

THE BUR

Volume 6, No. 2

Newsletter of the New York State Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation, Inc.

Fall/Winter 1996

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

THANK YOU

ACFNY's all volunteer group is a success because of all the individual hard working members. It is time to recognize the people behind the outdoor activities. This time the thank you goes to the field people who provide the support for the genetic program by furnishing the necessary materials (immature nuts) essential to getting embryos and the mature nuts to supply the education program for growing trees in the schools.

In order to accomplish all this, locating new trees is an important step. It is accomplished in two ways. First by the aerial survey when they are blooming in July. Lou Horschel has generously donated his plane with himself as pilot for the last six years to do this, and secondly, by hunters finding trees by seeing the burs on the ground and recognizing the leaves and then identifying the tree. These people are too many to individually recognize, so I will say Thank You as a group all of you who have done this for us.

Pollinating trees is the next operation and is done by Ray Daigler, Dave Daigler, Bill Snyder, Bill White, and Tom Deacon in District 9; Nelson Harlow and Norman Van Dusen from District 8; Roy Hopke and John Donowich of District 7; Lewis Decker, District 4; and Frank Munzer and Dr. Craig Hibben, District 3.

Normally, the next activity is collecting nuts in October; but in 1996 we received a special call to provide Drs. Maynard, Powell, and Zing with immature burs in August. Everybody rallied around and besides all the people already listed above these additional people joined in; Margaret Collins, John Ellis, Gerald Rucker, Dr. Robert Milks, Dr. John Potente, Alan Rand, John Hoffmiester, Bob Wiltze, Ed Wycoff, Beth Sturdevant, Bill Krackistein, and Dr. Zing, Bruce Graham

of the Grand River Conservation area in Burford, Ontario made special arrangements and provided ACFNY with embryos from Canada. The results were spectacular; we produced twenty four different parental lines for CESF Syracuse on short notice.

The regular Fall harvest was accomplished by all the above people plus Joanne Ellsworth, Joe Finn, Rich Wells, Ed Schnieder, Burton Nagel, Cal Degolyer, Ken Biirdick, and Lawrence Hunt.

Even with our all out effort, this year's harvest was poor because of wet weather during pollination and the loss of 3 major trees all 18" DBH +/- and some smaller ones. Our gene pool continues to shrink.

Planting seedlings is another field activity in which I would like to recognize individuals who initiated their own plantings for groups of interested people. Don Bronson has been responsible for several sites in Niagara County; Joanne Ellsworth is making several plantings amounting to 100 seedlings also in Niagara County. Joe Finn of Cattaraugus, Allegheny, Erie, and Wyoming Counties BOCES has over 200 seedlings planted. Chip Leavy has started a planting in District 8, and finally Paul Furhman planted on Ecology and Environment's property in Lancaster.

Special mention also goes to Roy H. Zemla for personally taking care of all the seedlings planted in Chestnut Ridge Park and all the Boy Scout Troops that have planted and cared for the orchards. Now you see how and why our program is going so well. Keep up the good work and THANK YOU ALL.

Long live the American Chestnut

*Herbert F. Darling, Jr.
President ACFNY*

TARBOX "SUPERTREE" DISCOVERED

On June 10, 1996 the largest known American chestnut tree in New York state was found by a lumber-marking crew on the Tarbox Property tract of Chautauqua County Parks. It measures 23 inches in diameter at breast height (DBH) with a circumference of 73.5 inches. The tree stands 85 feet high and has a 48 foot crown spread. There are no signs of fungus disease. Congratulations to the Forecon Inc. people who found and confirmed its identification: Eric Stawitzky and Bruce Mack of the crew and Henry Toniassi, the crew forester, and Curtis Bauer, Consulting Forester.



Professor Don Birdd in his costume, a child educational vehicle dramatizing the life cycle and blight problems of the American chestnut.

DISTRICT NEWS

District 1 ... Dr. John Potente (Home: 716-232-1556)

Director John Potente DMD reports an exhibit presentation at Sweetbriar Nature Center in the Spring was successful with exposure and increased public awareness to about 8,000 people.

