CHESTNUT  
FOUNDATION

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**My Trip to Meadowview**  
**By: Matthew Summerlin, GaTACF Intern Apprentice**



*Matt Summerlin bagging a tree at Meadowview*

This summer, I traveled to Meadowview, Virginia to the American Chestnut Foundation’s main research farm. Joe Nicholson picked me up at the Science Building at Berry College to let me hitch a ride for what was about a five hour trip. Once we got there, we stopped at a truck stop for dinner and Paul Sisco treated us to some of Virginia’s finest dining. After dinner, we followed Paul to the Price and Wagner farms so he could show us around before we started working in the morning. We then followed Paul back to the Emory and Harris College we were going to bunk down at for the night. That night, Dr. Cipollini and his wife Kathy arrived at the house so that they could help us work for the weekend.

The next morning, after a nice breakfast at the truck stop, we went to the Price farm to start bagging trees. To bag a tree, one must first cut the catkins off of around the bur. Then, one would trim the leaves back as to make it easy to slip a bag onto the bur. Once that is completed, one would get a bag and slip it over the bur and put a paperclip on the bag so the bag doesn’t fall off. You would put bags over all of the premature burs that you see on the tree. In the whole day, we bagged five trees. Dr. Cipollini and I were on the ladder bagging the burs near the top of the tree while Mr. Nicholson and Kathy bagged the burs down below us. Now, for those who are new at it, the orchard ladders can be tricky to figure out how to stand the first couple of times. The key was never to put the pole downhill, always uphill; otherwise one is in for a scary climb. We put thirty-two bags on BG125, seventy-six on tree BG393, eighty-four on tree BG413, eighty-six on BG323, and 27 bags on tree BG310. In total we got 305 bags on five trees. Lots of bags should mean a lot of burs this harvest. Keep your fingers crossed folks, we may be in for an exciting fall this year.

*(At time of publish, the TACF is ALREADY collecting burs and shucking nuts—we hope to have an update on our website soon! —ed)*

On Sunday, we returned to the field to start pollinating. I had never done this before, and I was kind of intimidated. Once I started pollinating, it really turned out to be quite easy. All you do is take the bag off the branch, put some of the pollen in the cap of your vile, and rub the bur onto the cap. Then you put a new bag and paperclip on the bur and move on to the next bag. First, we started on SC1007 and we pollinated it with GAHAR18. The resulting cross will bare BC4 progeny. We then pollinated GR24 with GAHAR19 with the cross resulting in BC3 progeny. After that, we pollinated the GL30 tree with pollen from GAWAL1. This cross will also result in BC3 progeny. Next, GL98 was crossed with pollen from GAWAL4, resulting in more BC3 progeny. The last tree we pollinated was GL96, a tree we’ve pollinated in the past, which was also crossed with GAWAL4, again resulting in BC3 offspring. The last tree took a while because all the bags were so high that it looked like we needed a bucket truck to be able to pollinate, alas we toughed it out and pollinated on the ladder instead. We had two ladders to start out with and got a third ladder later. Dr. Cipollini and I were on the ladder again for a while, and we switched every hour or so. The whole time while pollinating trees, Mr. Joe Nicholson kept going on with his puns, making up the wildest puns I’ve ever heard of. Not only were they wild, but surprisingly abundant. But a good laugh is necessary (corny or not) when up in a tree pollinating all day. With some hard work and Joe’s never ending humor, we finished the pollination effort.



*Matt on the ladder and Kathy on the ground...*

The table below is a summary of the pollination effort for the GA chapter in Meadowview. There is the mother and father tree, the cross made by the two trees, and the baggers and pollinators. On the BE50 tree, people from TN and NC pollinated the tree for us. The same goes for tree BG125. GA members bagged these two trees, but other chapters pollinated the trees for us. We have to pollinate the trees obviously to get nuts, so that we can plant them and grow blight-resistant chestnut trees. Help is welcomed and encouraged because no one can do this alone, and we definitely need help.

