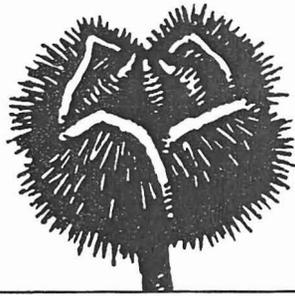


THE BUR



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

Volume 11, No. 2

Fall/Winter 2001

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am proud of the progress that the partnership of TACFNY, NYS DEC and SUNY-ESF has made, toward our goal of producing a blight resistant American chestnut tree through biotechnology. I am reasonably sure that very soon our partnership is about to feel the effects of the September 11th infamous attack on the United States of America by the terrorists. The funding we worked so hard to get for our program, from the N.Y.S. government, is unsure. The needs of the disaster victims must come first, and TACFNY, I am assuming, will have to prepare to seek out temporary new funding sources fast. The NYS budget is in a state of turmoil at the present time, and I feel we can't count on their funding to keep our program going, so we will have to look into new sources, in order to reach our goal. All the efforts of our State Senators, Mary Lou Rath, John A. DeFranzisco and Carl Marcellino, are truly appreciated for getting the program to where it is today, and I am sure they will continue to assist us, as soon as it becomes possible.

On November 1 & 2, I attended a workshop at the University of North Carolina in Durham. The Institute of Forest Biotechnology was the sponsor, and its goal is to assist the work of people like ourselves, working on biotechnology cures to problems with trees. It was decided at the meeting that the American chestnut would be the very best tree to start with, as it has high profile, and many people want it restored. They are considering forming some partnerships to insure funding for restoration of various species of trees. It is called the Heritage Tree Program. There will be further meetings set up to explore the possibilities of getting this program off the ground soon.

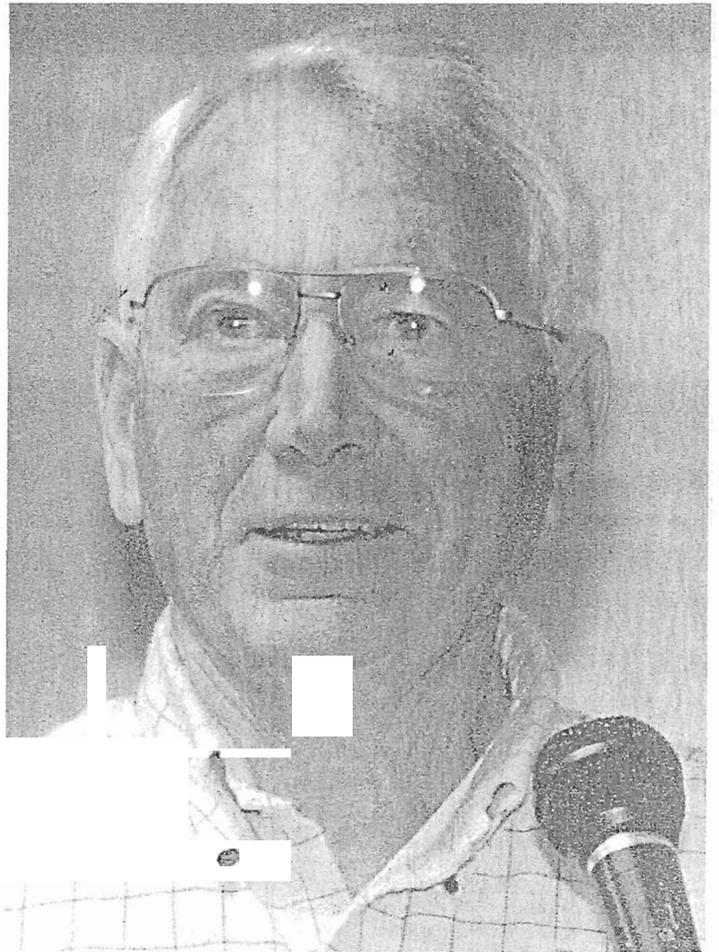
It is my opinion that TACFNY should follow whatever course necessary, and form whatever partnerships or collaborative efforts that will help us reach our goal of restoring the timber type American chestnut to its original range.

LONG LIVE THE AMERICAN CHESTNUT!

Herbert F. Darling, Jr.

CONGRATULATIONS HERB!

