

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We continue to make good progress on all fronts. Our present Committees are manned and all doing an excellent job.

It is now time to form the Fund Raising Committee so we can accelerate our progress. For the first time, I see a lack of funding possibly holding us back.

The three main programs are:

- 1. Genetic Engineering at ESF Syracuse*
- 2. A goal of statewide American chestnut education in all schools, nature centers, etc.*
- 3. Caring for our newly formed nurseries.*

The combination of these three will require significant dollars to reach our goals.

Anyone truly interested in working on this committee would be most welcome. We have an excellent product to sell and need expertise to contact foundations to support us.

Please call me if you want to contact foundations to support us. Please call me if you want to help form this new committee.

*Herbert F. Darling, Jr.
(716) 632-1125.*

ITHACA ANNUAL MEETING ATTRACTS OVER 70 PEOPLE

Red leaves, blue sky, golden sunshine and the Cayuga Nature Center in Ithaca, New York near Cornell: this was the setting for the Fourth Annual Meeting of ACFNY October 14-16, 1994.

The Friday night Fireside Get Together buzzed with chestnut discussions as displays were set up, people settled in to the bunk rooms, snacks were devoured and the new slide show was shown. cont on page 2



Nine planters from around the state participated in the first Harvest Exchange during the Annual Meeting. Over 2,000 nuts were presented for identification. Subsequently, each planter received the same quantity of nuts he brought, but from different areas of the state so as to maintain the best genetic variability possible for future breeding.

BITS AND BRIEFS

INDIANS HEAR ABOUT CHESTNUTS

This past spring ACFNY co-sponsored a program for the Mohawk Community at Kanatsiohareke in Fonda, New York. Participating in the program was Lewis Decker, Director District 4; Bud Gaudreau, Director District 5 and Wayne Cooper District 9 member. The event was organized by Patricia Prindle, Chair of the Adirondack Research Center.

FROM 2 TO 100 CHESTNUT SEEDLINGS AVAILABLE

Woody Clark, Director of District 8, has become a New York State source for American Chestnut seedlings. The seedlings are 6-12 inches tall in sleeves with soil. They can be purchased with or without 3 foot shelters, stakes and ties as follows:

With stakes, etc.	2 for \$15
Without stakes, etc.	2 for \$10
.....	10 for \$45
.....	100 for \$400

Postage and handling extra. Contact Woody Clark at 2302 Cannan Road, Bloomfield, New York 14469, (716) 657-7730.

AMERICAN CHESTNUT IS NAMED OFFICIAL TREE OF NIAGARA FALLS

Following a Canadian-American ceremony planting trees in cities of Niagara Falls in Ontario and New York State, the Niagara Falls, New York City Council passed a resolution naming the American chestnut its official tree. The planting program which is to become an annual Earth Day/Arbor Day event, is sponsored by the Niagara Falls Conservation Advisory Council and the Niagara Falls Ontario Planning and Greening Committees. John Daniels District 9 member, was the behind-the-scene driving force.

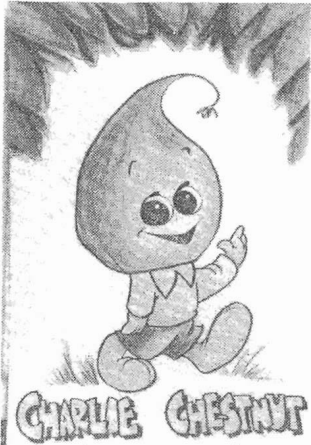
ANNUAL MEETING (con't from page 1)

On Saturday morning 70 members and friends heard reports of the year's work. Membership Chair John Spagnoli reported an increase to 350 paid memberships for 1994. Public Relations Chair Jack Mansfield reported that District Directors had shown the new slide show and video to about 50 enthusiastic audiences.

