



# Maryland Chapter

## Newsletter – January 2006

#### Chapter Officers:

Ms. Essie Burnworth, President  
Mr. Harold F. Burnworth, Vice-President  
Ms. Barbara B. Knapp, Secretary  
Mr. Tom Traver, Treasurer

#### Directors:

Dr. Douglas H. Boucher  
Dr. Gary P. Carver  
Dr. James S. Coleman  
Mr. Stephen Dodge  
Mr. Paul Eriksson  
Ms. Betty Garrard  
Mr. James Hill  
Mr. Ron Kuipers  
Ms. Kathleen Marmet  
Mr. Robert Strasser  
Mr. Richard S. Will,  
Mr. Bradley Yohe

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Chapter web site: [www.mdtaf.com](http://www.mdtaf.com)

The Maryland Chapter supports the efforts of The American Chestnut Foundation to restore the American chestnut tree, identifies and preserves American chestnut survivors in Maryland and promotes educational and scientific research efforts directed at restoring American chestnut trees in Maryland.



American Chestnut – Green Ridge State Forest – June 24, 2005

## MD TACF Winter Meeting

### Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2006

### 1:00 pm

Please join us for a wonderful afternoon at Fox Haven Heart Center in Jefferson, MD:

- 1:00 – Chapter Business
- 1:30 Guest Speaker: **Dr. Safiya Samman,**

### “Partnership between The American Chestnut Foundation and the United States Forest Service”

**Dr. Samman is Director of Conservation Education for the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Forest Service and a long time Board Member of TACF. In October of 2004, TACF and the Forest Service signed a nationwide Memorandum of Understanding that opened the way to increased cooperation. She will bring us up to date on this developing partnership effort to re-establish the American chestnut in National Forests.**

- There will be an opportunity for Virginia residents to discuss possible formation of a Virginia chapter.
- Maryland Chapter Board of Directors will meet at 10:00 to discuss plans for spring planting

#### Directions to Fox Haven Heart Center:

From Frederick take U.S. 340 West toward Charles Town, WV. Go 6 miles on U.S. 340; exit Lander Rd./Jefferson (First exit after 15 S splits off to left; bear to right. Turn left at light. Go 1 mi. through Jefferson, and turn right onto Route 383 North. In 3/4 mi. turn right onto Corun Road (opposite a small church). Fox Haven Center is first house on left. Park in the field at far left of the Center. From DC area: take 270N to 15N, Exit at Jefferson ST on to 15 S and 340 West follow above directions from Frederick. From Virginia take U.S. 340 to the Lander Rd. exit at Jefferson. Turn left; cross over highway, turn left at light. Follow above directions through Jefferson to Corun Rd.

The American beauty at left is one of the largest American chestnut trees identified to date by the Maryland Chapter’s Location Committee, chaired by Gary Carver

## MINUTES OF 2005 ANNUAL MEETING

The second Annual Meeting of the Maryland Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation was held September 17th, 2005 at Turner Farm on Sugarloaf Mountain.

### Election of Officers and Directors:

The following candidates were elected to serve as Officers of the Maryland Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation:

President:	Essie Burnworth
Vice President:	Burnie Burnworth
Secretary	Barbara Knapp
Treasurer	Tom Traver

All Officers are elected for one-year terms. The President and Vice President are limited to two terms of office. President, Vice President and Secretary have each served a previous one-year term since formation of the Chapter.

Candidates elected to Serve as Directors with three-year terms to expire September, 2008 are:

Jim Coleman  
Paul Eriksson  
Betty Garrand  
Ron Kuipers



Attendees at the September 2005 Annual Meeting gather round the Maryland Chapter banner

The proposed Bylaw Amendment to establish November 1 as the beginning date for the term of office for all Chapter officers was adopted.

All elections were by unanimous vote of the approximately forty members in attendance.

President Essie Burnworth announced appointment of Sue Kriker as the Chapter's new Membership Chair, and Kathy Marmet, former Membership Chair, as the new Publications Chair. Gary Carver continues as American Chestnut Identifier Chair and Doug Boucher as Research Committee Chair.

President Burnworth presented a request from Jennie Queen-Baker, Manager of the Maryland Loaner Lab Project for the University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute that the Chapter consider funding equipment and supplies for a second Loaner Kit for the Chestnut Tree Lab. This lab has been so popular with high school educators that there is a long waiting list for the Loaner Lab Kit. A resolution proposed by Kathy Marmet to establish a fund to receive donations for the purpose of funding a Chestnut Tree Lab Loaner Kit was approved unanimously.

