



Maryland Chapter

Newsletter – January 2007

MD TACF Winter Meeting

Saturday, February 3rd, 2007

10:30 am in the Community Meeting Room
of the Urbana Regional Library
9020 Amelung Street, Frederick, MD 21704

Chapter Officers:

Ms. Kathleen Marmet, President
Mr. Robert Strasser, Vice-President
Ms. Barbara B. Knapp, Secretary
Ms. Emilie Crown, Treasurer

Directors:

Mr. Dennis G. Bittinger
Dr. Douglas H. Boucher
Ms. Essie Burnworth
Mr. Harold F. Burnworth
Dr. Gary P. Carver
Dr. James S. Coleman
Mr. Stephen Dodge
Mr. Paul Eriksson
Ms. Betty Garrand
Mr. James Hill
Mr. Ron Kuipers

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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.

Columbia Student Gardeners Learn Chestnut Cultivation

Dr. JoAnne Winters and student members of the Garden Club at Centennial Lane Elementary School in Columbia, MD hold bags with American chestnut seed in peat moss. Essie Burnworth and Barbara Knapp provided the Garden Club a hands-on introduction to the American Chestnut Tree on January 9th that included planting instructions and seed. Garden Club members will use their new knowledge and green thumbs to plant the seeds in early spring, after a period of cold storage necessary for germination.



- **10:30 – “Everything You’ve Always Wanted To Know (But Were Afraid To Ask) About American Chestnut Trees And The Maryland Backcross Breeding Program”**

Hood College Forest Ecology Professor Doug Boucher will moderate an expert panel to provide an overview of TACF restoration efforts, including status updates on Maryland Chapter efforts, followed by opportunity for questions and discussion. No matter where you’re at on the chestnut learning curve, this is an opportunity to learn and share your ideas. Questions at all levels will be welcome.

- **11:30 Chapter Business Meeting**

Chapter Members will be asked to share thoughts on setting Chapter goals and ideas for achieving proposed goals. All members are encouraged to participate!

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS FEATURING CHESTNUT INGREDIENTS

Directions to Urbana Regional Library:

From I-270--Take Exit #26 (Route 80 Urbana/Buckeystown) toward Urbana (east). Continue to a traffic circle. Proceed three quarters of the way around the traffic circle onto Sugarloaf Parkway. Go straight through the traffic light crossing Maryland Route 355 into the Villages of Urbana. Continue to the next traffic circle. Proceed three quarters of the way around the traffic circle onto Worthington Boulevard. Make a right at the next traffic light onto John Simmons Street. The library is now visible several hundred yards directly in front of you. Community Room is on the lower level. Rear entrance on lower level is most convenient. Free parking is located in the back of the library or in front along Amelung Street. Additional directions at: <http://www.fcpl.org/information/branches/urbana/directions.htm#270>



Sign Up/Update Your Email Address To Receive Event Notices and Newsletters Online

The Maryland Chapter is setting up a new listserv to be used only for informing Chapter members and friends of upcoming Chapter events and news. Our intention is to provide you with timely information without contributing to clutter in your email inbox.

Names and email addresses on this list will not be visible to anyone else on the list and will not be shared with any other organization. Messages will be sent only by the Maryland Chapter, and replies to any message from the listserv will be received only by the Chapter list administrator.

You will be able to update your information if your email address changes, or to unsubscribe if you no longer want to be informed about Maryland Chapter activities and events. Anyone is welcome to join the list, and we strongly encourage members and friends to sign up and keep addresses current.

You can add, delete or change your information at:

<http://mrs.gale.fates.org/mailman/listinfo/mdtacf>



Chestnut Feast at ThorpeWood Lodge Delights Diners, Supports American Chestnut Restoration

Volunteers and five chefs, coordinated by Chef Mario Raymond, Executive Chef at the Washington Court Hotel in DC, filled the ThorpeWood kitchen with activity (above left) as they prepared five gourmet courses featuring chestnut ingredients for delighted diners (above right). The limited-seating event sold out. All food, labor and use of ThorpeWood facilities for the feast were contributed, resulting in more than three thousand dollars of support for the American Chestnut Research Associate Position at Hood College.

Research Associate Robert Strasser brings academic background, a wealth of growing experience, and a deep personal commitment to American chestnut restoration to his work providing technical support for Maryland's backcross breeding and education programs. His skills and knowledge have enabled the Maryland Chapter to make remarkable progress in establishing an ambitious, high quality backcross-breeding program.

The Research Associate Position at Hood College was established as a part time position in March of 2005 and has been sustained by donations from ThorpeWood and a few individual donors. With growth of the Maryland backcross-breeding program, there is a need for longer term funding commitments for a full time position. Donations to "The Chestnut Tree Project, Hood College" can be sent in care of the MD Chapter Secretary.

Sign Up for Nut-grafting Workshop

Carl Mayfield and Tom Scrivener are planning to host a nut-grafting clinic at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, March 3rd in Smithsburg. Space is limited, so advance registration is necessary. You can sign up at the February 3 Member Meeting, or by email to mdchapter@acf.org

Burnworths Fund Maryland Chapter Gift to Keep Much-Used University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute "Chestnut Tree" Loaner Lab Supplied through August 2007

Thanks in part to the efforts of Essie and Burnie Burnworth, the "Chestnut Tree" lab was launched by UMBI in the summer of 2005. It was a featured lab with the Maryland Governor's Summer Academy for Biology Teachers. During the 2005-06 school year, the "Chestnut Tree" loaner lab was requested 25 times by schools in Baltimore, Talbot, Carroll, and Montgomery Counties, with approximately 700 students using the lab kit in their classrooms.

Responding to concerns about a waiting list for the lab kit, Maryland Chapter members made a \$5,000 donation to purchase equipment and supplies for an additional kit in January 2006.

During the summer of 2006, 14 additional Carroll County biology teachers were trained to use the "Chestnut Tree" lab. In fall of 2006, the Loaner Lab Program had received 17 requests for the "Chestnut Tree" lab kits to serve about 450 students through November, when Maryland Loaner Lab Program Manager Jennie Queen-Baker contacted Essie about the need for funding for supplies to equip the lab kits from January through August 2007.

The Maryland Chapter Board agreed to establish a fund to encourage future support of the "Chestnut Tree" lab by members. Responding to the immediate need, the Burnworths made a \$1700

donation to purchase supplies for the existing lab kits.

UMBI would welcome donations for a third lab kit to reduce turnaround time as use continues to grow. Additional teachers were trained in November and Queen-Baker has featured the "Chestnut Tree" lab in presentations at state and regional meetings of science teachers.

Maryland Chapter Members may send donations for this purpose to the Chapter Secretary at the address on page one. Please note on your check that the donation is for the UMBI "Chestnut Tree" Loaner Lab.