Mother Tree	Father Tree	Cross of Tree	Number of Bags on Tree	Baggers	Pollinators
SC1007	GAHAR18	BC4	100	Stamper, Solitaire	Cipollini, Summerlin, Patrick, Nicholson
GR24	GAHAR19	BC3	88	Neel, Schibig, Torkelson	Cipollini, Summerlin, Patrick, Nicholson
GL30	GAWAL1	BC3	108	Neel, Schibig, Torkelson	Cipollini, Summerlin, Morris, Luedtke
GL98	GAWAL4	BC3	111	Neel, Schibig, Torkelson	Patrick, Nicholson, Recknagel and Luedtke
GL96	GAWAL4	BC3	14	Neel, Schibig, Torkelson	Patrick (accidental)
BE50	GAHAR12	BC3	125	Neel, Schibig, Torkelson	David Morris of AL, Hill Craddock and Scott Seagle of TN, and Cody Luedtke of NC
BG393	GALUM7	BC4	76	Neel, Schibig, Torkelson	Chestnut and Chesnut
BG413	GALUM7	BC4	84	Neel, Schibig, Torkelson	Chestnut and Chesnut
BG323	GALUM1	BC4	86	Neel, Schibig, Torkelson	Chestnut and Chesnut
BG310	GALUM1	BC4	27	Neel, Schibig, Torkelson	Chestnut and Chesnut
BG125	GAWAL5	BC4	32	Cipollini, Summerlin, Patrick, Nicholson	Willis and Willis, Sisco

In the year to come, the Berry College chestnut team has a lot ahead of them. In October, we will have nuts to harvest. We will travel to the Meyer tree to get the nuts that we pollinated (although there are only a few left). We will also have to harvest the nuts that we will get from Meadowview. At the same time, we have to keep up with maintaining the backcross orchard, and the smaller orchard beside the science building here at Berry. Please contact me at [msummerlin@berry.edu](mailto:msummerlin@berry.edu), and my telephone is (706) 766-9674. We will have a busy schedule, and again, all the help we can get is great. —*Matt*



## President's Message

By: Mike Hinson

It has been a whirlwind spring and summer and now fall is here. We have zipped through another pollination and growing season and anxiously await our harvest which is upon us.

A special thanks to our dedicated members who assisted in our mother tree search, pollen gathering, and traveling to Meadowview to bag and pollinate there! Dr. Martin Cipollini, Will Watkins, and Matt Summerlin from Berry College did an excellent job coordinating all these activities and participating as well. Joe Nicholson spearheaded our efforts in the East and Ronnie Camp to our South.

All the volunteer hours allowed us to be reimbursed \$3,993 from our 2007 Urban Forestry Grant for our pollination and harvest expenses, and that grant was renewed for 2008!

Our **national convention will be held in Chattanooga, TN October 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> this year.** This is a golden opportunity for our Georgia Chapter members to attend one of these and to get more informed about what is going on at the national level. I would encourage everyone to attend. You can register online at our chapter website, [www.GaTACF.org](http://www.GaTACF.org). (Go to the "Celebrate TACF's 25th Anniversary Link")

Each member should challenge themselves to bring in one new member into the chapter. Just think, we could double our size. Each chapter member should look for a way to serve. Foot soldiers to search and care for mother trees, man booths at regional cultural events and become orchard stewards are always needed, but we also need membership support to operate and volunteers for many tasks such as promotion, planting, pollination and article-writing.

We are also looking for someone to take over our pollination coordination from Dr. Cipollini as he will be unavailable for our 2009 pollination season. That's a tremendous mantle to pick up, but we are certainly blessed with many go-getter members and whoever takes the charge will have tremendous support from the membership.

Let us all look for opportunities to grow and promote our chapter as we work to restore the American Chestnut to Georgia! Check our website often to stay informed. —Mike

## Pollination Results for Spring, 2008—Dr. Martin Cipollini

We placed pollen from 5 of the southern Georgia (Harris County) trees on the Meyer (Walker Co.) tree. Some of the burs that will develop will go to Scott Merkel for his tissue culture work (to be collected in early August) and the remaining pure American nuts will be harvested in October to be distributed to mother tree orchards in March.

