

# MARYLAND CHESTNUT NEWSLETTER

## #6, July 2003

Controlled Pollination Next Sunday, July 6

Please join us next Sunday, July 6, at Barbara Knapp's to pollinate flowers on three of her native American chestnut trees. Thirty-nine female flowers have been bagged and will be pollinated using Backcross 2 (BC2) or Backcross 3 (BC3) pollen from The American Chestnut Foundation's Meadowview Research Farms in Meadowview, VA.

We will meet at Barbara's at 10:00 am and work in two teams. We need at least two people who are comfortable working on ladders to reach the higher bags, 15-20 feet off the ground. We have a large, very stable, Type 1A industrial ladder with safety belt and ladder strap. We also welcome any number of ground crew to support and observe! A simple lunch will be provided.

Please reply to Barbara if you can come Sunday: [BBKnapp@slsoft.com](mailto:BBKnapp@slsoft.com) or 301-428-0044

DIRECTIONS TO BARBARA KNAPP'S: 21900 Davis Mill Road, Germantown, MD 20876

From I-270, take Exit 16; the sign says Damascus, and Route 27. Follow Rt.27 (you will pass Wal-Mart, etc., on your right). At about one mile from I-270 there is a big intersection with traffic lights, where 27 crosses Rt. 355. Go straight ahead on 27 for another half mile; then turn right on Brink Road, at the traffic light. Go down the hill, another half mile, and then turn left onto Wildcat Road. Go one mile and you come to a stop sign at the bottom of a hill. Davis Mill Road comes in from the left; you go straight ahead after the stop. DO NOT turn left. (Davis Mill and Wildcat run together for a while, then Wildcat goes off to the left, you keep straight ahead on Davis Mill.) Go 0.7 mile to Knapp driveway on the right. There is a large white mailbox.

When you come up the driveway you can bear to the left and go to the top of the hill to park, next to a woodshed. The chestnut trees are up there.

Provisional Maryland Chapter of TACF

We have already reached the requisite number of new TACF members from Maryland! Now we must complete various organizational paperwork and adopt bylaws and a constitution for our chapter, in order to apply to the governing board of TACF for acceptance as an official TACF chapter. We hope to have this completed in time for consideration of our request at the annual national TACF meeting, which will be held in State College, PA, October 17-19, 2003.

Seedlings Flourish in Sugarloaf Mountain MD Germplasm Nursery

More than 800 American chestnut seedlings are growing in the nursery at Sugarloaf. Nuts from Sugarloaf survivors and from trees belonging to Barbara Knapp and Jim Hill were planted in the nursery in mid-March.

Champion American Chestnut Identified in Montgomery County

On Arbor Day, April 27, Barbara Knapp was awarded a certificate from the Montgomery County

Forestry Board designating one of her trees as the champion American chestnut in Montgomery County. This tree, nominated by Doug Boucher, is 59 feet tall and 31.5 inches in circumference. The tree is flowering again this year, but all the flowers are so high up we can't reach them to do any controlled pollination. We hope maybe we can find some of the nuts this year before the squirrels do!

#### Maryland DNR to Search for Native American Chestnuts

We learned from the Washington Post Magazine Section for Sunday, May 25, 2003, that the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Forest Service is doing an inventory of old-growth forests in the state. The focus is on the extensive state forests in the Appalachian Mountains of Allegany and Garrett Counties. The forester in charge of this effort, Ed Thompson, has agreed to identify flowering chestnut trees in the course of this inventory and other field work, and to let us know tree locations so we could gather nuts. Any such nuts would be planted in the nursery at Sugarloaf Mountain to enhance genetic diversity.

If anyone else knows of other nut-bearing American chestnuts anywhere in the state, please let us know.

#### Accokeek Foundation Offers Nuts

The Accokeek Foundation in Piscataway National Park, on the Potomac River opposite Mount Vernon, was the planting site for American chestnut seedlings grown from irradiated nuts in the late 1960's. The survivors at Accokeek apparently have the same origins as those at Sugarloaf Mountain. They have been growing American chestnuts there for 34 years (see [www.accokeek.com](http://www.accokeek.com)). The Park Naturalist has given us permission to collect 200 nuts from their survivors next fall. These nuts will then be planted in the germplasm nursery at Sugarloaf in the spring of 2004.