As a result of a Spring appeal for locations of large American chestnut trees, many have been found that are between 6-8" in diameter. But as these are isolated and are far apart (and blighted), they will have to be hand pollinated come Summer 1997.

Meanwhile, seeds have been brought back to Long Island from the Fall nut harvest exchange at the New York State annual meeting. Two sites will now be sought for the plantings of the seedlings that will be ready in the Fall of 1997.

A lecture was given at the Museum of Natural Sciences in Earth and Space Science Center at the State University of Stony Brook on December 10th.

District 2 ... Margaret Collins (Home: 716-445-6436)

Director Margaret Collins reports that eleven of the twelve two-year-old seedlings planted in Udall's Cove as a test planting survived the summer, so the plan is to proceed with a larger planting at Alley Pond Environmental Center in late Fall of 1996.

Nuts from Fall 1995 being grown in the Native Plant Center in Staten Island were unfortunately hit by a fungus which spread quickly through the plants once they reached a height of about two inches. Luckily the seedlings from 1994 being grown at Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx and at the Native Plant Center were not affected.

District 2 members are collaborating with the City Parks Foundation on an education project, which is awaiting final approval from the Board of Education. The program, funded through a special grant will involve twelve classes of Bronx students who will plant up to 1,000 trees (not all chestnuts) in a designated plot on New York City parkland and monitor them for growth, survival rates, and animal browsing. If approved, the project could start in late Fall 1996 and run through the school year. District 2 members have also been named as collaborators in a grant to set up a slightly different education program at Alley Pond Environmental Center.

Margaret is always seeking new ideas, new members and new volunteers, and encourages anyone with any questions or who wishes to serve as a borough coordinator to contact her at (718)445-6436.

District 6 ... T. Urling Walker (Home: 315-782-3153)

Two years ago five healthy true American chestnut trees were removed from the DEC Lowville station and replanted in a demonstration area in the Watertown Conservancy. Unfortunately, according to Director T. Urling Walker, all of these trees succumbed to the harsh weather in the area. Next Spring the District plans to replant and, if the trees survive, will provide a proper plaque at the site.

The Director represents ACFNY on the Tree Watertown committee whose purpose is to encourage and educate the public on planting trees for beautification. The committee's theme is to have planted 2,000 new trees by the year 2000. The group has gained credibility to the point that it can obtain grants and the use of City money.

In conjunction with the above, there is an experimental area at the DEC's Lowville station where the forester for some time has been wanting to move chestnuts from there to a new location because of a cold pocket condition. The Watertown committee had suggested that they move some of these to a permanent location in and about Watertown. The DEC has agreed to do so this coming Spring.

This past year a friend of the Director from Lewis County called in response to a newspaper article regarding the American chestnut and said he has been growing American chestnuts in his back yard from seed and transplants for years. After assurances of proper identification, the friend brought a dozen saplings which Walker planted in his large vacant back yard. They have made it through the summer and hopefully will be able to survive the winter. "If they do, I think we may have some trees growing that are true American chestnuts in my own back yard", says Walker.

District 7 ... Roy Hopke (Home: 607-648-5512)

In his October 7 letter to members in the District, Director Roy Hopke reported on several activities. Those accomplished after the publication of the last BUR included the fertilization and removal of tubes of larger trees at the Sherburne plantation. Location of American chestnut trees continues with discoveries in state parks around the Finger Lakes by Ken Burdick and of smaller trees in Windsor by John Ellis and James Donowick. Hopke reports District 7 will need more help this season than last to grow nuts received from the annual Harvest Exchange.

District 8 ... Chip Leavy (Home: 716-293-2540)

New District Director Chip Leavy's first chance to meet the general public as ACFNY's representative was at DEC's Avon NY "National Hunting and Fishing Days" where he talked with countless individuals and handed out hundreds of brochures. Shortly members in the District will be hearing from him introducing himself and re-requesting information to help move the District forward. Chip has over 2,000 seedlings available for shipment to anyone interested in planting.