We used pollen from three of the southern Georgia (Harris County) pollens, three Walker Co. pollens (Meyer 1, Meyer 3 and Lake Lula Land Trust), and two Lumpkin County (Springer Mt. 3 and Fowler) to pollinate BC2 and BC3 trees at Meadowview. This gives us the potential for eight new lines of BC3 and BC4 backcross trees. These nuts will be harvested in October and will be sent to backcross orchards for planting in March.

Those of you currently testing orchards should anticipate the possibility of receiving one of these lines of seeds (+/- 100 seeds) in the early spring. If you haven't given us an update on the status of your orchard and trees, please remember to do so sometime before the fall.

If all goes right from here on, this will be far and away a record year for our pollination program. At this point, the following folks deserve our warmest thanks (please forgive me if I've missed anyone):

GA Chapter affiliates who helped steward, bag, and/or pollinate trees: Berry College students: Will Watkins (intern), Matt Summerlin (intern), Robert Armstrong, Evan Lane, Chris McDaniel, Cade Strippelhoff, Thomas Baldvins, and Kalia Miller GA Chapter Tree Committee members - Joe Nicholson, Martin Cipollini, Kathy Patrick, Carl Meyer, Ronnie Camp, John Wallace, Tim and Abby Chesnut, Ken McDonald, Tom Pachinger Helpers from other chapters who either bagged or pollinated some of our trees: KY Chapter -Terry Stamper, Solitaire, Floyd and Victoria Willis TN Chapter - Clint Neel, Joe Schibig, Jack Torkelson, Scott Seagel, Hill Craddock, Sam McInturff Carolinas Chapter - Cody Luedtke (intern), Larry Rechnagel Coordinator of the Meadowview pollination effort (coordinated and assisted with pollinations by all southern chapters): TACF Southern Regional Coordinator - Paul Sisco.

**The goal of THE AMERICAN CHESTNUT FOUNDATION**—is to restore the American chestnut tree to its native range within the woodlands of the eastern United States, using a scientific research and breeding program developed by its founders. The American Chestnut Foundation is restoring a species - and in the process, creating a template for restoration of other tree and plant species. We harvested our first blight-resistant nuts in 2005, and the Foundation hopes to begin reforestation trials with blight-resistant American-type trees before the end of this decade, using sound ecological principles. The return of the American chestnut to its former niche in the Appalachian hardwood forest ecosystem is a major restoration project that requires a multi-faceted effort involving 6,000 members & volunteers, research, sustained funding and most important, a sense of the past and a hope for the future.



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**Dr. Martin Cipollini**  
Tree Breeding and  
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**Mark Stoakes**  
Fund Raising Chair  
Atlanta Orchard Chairman

**Ken McDonald**  
N. GA Orchard Chairman

**Ronnie Camp**  
S. GA Orchard Chairman

**Jerry Smith**  
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**Scott Merkle**  
Board Member

**Dr. Donald Davis**  
Board Member

**Mickey Cummings**  
Board Member

**Joe Nicholson**  
Board Member

**Mary Belle Price**  
Honorary Board Member

**THE AMERICAN CHESTNUT FOUNDATION**  
**ANNUAL MEETING—**  
**TACF CELEBRATES 25 YEARS: 1983—2008!!!**

Please join us in Chattanooga, Tennessee October 24—26, at the Sheraton Read House to celebrate our 25th Anniversary! Don't miss this once in a lifetime event, and let's show the TACF that the GEORGIA CHAPTER is the most enthusiastic and proud by showing up en masse!!!

To get more information, and hotel reservations, please visit the National Chapter Website at [www.acf.org/anniversary25th.php](http://www.acf.org/anniversary25th.php)

**The schedule and speaker list is on the next page.**

**CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS**

We constantly need volunteers to help us present our story and our cause at fairs, festivals, shindigs, etc. Of course, we need to know about those fairs, festivals and shindigs!!!