Science Chair Stan Wirsig reported that the double-resistance gene is built and tested, and ready for insertion. In the field, he reported work on development of seed orchards with the new Harvest Exchange project. This entails members exchanging identified American chestnut nuts for planting in seed orchards in various parts of the state to ensure variability and adaptability. A code system has been developed for record keeping of the parental lines to enable going back to the source to get more of the ones with the best progeny and cull any lines with faults.

A report on the beginning research on "Leaf Lipid Profile of *Castanea Dentata*" was given by Carol Siegel, Buffalo State College, who is seeking a rapid screening method of identifying *C. dentata* for location studies, breeding and gene insertion experiments, and techniques to identify blight-resistant progeny.

The Education Committee Chair Glen Gelinas reported that teaching modules telling the American Chestnut Story have been developed and used successfully in grades 3-6 and work is being planned for development of modules for Grades 6-12. "Charlie Chestnut," a captivating drawing of a chestnut with personality, was introduced as the hero of a future animated video designed for school use. Funding is being sought for this project.



Charlie Chestnut is a cartoon character who will become the spokesperson for a video to be used in schools to tell about the plight of the American chestnut.

Directors from each District gave reports of the work done in their areas, and this is reported elsewhere under "District Mews."

Dr. William Powell and Dr. Charles Maynard, of the College of Environment and Forestry from Syracuse, showed slides of their work and described the gene built containing codons from sources such as frog, moth, and a plant. Codons are the parts of a gene that make the enzymes that dissolve blight tissue.

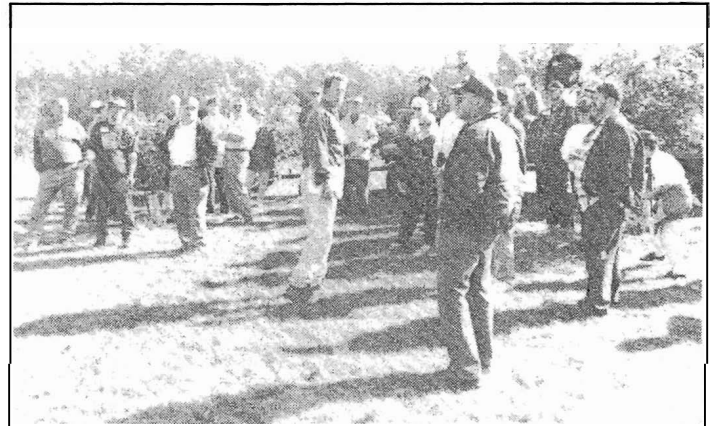
The group broke to attend the four hands-on Workshops conducted by John Gordon, Douglass Campbell, Tom Deacon, and Bill MacKentley.

During the Chestnut Luncheon which followed, Herb Darling presented the President's Award for dedicated service, chestnut wood plaques, to the following: Douglass Campbell, Glen Gelinas, John Gordon, John Mansfield, John Spagnoli, Stanley Wirsig, Arlene Wirsig, Richard Zander. These are all founding members.

Jack Mansfield, Nominating Committee Chair, presented the slate of officers and board members for 1994 and they were unanimously elected. (See "Bits and Briefs.")

The featured speaker, Dr. Peter Marks, Chairman of the Department of Ecology and Systematics, Cornell University, was introduced by Dr. John Kelley, Professor Emeritus, Cornell University and a founding member of ACFNY. Dr. Marks discussed ideas about "Preparation for Reforestation" and made suggestions for the propagation of chestnut in their natural range.

A field trip to the LADCA Nut Plantation, complete with hayride transportation, was enthusiastically enjoyed during the afternoon.. Thanks go to owners Ott and Caroline Davis and Manager Rick Waite for the opportunity of seeing a state-of-the-art farm.



Rick Waite, general manager of the LADCA Nut Plantation Farm, explains the work being done at his state-of-the-art farm.

The day was topped off with a sunset dinner cruise on Cayuga Lake with a full moon lighting the way back. A big chestnut wood fire and popcorn welcomed the group back to the lodge and to conversations continuing into the night.