A week after presiding at the NY Chapter Annual Meeting, Herb Darling was elected President of the Board of the National American Chestnut Foundation at their annual meeting. Herb was one of the founders of the NY State Chapter over 10 years ago and is the first of all Chapter members to be elected to the highest TACF office. Nice going Herb!



DISTRICT 1: JOHN POTENTE, DIRECTOR

(Counties of Nassau and Suffolk)
1-516-232-1566

Eight saplings from Long Island cross-pollinated American chestnut trees and are now finishing up their second season in Hauppauge (on the private preserve of Native America). The four planted in the shade are one-foot tall. The four growing in the sun are two-feet tall.

Six trees, originally grown from the 1996 upstate fall seed harvest of TACFNY are now six feet tall in a planted orchard in Caleb Smith Park in Smithtown, NY and have produced catkins for the first time.

John gave a presentation on the American chestnut and the TACFNY program for the Moriches Bay Audubon Society in early November.

This year, three more flowering American chestnut trees were located on Long Island.

DISTRICT 2: MARGARET COLLINS, DIRECTOR

(NY CITY)
718-445-6436

District 2 is planning its spring chestnut-mapping project and is seeking volunteers to serve as borough coordinators. The project will involve verifying and mapping any previously reported chestnut trees, including trees listed in historical databases.

In addition, we will be seeking grants to help fund this and other planned projects.

Anyone interested in participating in either project should phone Margaret or e-mail her at NYCHESTNUT@AOL.COM.

DISTRICT 3: FRANK MUNZER, DIRECTOR

(Counties of Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester)
845-266-5138

The "Supertree" Reward Program generated a number of investigations and chances to talk to interested people about the American chestnut, some of whom joined TACF. Frank's team identified quite a few 4 to 6 inch DBH trees.

Frank reports: "We cleaned up the two main plantations in our district, Lasden and Weathersfield. We picked and brought to the nut exchange, 851 nuts from the Lasden Plantation. These were all second-generation nuts from trees we planted as far back as 1993. There was some question concerning the 1,600 nuts from the Weathersfield plantation, so we withdrew them from the nut exchange."

"We displayed the districts' display unit at a Special nature day event at Lasden, which was attended by a fair amount of people for a nice Sunday in April."

"Craig Hibben made two presentations, one to a local tree company who has sales people in the field who wanted to know about the American chestnut tree. The second group was the Consulting Foresters and DEC."

After learning about TACF from newspaper stories, Ann DuBois joined and attended the Annual Meeting.

DISTRICT 4: ALLEN NICHOLS, DIRECTOR

(Counties of Albany, Columbus, Delaware, Greene, Montgomery, Otsego, Rensselaer, Schenectady and Schoharie)
607-648-5512

Al reports: "In conjunction with the Supertree Reward offer, I contacted local foresters, gave presentations at several sportsman meetings, placed "wanted" posters in local sports shops and made up an identification display consisting of nuts, burs, leaves, a "wanted" poster and the TACF brochure. I had the identification display at two county fairs."

"These resulted in numerous leads to trees, which kept me busy most of the summer. The results were very encouraging. I located one tree that was over 18," but it was dead. The owner has cut the tree and is donating it to the American Chestnut Foundation. I am presently trying to find a buyer for it."

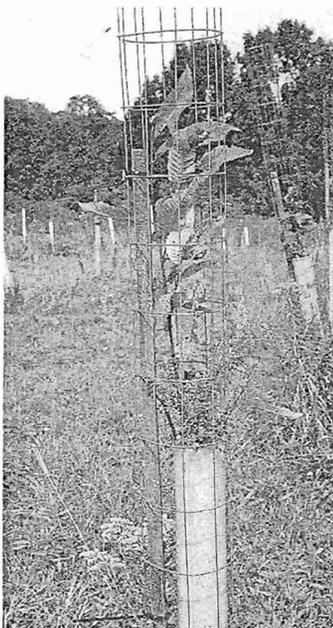
"I found two other trees that were over 14,' but they had the blight very bad and will not produce any nuts. I also found numerous other trees of smaller size, which hopefully will produce nuts in the future. Considering the size of the trees that I found, I am very confident that there are some Supertrees out there just waiting to be found."