Please help me organize our efforts to participate in as many of these events, as well as plan meetings, speaking and sponsorship opportunities, radio shows, etc., by volunteering to help me on the publicity committee!! Call me (Tim Chesnut) at 706-936-0699 or email me at Tim@ChesnutForestry.com

**Upcoming events include the need for booth-sitters at the Prater's Mill Country Fair, North of Dalton, Georgia, October 11 and 12. PLEASE CONTACT JERRY AND DIANNE SMITH at 706+259-9010 to help us out!**

From Grey Ghost.....to Green Glory!



**One Vision -  
One Voice -  
One Tree**

**OUR ACTIVITIES:**

*Primary activities of your Georgia Chapter of TACF:*

- Finding and identifying surviving trees
- Pollinating them
- Harvesting nuts
- Planting American Chestnut Trees throughout the state of Georgia
- Identifying potential sites for breeding orchards within the state.
- Preserving local genetics
- Breeding blight resistant and regionally adapted trees
- Public outreach and education
- Organizing members and volunteers in those activities.

**PLEASE VOLUNTEER!!! CONTACT US!!!!**





*One Vision, One Voice, One Tree*

25<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary Celebration

The American Chestnut Foundation

Chattanooga, TN

October 24-26, 2008 —SCHEDULED EVENTS

**Friday, October 24th**

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm **Registration & Merchandise & Virtual Forest Open, Silent Auction begins, and Sign Up for Ashland Farms Tour**

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm **Display Hall Opens** (*Presenters are requested to stand*

*next to their displays for questions*)

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm **TACF Story Booth opens**

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm **Reception** with heavy Hors d'oeuvres

7:20 pm – 7:30 pm **Welcome to Chattanooga**

7:30 pm – 8:00 pm **Guest Speaker:**

**Sandy Brue**, Chief of Interpretation and

Resource Management for Abraham Lincoln Birthplace

**Saturday, October 25th**

7:00 am – 8:00 am **Breakfast**

8:00 am – 9:30 am **Registration & Merchandise open**

8:00 am – 12:30 am **TACF Story Booth open**

8:00 am – 10:10 am **General Session Reports**

10:11 am – 10:50 am **Guest Speakers:**

**Vic Davis**, Forester for the US Dept. of Interior, Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation & Enforcement

**Brent Wahlquist**, US Dept. of Interior,

Director of Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation & Enforcement

10:50 am – 11:00 **MOU Signing between OSM and TACF**

11:00 am **Tour of Ashland Farms Leaves.**

12:30 pm – 2:00 pm **Chestnut Feast**

3:00 pm **All buses leave for Hotel**

4:30 pm – 6:15 pm **Refreshments**

6:30 pm – 7:15 pm **Buffet Dinner**

**Mack Pritchard**, Tennessee State Naturalist for Tennessee Department of Conservation and Awards

8:00pm – 9:00 pm **TACF Awards:**

25th Anniversary Volunteer/Member video presentation

Burnham Awards, Member Awards, and Special Awards

9:00 pm – 9:10 pm **Silent Auction Closes and Winner Announced**

9:15 pm – 10:00 pm **Musical Entertainment by Bill Owens**

**Sunday, October 26th**

7:00 am – 8:00 am **Breakfast**

8:00 am – 10:00 am **Merchandise Open**

8:00 am – 10:00 am **Display Hall Re-opens** (*Presenters are requested to stand next to their displays for questions*)

8:00 am – 10:00 am **TACF Story Booth Open**

8:00 am – 9:00 am **Business Meeting**

9:30 am – 11:00 am **Guest Speaker:**

**Philip A. Rutter**, CEO/Chief Scientist Badgersett Research Corp and Founding President of the TACF Board of Directors

25th Annual Meeting Ends

**SPEAKER AND PRESENTER INFORMATION**

**SANDY BRUE**, National Park Service, Chief of Interpretation and Resource Management, Abraham Lincoln Birthplace.

**BRENT WAHLQUIST**, U.S. Department of the Interior, Director of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation, & Enforcement, Appalachian Region.