Dr. Richard Zander, Buffalo Museum of Science, examined under a microscope the leaves and twigs brought by the Harvesters to identify pure American nuts for exchange. Code numbers were given to each for record keeping and in preparation for the Harvest Exchange on Sunday morning. An interested crowd clustered around the microscope for this first time event to learn the clues of precise identification.

Breakfast Sunday morning featured Discussion Tables each with a placard with a topic (such as "Pollination") so that those with a specific interest could get together. This was followed by the first Harvest Exchange which was a lively time for all with Harvesters providing a percentage of nuts to all plantation people. All were pleased with this effort to ensure adaptability and variability. There were 2,400 nuts exchanged in 10 new seed orchards established making 17 seed orchards in all in NY State.

A Board Meeting followed where the budget and fund raising were discussed and the updated agreements with National were reviewed.

Comments from members as they left ... "This was great—just like a house party—I learned a lot—enjoyed the camaraderie—can we do it again?" The committee thanks all the wonderful volunteers who made it work.

After a successful and enjoyable weekend, the Fourth Annual Meeting of ACFNY was adjourned at noon.

District 3 ... Frank Munzer, director, (914) 266-5138.

Two "seed orchards" have been established and members have planted 100 American chestnut seedlings in one and 250 in the other. A 16" DBH tree has been located and methods for pollinating it are under consideration. Over 10,000 people were exposed to ACFNY through the use of the display on two occasions and four presentations of the slide program.

District 4 ... Lewis Decker, director, (518) 725-Q473

Squirrels put an end to the modest attempts at raising seedlings for spring planting. (Lew notes that a friend of his was successful at warding off squirrels by growing seedlings in a bird cage). The slide program has been shown to five groups this year. Lew will expand his exposure of ACFNY to county type fairs this coming year.

District 5 ... Adrien Gaudreau, director, (518) 882-9424

The three trees which were being depended upon for nut production have suffered from blight damage. Even so it is hoped they will have some flowers that can be pollinated in the spring. Seedlings which have been distributed to members are, in most cases, quite healthy. Adrien will meet with foresters of the area DEC November 10 to enlist their assistance in the program and establishment of one or more "seed orchards." The slide show has been shown to club and school groups.

District 6 ... Darrel Rippeteau and Tom Walker, directors, (315) 782-3153

Darrel has retired as a director of ACFNY to devote his time to the chairmanship of the New York State Forest Practice Board, a strong supporter of the efforts to restore the American chestnut. (Our thanks for a job well done and good luck with the new chairmanship). Tom Walker of Watertown, New York was elected to succeed Darrel. Plans have been made to plant seedlings at the Brownville Game Farm near Dexter, New York as an alternate to the Lowville site where plantings were adversely impacted by the severe winter climate. Tom will be announcing important organizational meetings after the first of the year.

District 7 ... Roy Hopke, director, (607) 648-5512

Since last November members have planted over 180 seedlings and sprouted nuts in DEC's Rogers Environmental Center in Sherburne. These have been mulched with hardwood bark to keep competing weeds at bay. Yellowing leaves regained color when fertilized with Miracle Gro. Limited air flights have located two trees and examination of valley slopes will be conducted from the ground. In general there are many small bearing trees in the area with a potentially large genetic base. Hopke has observed there is a big difference in trees that can be seen from their beginning. Outstanding, fast growth trees produce fast-growing and straight progeny ... and last the longest. Also he observes that the type of site microclimate and soil determines the maximum sized tree. On a tough site with a lot of contagion, a 12" tree is large. A good site away from fungus hosts might produce a 20" tree.