This spring, Al's wife, Fran, who teaches 3rd grade at Laurens Central School, used the Charlie Chestnut curriculum and ten trees started by the students were planted in Gilbert Lake State Park.

Al also received over 100 two-year-old trees from the State Nursery in Saratoga that he planted with the help of the local Boy Scouts. These were planted in an area that was devastated by a tornado several years ago.

Al continues, "I went flying to locate trees while they were blossoming. I did not find any new trees, but large trees that are in blossom can be seen easily from the air: We went too early in the morning, so the sun was not shining on the west side of the hills or down on the top of trees. We hope to try it again next year."

Al collected over 600 viable nuts this year, but says he had gotten a late start so many of the nuts had already fallen from the burs.



District 7 tests of wire and tubular extenders to the starter tubes for seedlings has been successful in preventing deer damage as the sapling grows taller.

DISTRICT 6: T. URLING WALKER, DIRECTOR (Counties of Jefferson, Herkimer, Lewis, Oneida, and St. Lawrence) 315-782-3153

Tom has emphasized public awareness of the American chestnut's plight and the reasons for restoring the valuable forest tree. Growing the tree in the Watertown vicinity has not been easy due to the extreme changes in temperature and the soil's condition including its pH.

The DEC station in Lowville has made available twelve saplings which were planted in the "Conservancy Zoo." Eventually, those that thrive will be replanted in a demonstration area with signage telling of the blight of the American chestnut and its future.

DISTRICT 7: ROY HOPKE, DIRECTOR (Counties of Broome, Cayuga, Chenango, Cortland, Madison, Onondaga, Oswego, Tioga, and Tompkins) 607-648-5512. Snowhawke@juno.com

Members continue to soldier-on with seed collection, presentations to groups and continued planting. Roy says that is what we have to do until we have our solution.

About the District's continuing saga with marauding deer. Roy says, "Results were encouraging for our refurbishing of existing planted trees at Sherburne. Last spring we added wire and tube extensions to existing tubes to give more height protection from deer browsing. Some of the trees sprouted up to 4 feet over the growing season with the deer being excluded. We will continue with this program next spring."

DISTRICT 8: CHIP LEAVY, DIRECTOR (Counties of Chemung, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne and Yates) 585-293-2540. CCNURS@eznet.net

Chip and his wife have been growing between 1,000 and 1,500 American chestnut seedlings per year over the past four years. These have been distributed through the Soil and Water Conservation Dept. in the District. The distribution includes information about TACFNY.

Again this past year Chip participated in Monroe Co's Field Day with 20 minute presentations to 5th and 6th graders. He also spoke before service group meetings in the Corning area.

Chip investigated and confirmed two possible \$50 Reward winners in the Supertree Promotion. One was 1 5 DBH, the other 14" DBH.

Please step up and call Chip if you can help in the District. Tree planting, chestnut identification, educational programs, speaking to groups and more are some of the items you can help with.

DISTRICT 9: BILL SNYDER, DIRECTOR (Counties of Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Niagara and Wyoming) 716-839-5456

Plans are in progress for booths at future events such as the Erie County Fair (the largest County fair in America). In April the District will be back at the chestnut orchard at the DEC's Zoar Valley Multiple Use site for maintenance and replacement. This will include the culling of trees that are diseased or not pure American.

Director Snyder would like pour help in speaking to interested groups and organizations. It is an important communications goal of the TACFNY. Please contact him.

Here's How You Can Participate in Restoring Forest Diversity Starting with the American Chestnut

We needn't just witness forest destruction: the restoration of the American chestnut is the beginning of the reversal of the downward trend. Diversity is now a matter of decision we all make, not for the short term, or for 10 years... but for the truly long run, forever.

As you can readily see by the number of counties in each of the Districts listed in the "District News" column, there is a lot of ground to cover. Each Director would appreciate hearing from willing hands in their areas.

At the District level there is a continuing need to find and identify existing American chestnut trees. Some needs are more seasonal, such as expanding our genetic lines by pollination, seed collection of newly-found existing trees, or planting and maintaining the seed orchards. Other needs are the presentation of the American chestnut story to service groups and organizations, or sharing time in a TACFNY District booth.

Re-establishing our forest biodiversity is a real and long-term need. Please call your District Director and ask how you can help.