**VICTOR M. DAVIS**, U.S. Department of the Interior, Forester/Soil Scientist for the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement.

**MACK PRICHARD**, Tennessee Department of Conservation, State Naturalist Emeritus.

**BILL OWENS**, Singer, Songwriter and Musician.

**For Complete Bios, go to:**

[www.acf.org/pdfs/events/25th/Speaker\\_bios.pdf](http://www.acf.org/pdfs/events/25th/Speaker_bios.pdf)

**The American Chestnut Foundation**  
**Legacy Tree**

*Finally, here's what we've been waiting for...our first seed orchard!*

It began with a dream – that the American chestnut could be restored to our nation's forest. Now that dream is taking root in The American Chestnut Foundation's first **Legacy Tree** seed orchard. We need your help to make it grow.

More than a century ago, the arrival of a deadly pathogen from Asia cost us one of the grandest trees ever to grace our eastern forests, the American chestnut. Within 50 years the chestnut blight killed 3 to 4 billion American chestnut trees, obliterated an entire ecosystem dependent on the tree's bounty, and stilled an economic engine on which Appalachia had run for decades.

By chance, in the early 1980's, Charles Burnham looked at decades-old data in a new way and realized that proper application of backcross breeding might bring back the chestnut. TACF was founded to pursue this new approach. Slowly and steadily, using nature's own methods, scientific discipline has brought the chestnut to the brink of revival.

At our research farms in Meadowview, Virginia this fall Dr. Fred Hebard, TACF's lead scientist, will select the first 200 most blight-resistant 4 year old candidate trees from over 30,000 seeds. These special trees are the sixth generation of research work, the result of 25 years of backcross breeding. They are approximately 15/16 American chestnut and 1/16 Chinese chestnut. In a few years, seeds from this legacy tree orchard will be planted throughout the former chestnut range.

This is only the beginning of our restoration efforts. Scientific rigor, diligent support from all our state chapters, and a lot of patience will bring our breeding strategy to fruition over the next 100 years..

**Legacy Tree** sponsors can be Individuals or State Chapters.

An individual tree will bear a plaque with your name, a testimony to your role in restoring an integral part of America's natural history. As part of this legacy community, you will receive yearly updates on the progress of your individual tree and TACF's ongoing restoration of our beloved chestnut to its native range. You will be an honored guest whenever you visit Meadowview, where you can see your tree, take photos to mark its progress, and witness a whole community of chestnut trees giving shape to a more hopeful future. In time, you can even take home seeds from your own **Legacy Tree**.

Sponsorship of a **Legacy Tree** for a state chapter is a \$500 minimum pledge. Once the chapter has reached the \$10,000 in pledges, it will be taken off the available tree to sponsor list. Once a state chapter has reached its goal a plaque will be made that will bear the sponsored chapter and these words, "Group Sponsored Tree". All nut distribution from this tree will be sole responsibility of the chapter's officers. This is a great way to show not only your support to TACF but to your future and the future of those you love.

Please go to [www.acf.org/Legacy\\_Tree.php](http://www.acf.org/Legacy_Tree.php) for more information

**WE WANT TO BE THE FIRST CHAPTER TO SPONSOR A LEGACY TREE!!! WE'RE ALREADY ON OUR WAY TO MEETING THE \$10,000 GOAL!!!**

**PLEASE GO TO THE ABOVE LINK TO DOWNLOAD AND PRINT OUT A PLEDGE FORM!!!**





## Berry College Orchard Update

By: Will Watkins, GaTACF Intern

Hello Everybody! I hope everyone has been enjoying the rest of their summer; we have all earned it after such a successful pollination season this year. Now that the Georgia Chapter is not so green (pardon the tree joke), we can look forward to many more seamless pollination efforts. As we grow into our potential as a chapter and become more sure footed in our pollination activities, we must now turn our attention to the real commitment we have made; orchards. I would like to update you all on the progress in one of Georgia's first backcross orchards here at Berry College. As it is one of our first orchards, it will serve as an example for orchards to come. I hope to share with you my experiences this summer caring for the orchard, so that you may learn from both my fortune and my folly.