District 9 ... Bill Snyder (Home: 716-839-5456)

As an interesting sidebar to the last BUR's story of District 9's Planting Day, Director Bill Snyder mentions that Prof. Linda Chalker-Scott encouraged her Buffalo State Biology class to join the work force by offering extra credits. New activities included a day-long "American Chestnut Festival" at a large county park organized by member Glen Gelinis. The program included tree location (two were discovered), tree planting under the leadership of a Boy Scout working on his Eagle project and using seedlings grown by school children, and various workshops. As part of John Spagnoli's membership committee program, Snyder sought out and was interviewed by the Jamestown Post-Journal. The story was later published. Other newspapers will be contacted.

SCIENCE REPORT

Excellent progress in the research to achieve a blight resistant American chestnut was cited in the science report at the October 1996 ACFNY Annual Meeting in Rochester, New York.

Dr. Charles Maynard of the College of Environmental Science and Forestry at Syracuse described the work done this year by the research team which consists of Dr. Maynard, Dr. William Powell, Dr. Zizhuo Xing and M. Satchwell.

Exciting results have been achieved: The transformation of calli of the American chestnut (resistant genes are inserted); and the development of a somatic embryogenesis protocol and an improved shoot culture system (micropropagation - raising plantlets from tiny somatic embryos).

In 1995 cooperators sent immature burs to Syracuse. From this collection, Dr. Xing removed developing embryos and established four rapidly growing cell lines. After more than a year in culture these embryogenic cell lines are continuing to grow vigorously and produce hundreds of new embryos every two weeks. This continuous supply of new embryos has allowed the researchers in Syracuse to improve the procedures used to acclimatize tiny chestnut plantlets to life in the "real world".

This summer ACFNY members pollinated American chestnut trees, collected more young burs, and shipped them to Syracuse for this work. Each of the nuts in the burs contain several tiny embryos which are grown on gel, yielding hundreds of plantlets in sterile cabinets to be ready for acclimatization.

Slightly over 2,000 embryos were extracted from juvenile burs collected from 18 different trees in the August 1996 gathering. Dr. Xing was able to establish several new cell lines to be used in the coming year for gene transfer studies and to further improve acclimatization procedures.

Dr. Powell has developed several plasmid constructs containing gene sequences to improve blight resistance in American chestnut. The most promising plasmid contains: 1, a marker gene to identify which plant cells are transformed; 2. a promoter which turns on genes in wounded tree tissues; and 3. three putative resistance coding genes, chosen because of their ability to target fungi with no measurable effect on plants or animals.

Acclimatization is necessary to help young plantlets adjust to the microbes and environmental stresses of the world outside

the sterile cabinets. Tests are in progress to see what help they need.

ACFNY gene banks increase as our seed orchards build up through the annual Harvest Exchange and the year-round work of the planters.

A new orchard design has been recommended - at least 20' between trees both ways if there is room. This allows machines to be used in the orchard and lessens the tendency of the trees to shoot up. To reduce inbreeding depression, trees from the same parents (siblings or half-siblings) should have three or more non-related trees between them, both along and across rows. Earlier orchards can provide all the embryos needed from our wild parents, by hand pollinating and bagging.

The backcrossing program is progressing well at the two ACF farms in Meadowville, VA. They have reached the BC3 level and expect a 15/16 resistant Chinese American hybrid in about 10 years. As the farms fill they will cull to select the most resistant. The NY Chapter is supporting the national program and will be doing a research out-planting of ACF backcrossed stock in a special site in the Spring of 1997. The pure American chestnut plantings will continue in other areas of the state.

The ACFNY members were thanked for their hands-on work, their financial help, and for their involvement at all levels. This support is the foundation of the effort and makes every member a vital part of bringing back the American chestnut.

ACFNY RECEIVES TOWN OF TONAWANDA BEAUTIFICATION AWARD

Quoting from a letter to Herb Darling from the Chairman of the Beautification Committee of the Town of Tonawanda (a suburban area North of the City of Buffalo): "We are pleased to announce that ACFNY will be receiving an award of special recognition for your efforts to restore the American chestnut in the Western New York countryside, and the Town of Tonawanda. We thank you for planting three American chestnuts with the Kenmore Garden Club at Sheridan Park..."