Guest Speaker Mark Double gave a well-received presentation on genetic engineering in using hypovirulence to combat chestnut blight.

## Essie Burnworth and Richard Will Serve as National Foundation Officers

Among the Officers and Directors elected at TACF Annual Meeting in Lexington, Kentucky, October 28-30 are two members of the Maryland Chapter. Chapter President Essie Burnworth now serves as Secretary, and Chapter Director Richard Will is the Vice Chair, Development & Finance Committee Chair.

## West Virginia Scientist to Present Hood College Seminar

Dr. William MacDonald, mycologist and pathologist in the Division of Plant and Soil Sciences of the Davis College of Agriculture, Forestry and Consumer Services at West Virginia University has agreed to conduct a seminar at Hood College March 7<sup>th</sup>. Dr. MacDonald has long been active in The American Chestnut Foundation, including service as Treasurer for the national organization. His extensive work with the American chestnut includes work with hypovirulence in the West Salem Stand in Wisconsin.

Dr. MacDonald's presentation is one of a series of seminars co-sponsored by the Hood College Biology Department and the Maryland Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation. The seminars in this series are open to the entire Hood community and to the general public. The seminar is tentatively scheduled at 4:00 in room 114 of the Hodson Science Building. Further details will be available on the Maryland Chapter website as they become available.

## AMERICAN CHESTNUT SCHOLAR NEWS

### MARYLAND CHAPTER MEMBERS FUND MUCH-NEEDED LOANER LAB KIT

When Chapter President Essie Burnworth received word from the Maryland Loaner Lab Manager last fall that there was a waiting list of high schools wanting to use the Chestnut Tree Lab Kit, she challenged the Chapter to fund a second Loaner Lab Kit. A fund to receive donations designated for this purpose was established by the Chapter at its Annual Meeting September 17th, and within five weeks \$5000 had been raised to for an additional loaner lab kit and consumable supplies.

An initial pledge of \$2,500 made as a matching challenge by a Chapter Board Member and an offer by the Burnworths to reward donors with delicious Chinese chestnuts from their backyard trees increased the pleasure of donating to this most worthy cause.

In thanking the Chapter, Jennie Queen-Baker, Maryland Loaner Lab Manager for the University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute provided details of the equipment and supplies purchased with the Chapter grant and a copy of the Teacher Packet cover page, which now includes the Maryland Chapter TACF logo as sponsor of the Chestnut Tree Lab.

The Chestnut Tree Loaner Lab is very popular. Teachers from the Global Ecology Project of **Poolesville High School** told Essie during one of their field days at Sugarloaf Mountain that their school plans to purchase their own Chestnut Tree Lab equipment so that use can be scheduled at any time.

Poolesville High School students roast marshmallows and warm themselves by the fire at Sugarloaf Mountain at right.



Burnie and Essie preparing to serve chestnuts hot off the fire to Poolesville High School students

### CHAPTER VOLUNTEERS WARM POOLESVILLE STUDENT FIELD DAY

Chapter volunteers provided a bonfire, hot chocolate, marshmallows and roasted chestnuts for 100 scholars from the Poolesville Global Ecology Program December 1 and 2 at Sugarloaf Mountain. The students had spent their mornings taking measurements of soil depth, and expressed gratitude for the opportunity to warm their feet by the fire. A talk by Chapter Vice President Burnie Burnworth provided students an opportunity to learn more about efforts at American chestnut restoration. The students are conducting a long-term study of environmental effects on the Mountain, and they come several times a year to take measurements and make observations. Chapter leadership is working with the Global Ecology Program Director to incorporate specific chestnut activities into their fieldwork.



## CARROLL COUNTY FACULTY TRAINS IN LAB TECHNIQUES

Six Carroll County Science Research teachers met at Winters Mill High School in Westminster on November 30 to learn the protocols for sampling chestnut blight cankers and for determining vegetative compatibility types among fungal strains. Christian Root, previously a research assistant for Dr. Nuss, graciously volunteered his time to conduct this training a second year. This training for new teachers enables the Carroll County School District to strengthen its outstanding science program, which engages high school students in using advanced laboratory techniques relating to use of hypo virulence in controlling chestnut blight.