On March 2<sup>nd</sup>, several Georgia Chapter volunteers came out to help get some American chestnut seeds in the ground. Yet, before this could happen we had to have the orchard site prepared to accommodate a little over 200 chestnuts. Through enormous help from Paul Sisco, who contributed over \$4000 in grant money, we were able to install an irrigation system. Dr. Cipollini submitted a grant request that added another \$2000 to be used to run a water line into the orchard, and the GATACF picked up the rest of the bill. The orchard had been herbicided last winter by Mr. Forestry himself, Tim Chesnut, so I just went out and mowed around our new irrigation system to prepare the site for planting. After our top of the line orchard received a fresh cut, it was time to put some seeds in the ground.

We had a great showing on the 2<sup>nd</sup> with 11 volunteers coming out to help. Thanks go out to: Ken McDonald, our past Berry intern John Lull, Mark Stoakes, Tim & Lily Chesnut, Mary and Tom Pachinger, Mike and Blake Hinson, Joe Nicholson, Martin Cipollini, and I guess I can give myself a pat on the back also (*well deserved—Ed.*) As we drilled holes, others rolled out the plastic mulch down the rows. We made short work of laying mulch, but perhaps last years test planting of some 30 trees did not quite prepare us for the task at hand. With 223 trees to put in the ground that day, the work had just begun. But before we could plant, we had to master the somewhat tricky Blue Tubes. Before long though, we were truckin' right along. Although, in subsequent planting efforts, we may want to include knee pads in our supplies list!

That day we planted 133 GL56 x GAFAN1 BC3 seeds, of which 94 still survive. That's just over a 70% survival rate! We also planted 71 JN141 x GAFAN2 BC3 seeds, and 57 are still alive and well. These guys faired a little better with an 80% survival rate! We also included various controls that day, we planted the few remaining potted seedlings from last years pollination efforts, with 5 Wagon Road Gap Americans and 4 Lindstrom F1's. We also planted 6 Chinese seeds that Paul Sisco gave us from Princeton, Mass. along with 4 Logan Chinese seeds supplied by the ever helpful Joe Nicholson.

With everything in the ground, my job as orchard steward had just begun. With great help from Pat York, we closely watched the chestnuts, as it was necessary to open up the top of the tree tubes upon germination. Pat made frequent visits all summer long to census the orchard, with her detailed reports I was better able to judge the progress of our trees. Thanks Pat! In early April, Dr. Cipollini was able to get Berry College to donate 10 truck loads of mulch to the orchard. We held a mulching party on April 5<sup>th</sup>, spreading mulch around each planting in a 2 foot radius. This provided better support for the tree tubes and better pest protection.

The rest of the summer became a constant battle with grass. Luckily, I was appointed an assistant this summer to help out with all the maintenance. Matt Summerlin is a freshman biology major here at Berry College, and is currently training to fill my position. He has worked beside me all summer and is quite enthused about working for the GATACF. We spent the remainder of the summer mowing, weeding, herbiciding, fertilizing, and watering. When in the office we primarily worked on standardizing files and entering data, so we were usually quite eager to get outside and work up a sweat.

In June, Matt and I returned to the orchard and planted 20 seeds that Paul Sisco supplied us with in spaces where trees had not germinated. We added 10 more Princeton Mass. Chinese seeds and 10 Pounding Mill American seeds. Over all, our controls faired well with 8 out of 15 pure Americans still alive, 13 out of 20 Chinese still thriving, and 4 out of 4 F1's surviving. We lost a few trees mid summer that died suspiciously and are awaiting results from Dr. Steve Jeffers from Clemson University on whether they were phytophthora related casualties.