District 1's Director, Dr. John Potente described the Smithtown Nature Fair in one word... "HUGE." Here he is shown to the left with the ACFNY display. He talked with hundreds of interested people and networked with every significant conservation organization from Long Island.

60 PEOPLE ATTEND ANNUAL MEETING

Roasting chestnuts, the buzz of chestnut talk, greetings of old friends and welcome of new members enveloped the meeting area at the ACFNY Annual Meeting on October 26, 1996 at the Radisson Inn in Rochester, NY. And it lasted through the last car driving out of the parking lot.

Sixty people attended the morning session covering the various reports of the year's work. Details of these reports are given in separate articles.

President Herbert Darling welcomed guests from the national ACF office, John Herrington, Executive Director, and Tammy Carpenter, Membership Director. He reported that the 1996 membership was 522 and that two of the highlights of the year were the scientific progress and the development of the prototype teaching manual.

Regional activities were reported by Dr. John Potente, District 1; T. Urling Walker, District 6; Roy Hopke, District 7; Chip Leavy, District 8.

A new "Spread-the-Word" Membership Project was described by Doug Campbell recommending that each district adopt a literature rack in visitor centers and other high traffic areas, wherever local members would find it easy to monitor and keep filled with brochures. Results will be reported at the 1997 meeting.

The Education report was given by Glen Gelinas and Dr. Don Birdd, and the Science report by Stan Wirsig with Tom Deacon explaining a suggested new method of tree tagging for record keeping.

Dr. Charles Maynard gave a progress report on the current research at the College of Environmental Science and Forestry with recent slides showing the marker indicating transformation of an American chestnut callus and one showing growing plants with both roots and shoots created through new protocols in embryogenesis. (A unique slide showing specific hairs on the roots brought appreciative comment.)

The Nominating Committee's report and elections was chaired by John Mansfield.

Workshops were held on Identification, Dr. Richard Zander; Planting & Pollinating, John Gordon; Thoughts on Planting Design, Dr. Bill Gladstone; Chestnut Growing Problems, Doug Campbell; Chestnut Exhibit How-tos, Don Bronson.

A special apple-chestnut dessert was created by the Radisson chef for the ACFNY luncheon where Dr. Donald Birdd, Professor of Science Education at Buffalo State College, was the featured speaker. Dr. Birdd outlined the history and the need for providing scientific information to children. He emphasized, "...must find ways to help develop a lifetime interest in environmental concerns...". He applauded and encouraged ACFNY to continue in developing educational materials for the general public as well as young people.

Chestnut-wood plaques were given to Dr. Richard Zander, Board Member and Taxonomist; Dr. John Potente, Region 1 Director; and Mr. Chip Leavy, Region 8 Director in appreciation for their ACFNY service and leadership.

Appreciation also was expressed to C&C Nursery for the gift of an American chestnut seedling to each attendee; and to Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Garzon for the donation of a framed oil painting print of a chestnut scene by Albert Thomas Jarvis Gilbert for a drawing.

The two youngest attendees, Chris Gockley II and seven year old Charlotte Scott assisted Bethany White with the drawing which netted \$78. This was won by Crystale and Chip Leavy.

The day was topped off with a dinner cruise down the historic Erie Canal.

The annual Harvest Exchange was held on Sunday morning with planters taking back approximately 2,200 additions to the gene pool. A Table Topic Coffee Hour for additional chestnut discussion also flourished.

The ACFNY Board Meeting followed and included approval of the Executive Committee appointments; the adoption of updated By-Laws, the 1997 Budget and 1997 Goals; and approval of an agreement with C & C Nursery of Churchville, NY to provide American chestnut seedlings with a 20% discount for ACFNY members. A Special Appeals Account was established with the first project being to seek \$5,000 for the New York share requested by National to purchase a new \$28,500 tractor for the Meadowview Farm.

The Sixth ACFNY Annual Meeting was adjourned at 12:00 Noon with thoughts already turning to October 1997 and another enjoyable get-together.

IN MEMORIAM

FREDRZCK P. WEYLER

ACFNY's only Honorary Member died this past year. He was a great help during our formative years.