### STUDENT RESEARCH ON MYCORRHIZAL INNOCULATION EMERGES FROM "SEEDS" PLANTED AT THORPEWOOD EVENT

Poolesville High School senior Raquel Sosnowski has started research on the impact of mycorrhizal inoculation on growth of American chestnut seeds. Symbiotic relationships between trees and associated mycorrhizal fungi found in forest soil may enhance tree growth. Sosnowski submitted her research plan for comment by Hood College forest ecologist, Dr. Doug Boucher and Hood's American Chestnut Project Research Associate Robert Strasser. Dave Armstrong of TACF's Pennsylvania Chapter has provided the American chestnut seed that Raquel will grow in a greenhouse at Poolesville High School using seven different treatments to control for potentially relevant variables.

Strasser raised the possibility of student research on mycorrhizal inoculation in discussion with faculty participants at a Poolesville  
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## STUDENT RESEARCH

(From page 3)

High School Global Ecology Program field day in the Chestnut orchard at ThorpeWood last September. Strasser shared preliminary results of a small field experiment in which he inoculated some American chestnut seedlings transplanted from the nursery at Sugarloaf Mountain to Fox Haven in November of 2003 with forest detritus from an area near ThorpeWood where American chestnuts were growing naturally.

Sosnowski developed her research plan after review of scientific literature on studies of mycorrhizal associations. She plans to present results at a science fair later in the year. Seedlings grown in the greenhouse for the project will be transplanted to a location near the school where they will be available for future student research, including the possibility of continuing research on the results of mycorrhizal inoculation.



Poolesville High School Global Ecology students take measurements during a field day at ThorpeWood last September. Their measurements will assist in identifying chestnut trees to be inoculated with blight fungus to test for resistance

## MD TACF CALENDAR OF PLANNED AND RECURRING EVENTS

Month	Date	Activity	For more information:
January	28	Nut Grafting Workshop	Contact Essie Burnworth (301) 762-6715
February	4	Nut Grafting Workshop	Contact Essie Burnworth (301) 762-6715
	25	Winter Meeting	<a href="http://www.mdtaf.com">www.mdtaf.com</a>
		Chapter Board Meeting	Make plans for planting
March	7	Hood College Biology Department Seminar	Dr. Doug Boucher <a href="mailto:dboucher@hood.edu">dboucher@hood.edu</a>
		Orchard Planting	Begins mid-March
April	22	Western Maryland Event at Allegany College of Maryland	Tentative –see <a href="http://www.mdtaf.com">www.mdtaf.com</a>
		Field grafting	Late April
May		Identification of possible American Chestnut mother trees – from emergence of leaves till fall	Use tree report form on Chapter web page: <a href="http://www.mdtaf.com">www.mdtaf.com</a> and mail to Gary Carver, 3501 Big Woods Road, Ijamsville, MD 21754 For information on American chestnut identification: <a href="http://www.mindspring.com/~psisco/overview.html">http://www.mindspring.com/~psisco/overview.html</a>
		Chapter Spring Meeting	<a href="http://www.mdtaf.com">www.mdtaf.com</a>
		Make plans for controlled pollination	<a href="http://chestnut.cas.psu.edu/Procedures/pollinating.htm">http://chestnut.cas.psu.edu/Procedures/pollinating.htm</a>
		Inoculation with blight fungus to determine resistance	Late May
June		Monitor mother tree flowers for bagging	
		Bag flowers for controlled pollination	Beginning around mid-June
		Order pollen	
Late June/ July		Pollinate bagged flowers	10-14 after bagging
		Control weeds and monitor seedlings	Throughout growing season
September		Monitor bur maturity	Harvest when mature and before squirrels-usually mid to late month
		Chapter Annual Meeting late September	<a href="http://www.mdtaf.com">www.mdtaf.com</a>
October	20-22	TACF Annual Meeting Abingdon, VA	<a href="http://www.acf.org">www.acf.org</a> For general information on the TACF Backcross Breeding Program see: <a href="http://www.acf.org/r_r.htm">http://www.acf.org/r_r.htm</a>
November		Chapter Fall Meeting	<a href="http://www.mdtaf.com">www.mdtaf.com</a>
		Evaluation of blight inoculation results	
December		Chapter Board Meeting	<a href="http://www.mdtaf.com">www.mdtaf.com</a>

**ARE YOU A MEMBER?** TACF Members are automatically members of the state chapter. If you have been a member, your membership expiration date is included on your mailing label.

## Plans for Planting

Controlled pollination efforts in 2005 yielded sufficient backcross nuts for planting four Maryland lines in 2006. Plans for spring planting, to be discussed at the Winter Meeting, may call for planting as many as 800 nuts, including checks and American chestnut plantings at new orchard sites.