As summer comes to a close, the orchard is looking in great shape. We've just recently had Steve and Ginny Barber come out and bush hog the orchard. A big thanks goes out to the Barbers who brought their tractor by trailer out to Berry and then brush hogged it for free! Matt and I have also herbicided along the rows and will probably do so once more before the end of September. We had hoped that maintenance would be all but over by now but with recent rains it seems it might be best to hit the rows once more.

All in all, we now have 176 living chestnut trees in one of Georgia's first backcross direct seed orchard. Our trees average around 3ft with some almost reaching 6ft. Almost no insect damage was incurred by any of the trees nor was there any sign of rodent damage either. With an over all survival rate of just fewer than 80% I think it is clear that our move to direct seeding was the right move. One should note that we had only a 60% survival rate in pots, and that was before ever planting out in the field. Congratulations to all that helped make this possible. I look forward to the many stories of new successes that are sure to follow! -Will

## American Chestnuts at Plant Bowen

By Ken Duquette

Plant Bowen Compliance team and the North Georgia Land Department planted 130 hybrid American chestnuts on Plant Bowen Property on May 17, 2005. This project is supporting the American chestnut restoration, in cooperation with The American Chestnut Foundation. The chestnuts planted are the second backcross, first intercross (B2F2) hybrid. (Portion of Original article printed in Sept2005 'WATTS Happening Around Bowen')

Update: August 29, 2008

After four growing seasons, roughly one-third of Plant Bowen's American Chestnut trees survive. Although several continue to struggle due to drought, deer browsing and other natural mortality, many of the trees thrive. Some of the trees approach 10 feet in height and, are beginning to produce nuts!!!



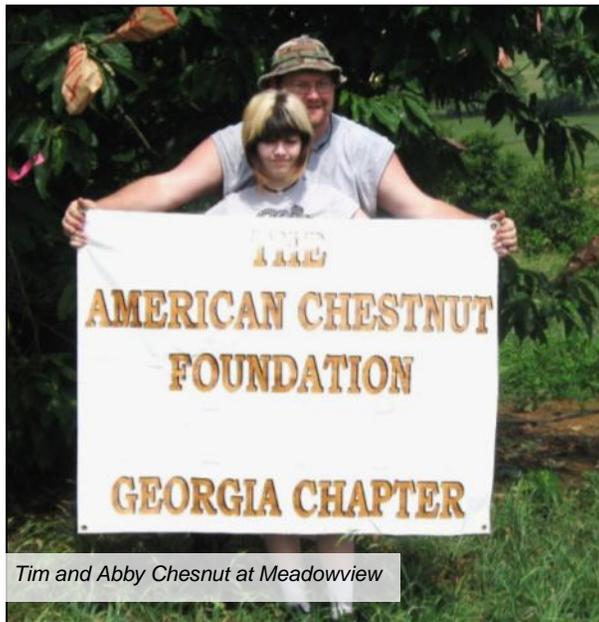
Former Madam President Carolyn Hill bagging a tree at Meadowview



PICTURES, PICTURES, PICTURES!!!



Female Flowers ready to pollinate



Tim and Abby Chesnut at Meadowview

Progress in action at Meadowview



Far Left: Bananatnut? Near Left: Chestnut-lucent leaves....



Four of Georgia's 2008 Trees , Meadowview



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*The Georgia Sprout* is a publication of the Georgia Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation.

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

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

**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

Amount Enclosed : \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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Billing Address for Credit Card if different from above: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

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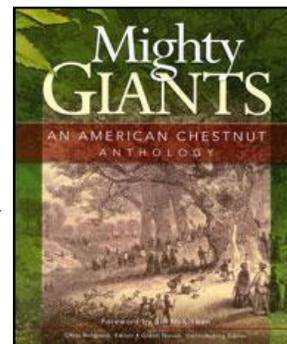
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P.O. Box 4044, Bennington, VT 05201-4044.

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.



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.



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**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 Mike Hinson at [ga-tacf.president@yahoo.com](mailto:ga-tacf.president@yahoo.com) or Tim Chesnut at [Tim@ChesnutForestry.com](mailto:Tim@ChesnutForestry.com)**