The 1996 Annual Meeting during October in Rochester, NY had a broad range of activities including the sticky business of identification of pure American chestnuts and other chestnut species and their hybrids. Here Dr. Richard Zander (left) ACFNY's acknowledged authority discusses the fine points with Glen Gelinas (center) and Tom Deacon.

CHESTNUT EDUCATION CONTINUES TO GROW

This year many new teachers and schools were introduced to the American Chestnut and grew seed kits with their students. A few teachers really promoted this as a group project; seedlings could be found growing in the window of every classroom in one school and in nearly every building in another school district. Teamed up with Channel 4 WIVB television as part of their "Rooting for Buffalo" tree planting and beautification program, Charlie Chestnut made a school appearance as a guest educator at the Theater Magnet School in Studio Arena Theater culminating with each student taking a pair of chestnut seedlings home for planting.

Something new this year were awards for Excellence in Education for creative and outstanding work to bring our message into the classroom. Teachers honored were Dr. Don L. Birdd, Buffalo State College; Donald J. Bronson, Niagara Wheatfield Senior High, Sandra Falsioni, Truman Elementary; BarbaraAnn Newton, Springville Elementary; and Dennis Rich, West Seneca West Senior High. Selecting the winners was difficult among so many excellent educators which have worked with us over the last few years. Our thanks not only go out to the award winners but to all the teachers that have continued with us in these first years with minimal support as our efforts have been focused on developing materials to more effectively support teachers and future classroom education.

Over the summer a team of teachers led by Dr. Don Birdd produced the first finished prototype manual to be used by teachers in grades 3-5. The prototype will be classroom tested during 1997 and revisions completed next year prior to its release for general use. Seed kits and the video "Biological Powerhouse" will still be available for teacher use until finished education materials are available. If you have worked with us in the past, notices of seed kit availability will be mailed to you after the new year. New teachers interested in growing American Chestnuts with their students should contact ACFNY Director of Education Glen Gelinis at (716) 825-7760.

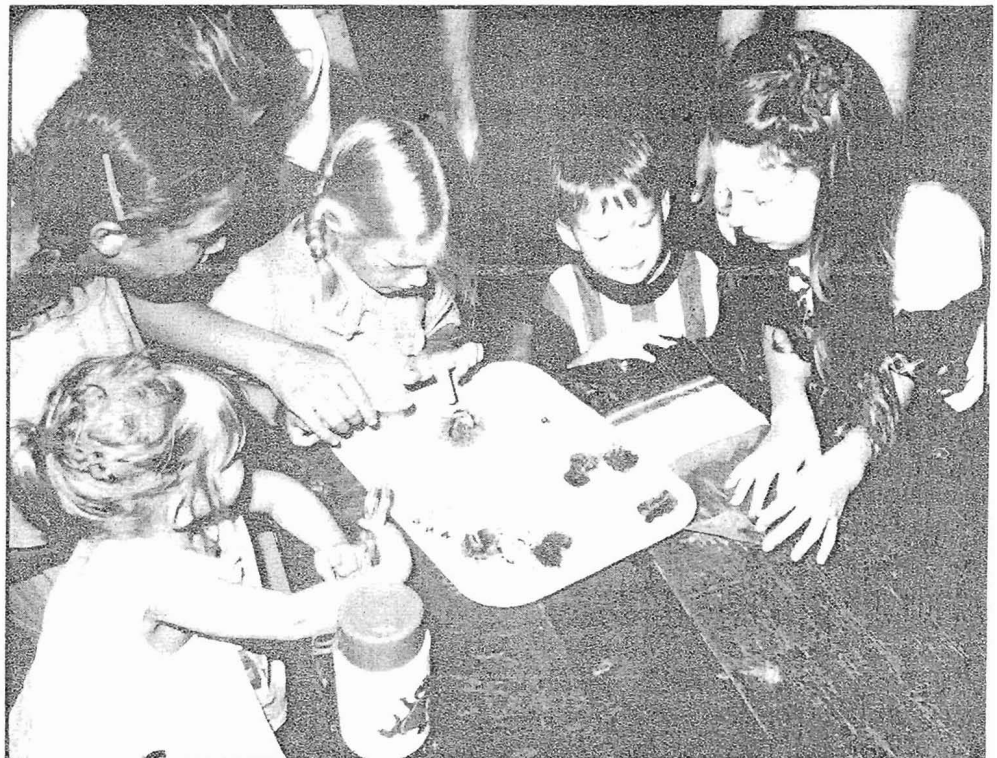
The animated video that will accompany the Grade 3-5 Education Kit is nearing completion as casting is now complete, filming has begun, and early animation