District 8 ... Woody Clark, director, (716) 557-7730

The District held its first organizational meeting in June with an attendance of nearly 20 interested persons. All who attended received an American chestnut seedling courtesy Clark Farms. Tree shelters and stakes for planting were available. Arlene and Stan Wirsig enriched the meeting with their knowledge. The fall seed crop was seemingly at a loss due to the devastation by the blight of nearly fifty trees. However, with newly located trees, enthusiastic new members helped collect 460 seeds. These were divided throughout the state and an equal number received from other areas at the First Annual Seed Mix. A small "seed orchard" of American chestnuts has been planted at the DEC Avon site. An inoculation program for district 8 seed trees is well under way. The ACFNY displays were exposed to visitors at three important area fairs.

District 9 ... Bill Snyder, director, (716) 839-5456

In March, 32 members met to see the slide show and plan activities for the year. The April Planting Day brought out 62 members and friends who planted over 200 trees in DEC's Zoar Multiple Use Area. Small plantings are also planned for Audubon's Beaver Meadow near Java and the Nature Conservancy's Deer Lick nature refuge near Gowanda. A work party will be formed to clear and transplant at the site of the 22" DBH "Supertree" near Lockport. Member Bill White has made over eight showings of the ACFNY video in the southern area of the District while various members have accounted for another four in the north.

To learn about activities in your area, phone your area director?



The ACFNY participated with American Ref-Fuel of Niagara in an Arbor Day event to plant several American chestnuts in a heavily traveled area of the plant. The company provided a permanent sign to mark the site. Assisting the planting are (from left) Pete Martin, business manager for American Ref-Fuel; Herb Darling, president of ACFNY; and Tom Morello, American Ref-Fuel's plant manager. American Ref-Fuel of Niagara processes municipal solid waste for 35 communities in Western New York.



Members of Project 2000, a Western New York environmental youth plantar, American chestnut in Delaware Park during an Earth Day/Arbor Day ceremony in Buffalo. Buffalo Parks Commissioner Dan Durawa in business suit above, spoke at a meeting of several local environmental groups including ACFNY.

WATCH CNN

CNN will feature American chestnuts in a show on December 24 at 3 p.m. and Christmas day at 10 a.m.

*A Gift Has Been Given to ACFNY
IN MEMORIAM
EDWARD C. (BUDDY) KAYE
Deceased 1994*

PILOT TESTING OF EDUCATIONAL LESSON PLANS IS SUCCESSFUL

Although the initial educational lesson modules were designed for grades 3-5, during pilot testing last spring over 800 children from grades K-12 were exposed to the American chestnut story because of teacher enthusiasm. In a follow-up performance meeting with the pilot teachers, the lesson plans and design of basic teacher educational materials were evaluated.

At the same meeting the unusual niche the study of American chestnuts provides was reinforced by the teachers. In contrast to other endangered species such as the Spotted Owl, or ecological disasters such as the destruction of rain forests, the American chestnut provides a "hands-on" experience involving children in growing seedlings, planting and nurturing them, and for older students, participation in elements of the ACFNY program.

In early 1995, the Education Committee chaired by Glen Geinas will work with teachers to develop lesson plans for grades 6-12 and implement the total program in Erie and Niagara Counties as test areas next spring. Volunteers interested in working with this committee should phone Glen Geinas at (716) 825-7760.

TOPS IS TOPS

ACFNY thanks Tops Supermarket company for its contribution to assist the chapter's Annual Meeting in Ithaca, New York.



A poster sized reproduction of a wall chart from 1897 is available for purchase. It is the "Lewis' Leaf Chart" depicting the American chestnut leaves, burs and nuts along with other chestnut varieties and leaves of several beeches. Prices are \$5.00 when purchased at a counter or \$10.00 if purchased by mail,

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS ELECTED

At the Annual Meeting, the ACFNY officers were reinstated. They are: Herb Darling, President; Stan Wirsig, Vice President; and Arlene Wirsig, Treasurer and Secretary. Newly elected to the Board to replace vacancies were T. Urling Walker, District 6 and Stephen Jacobi of Alfred University in District 9.

New York State Chapter
American Chestnut Foundation Inc.
c/o Buffalo Museum of Science
1020 Humboldt Parkway
Buffalo, NY 14211