sequences are superb! Entertaining and using appropriate vocabulary, the children will be introduced to the subject in a lively manner. Learning about the history of the American chestnut, chestnut blight, research approaches

to saving the species, and what the children can do to help the American Chestnut survive, each classroom will be equipped to make a meaningful contribution to the recovery of this key species.



Encouraged by Sandra Falsioni, one of the teachers who has been hard at work developing ACFNYS grade 3-5 school lesson plans, students of Truman Elementary School in Lackawanna, NY grew over a hundred American chestnut seedlings for Spring planting.



Children test the sharpness of the prickly chestnut bur during educational programs offered at the "American Chestnut Festival".

1ST AMERICAN CHESTNUT FESTIVAL

A Tree-mendous Success

On Saturday June 29, 150 people joined us and contributed to a successful day of fun, learning and conservation achievement at Chestnut Ridge Park. This Erie County Park was named for the numerous native American chestnut trees that once lived in this prime habitat and is still home to a few large trees and numerous stump sprouts.

What started as a Niagara Frontier Botanical Society field trip led by ACFNY Director of Education Glen Gelin as to survey and locate new chestnut trees in the park, grew to become a collaborative program of education and service projects. On this day, a new seed orchard of 300 American Chestnut trees was planted; the botanical survey identified several previously unknown trees and a rare treat - nature study programs led by our visiting guests Jim Berry and Bill Sharpe from the Roger Tory Peterson Institute.

The day began with chestnut identification workshops by professional nut growers, John Gordon and Doug Campbell with questions and answers also addressed by our Scientific Director Stan Wirsig and Dr. Richard Zander, Curator of Botany at the Buffalo Museum of Science. Having overheard conversations on the botanical traits, nursery technique, tree growth physiology, biochemistry, and techniques used to engineer disease resistant American chestnuts we can say there was truly something for everyone. Our thanks to Dave Colligan, Roy Ernmerling and a superb display on tree identification from the New York Forest Owners Association (NYFOA).

Led by Eagle Scout Matt Zimmerman; Scouts, Master Gardeners from the Erie County Cooperative Extension and Buffalo Audubon Society members planted a near record number of trees. Our deep gratitude to all the teachers and students who grew these seedlings in their classrooms for planting during the Festival, and to the Botanical Garden Society, Dave Headley and Botanical Garden staff for insuring the survival of these seedlings between the end of school and the Festival date.

Members of the NYFOA, Western New York Old Growth Survey, school children and many others surveyed a remote little-known corner of the park. The largest new tree found had an 8 inch diameter and was found by Springville student Ian Steff.

Congratulations Ian for your award

winning science fair project on the American chestnut at the Western New York Science Congress competition. Mapping expertise was provided by John Whitney and AmeriCorp from the East Aurora office of the National Resource Conservation Service who received the Directors Award for Excellence in Conservation for their ongoing effort to map American chestnut resources in support of ACFNY field programs. Dr. Richard Zander verified specimens and field observations. Sergeants Pierce Mooney, David Tranchel and the local 827th Engineering Company of the National Guard provided radio equipment and training for safety and to support communication with our survey groups.

Don Bird, Distinguished Professor of Science Education from Buffalo State College made his first public appearance in costume as Charlie Chestnut greeting festival participants and educating children in the finer points of chestnuts and other common local trees. Herb Darling and Glen Gelin as conveyed awards to several teachers for their tremendous achievements this year in pioneering American chestnut restoration in their schools (See Ed Article). Finally to end the day, a beautiful print of wild turkeys was raffled as a fund-raiser to support development of our education program and education materials for use in New York State Schools. Thanks Marty Huber and the Wild Turkey Federation for the print donation in

support of this important program.

Our new seed orchard at Chestnut Ridge Park is now in good hands as volunteers Roy Zemla, Robert Milks and area Boy Scouts have adopted this planting adjusting tree shelters, securing netting, replanting seedlings and providing the maintenance necessary for the long term success that completing surveys for the remainder of the park may not be far off.

Special thanks to Erie County Park's Dan Glowicki, Butch Lisowski, Kimberly Decker and Commissioner James Jankowiak for their assistance in use of the Chestnut Ridge Park; Pepsi Buffalo Bottling Corp. for providing refreshments; Margaret Butler at Great Lakes Sign Co. for last minute help with signs for directing participants within the park; Dave Reimers at the Buffalo Museum of Science and Tina Preston at Erie County Department of Environment and Planning for their continuous assistance; and the Erie County Environmental Education Institute, Inc. for financial support of this project.

Congratulations to all involved! Your hard work and support have paid off by engaging many new enthusiasts who now appreciate the important role that the American chestnut once played in our local environment and have unforgettably contributed to the conservation of this keystone species. The restoration of this valuable resource provides a prime opportunity for projects that unify the community attracting people of diverse background, an ideal cause for Celebration!



During the "American Chestnut Festival", a Boy Scout team headed by Matt Zimmerman (left) assisted in planting an American chestnut plantation in Chestnut Ridge Park. Most of the seedlings were grown by school children.

ACFNY 1997 GOALS

As adopted by ACFNY Board October 1996 Annual Meeting.

GOAL I: INCREASE MEMBERSHIP TO 650 BY OCTOBER 1997 ANNUAL MEETING

- a. Create new membership campaign Spring 1997
- b. Promote Spread-the-Word Project. Members in each District adopt at least two Literature Racks and monitor: Under way by March 1997; Report at 1997 October Annual Meeting.
- c. Develop and support District Person-to-Person membership drive

GOAL II: DEVELOP A NEW AND INCREASED FUND RAISING EFFORT

- a. Implement Special Appeals Fund. Acquire \$5,000 for NY Chapter share of Meadowview tractor purchase by December 1997.
- b. Complete animated video with funding by December 1997
- c. Develop state-wide kick-off plans for the Education Program's Teaching Module with funding by October 1997 for presentation at the 1997 annual meeting
- d. Support research programs with funding by December 1997

GOAL III: ESTABLISH TWO OR MORE SEED PLANTATIONS IN EACH DISTRICT BY OCTOBER 1997 ANNUAL MEETING

- a. Map and list all New York planting sites by October 1997 for display at Annual Meeting (at that time check for unknown or overlooked sites; encourage new planters)
- b. Increase personal working relationships between ACFNY District Directors and DEC Foresters in each district

PLEASE SEND MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS FOR 1997

Letters were mailed in early December with renewal information. Please remember to send yours soon.

ANNUAL MEETING ELECTIONS

Board of Directors

Class of 1997

Lewis Decker	Ted Kozlowski
Thomas Deacon	Dr. John Potente
Adrien Gaudreau	T. Urling Walker
Craig Hibben	William White
Chip Leavy	

Class of 1997 and 1998

Dr. Chalker-Scott	Dr. Eric Randall
Roy Hopke	William Snyder
Margaret Collins	Frank Munzer
Dr. Leonard Pepkowitz	
Dr. Richard Zander	

1997 Officers

Herbert F. Darling Jr., President
 Stanley Wirsig, Vice President
 Arlene Wirsig, Secretary and Treasurer

1997 Nominating Committee

Herbert F. Darling
 Jack Mansfield, Chairman
 Frank Munzer
 Stanley Wirsig

1997 Executive Committee

Chip Leavy	Jack Mansfield
Frank Munzer	John Gordon
Herbert F. Darling	William Snyder
Stanley Wirsig	John Spagnoli
Douglas Campbell	Arlene Wirsig

Nominations for 1998 Directors are open until September 30, 1997.

Please send to ACFNY.



Charlie Chestnut "peel-off" circular stickers are available for many uses from hand-outs to identification of persons attending ACFNY meetings or plantings.

IT'S TIME TO ORDER

ACFNY MEMBERS TO RECEIVE 20% DISCOUNT WHEN ORDERING

SEEDLING PACKAGE

C&C Nursery of Churchville, NY is offering a planting package including American chestnut seedlings a minimum of 12" tall with 4' tall shelters and stakes. (As with all American chestnuts, they are subject to the fungus disease but may not necessarily get the blight). Member pricing is as follows:

Quantity	Each	Total
2	\$7.50	\$15.00
10	\$6.00	\$60.00
25	\$5.00	\$125.00
100	\$4.75	\$475.00

Prices include delivery and applicable sales tax. Please write or phone C&C Nursery, 457 Palmer Road, Churchville, NY 14428. (716) 293-2510.

HERB DARLING'S ACFNY WORK RECOGNIZED

Recently the New York State Conservation Council at its annual convention recognized HERB DARLING as the 1996 Volunteer Conservationist of the Year. In making the award it recognized his achievements as founder and president of ACFNY. His efforts include leadership in restoration projects and educational endeavors as well as the support of the development of a blight resistant tree at SUNY ESF.

LETTER ABOUT THE PAST

"When I was a little girl (now 98) in the fall we always went 'chestnutting.' There was a big tree in the upper pasture that always had fruit... the blight killed the tree and we all cried when father had it cut down...just thought you should know I really knew a chestnut tree."

Excerpts from a recent letter from Ann P. Miller of Sinclairville, NY.

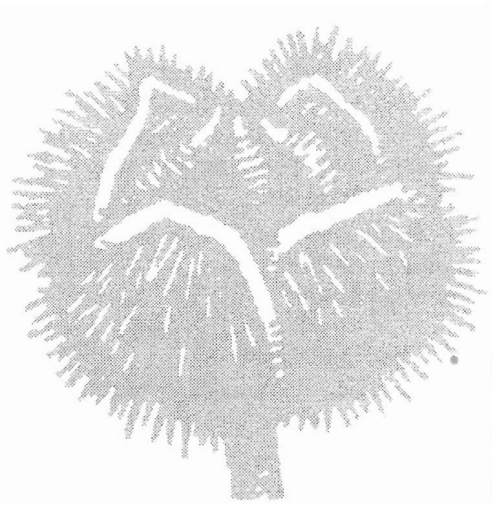
The Bur
New York State Chapter
American Chestnut Foundation Inc.
c/o Buffalo Museum of Science
1020 Humboldt Parkway
Buffalo, NY 14211

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Permit No. 2964

SPECIAL APPEAL!

National ACF Tractor Replacement

This year an unexpected expense has landed upon the national ACF's Wagner Research Farm at Meadowview, VA. The old work-horse tractor gave out and was irreparable. No farm can really survive without one so a new one was purchased. However the cost was an unbudgeted \$28,500. Our New York State Chapter has been asked to help defray \$5,000 of this cost. Your Board of Directors has agreed to do so through a Special Appeals Fund. Please consider a donation and fill out and return the coupon below.



THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING ACFNY GRANT FRIENDS

ACFNY greatly appreciates the major grants made by the following Foundations. These funds will be applied to the important work of genetic research and education conducted by the all-volunteer ACFNY.

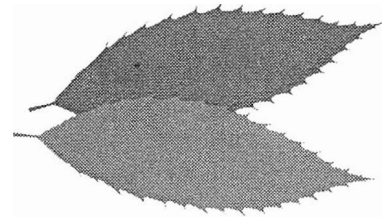
**A. Lindsay and
Olive B. O'Connor Foundation**

Margaret L. Wendt Foundation

YES, I will help pay for the Research Farm's tractor.

Attached is my check n _____ e to ACFNY for:

\$25 \$50 \$100 Other



Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Send to: **Arlene Wirsig, Treasures ACFNY, 3747 River Road, Youngstown, NY 14174.**

Thank You!

If you have any questions call (716) 745-7772.

The ACFNY is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.