Not listed in the "District News" is: Director Adrien Gaudreau, District 5, covering the counties of Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Saratoga, Warren and Washington. 518-882-9424.

Did You Know?

Fifty-eight gene lines are now represented in the fifty-five planting sites across the state. Geneticists claim we will need one hundred gene lines to assure the restored American chestnut will be able to withstand the vagaries of nature, long-term.



It's Jim Donowick's turn up the tree to pick American chestnut burrs. Jim and Tom Deacon shared tree-climbing duties in northern Pennsylvania while Bill White supervised from below. Bill says there is a short period of time after a forest clear-cut when American chestnuts from old stump sprouts thrive to produce nuts before the blight cuts them down again. The pickers brought in six bushels of nuts in a single day.

- ✓ **New pollen transformation research**
- ✓ **Three genes for blight resistance**
- ✓ **Harvesters collect 11,000 nuts**

By Stan Wirsig, V.P. TACFNY

In early summer of 2001 our harvesters brought Professor Danny Fernando at the College of Environmental Science and Forestry (CESF) "several shoeboxes" of American chestnut catkins for his research on pollen transformation. They brought in pollen for about a month, finding early pollen at different times in different sites. Dr. Fred Hebard at Meadowview also supplied immature pollen as Dr. Danilo Fernando requested, earlier than New York pollen was available.

Danny started work on the new pollen immediately and stored some in the refrigerator, in the freezer and in liquid hydrogen, which will keep indefinitely until needed. At the annual meeting in October, Dr. Fernando gave an interesting presentation of different experiments being tried: Particle bombardment (with the gene gun); microinjection (time intensive but new techniques make it feasible); and electroporation (application of high intensity but short surge of electricity).

We saw green fluorescent cells (a marker) in some of his micrographs of pollen tubes indicating transformation. This work is continuing, along with the ongoing research of Dr. Charles Maynard and Dr. William Powell and their teams.

Dr. Maynard's team is making "treelets" in the lab by tissue culture, acclimatizing and planting them outdoors after mastering each step in the tree's life. This knowledge will guide the scientists at CESF in finding the right stage of growth to insert a tiny ring of genes (a plasmid) to fend off the blight. When a blight spore falls into a fresh wound or even a damp tree crotch, an American chestnut tree is doomed without some kind of protection.



During the October Annual Meeting Dr. Danilo Fernando explained some of the different experiments he is pursuing to transform American chestnut pollen. If successful, the pollen's use will save considerable time in producing resistant trees for reforestation.

Dr. Powell has chosen three genes for a blight resistant plasmid to use in transformation: chitinase, oxalate oxidase, and a small peptide. The strategy is to have 3 genes in case the blight mutates to silence one, or even two, (a remote possibility).

Chitinase is an enzyme that dissolves chitin, which is a hard, tough complex sugar used by fungi as the shell of its spores. To see how the defending genes repulse the blight's attack, it may make it clearer to remember that green plants produce a sugar during photosynthesis called glucose. It's also called grape sugar or blood sugar because it's carried in human blood to power our muscles. Glucose can be assembled into the substance called chitin, which is also used by insects for their shells (exoskeletons). Tropical people eat insects so perhaps man has the gene that dissolves chitinase, thus gaining nourishing glucose. (Have you served any chocolate covered ants lately?)

Blight makes oxalic acid to kill chestnut cells before digesting them. A gene product called oxalate oxidase destroys this acid. Man may have this gene since we enjoy the tart taste of oxalic acid in our spinach, and it doesn't seem to hurt us.

The third gene is a small peptide that blocks a step in the blight's growth. This peptide is a protein that we can digest, but won't have to since the promotor does not act in nuts or leaves, only in the bark (cambium). Thus it does not affect insects that feed on chestnut leaves in case they are important pollinators.

To summarize: The blight attacks; the promotor turns on the genes; the gene makes a gene product; the product acts to correct the situation; the promotor turns genes off. Genes act by producing a gene product such as enzymes, hormones, etc.

Our fall harvesters brought in the biggest harvest we have ever had for the exchange: 11,000 nuts. Our planters' requests were filled first for increasing our orchards, then CESF received a large number for research, and the NY DEC Nursery, also TACF for programs in Ohio, Connecticut and Maine. It's also the first time we have ever recorded over 1,000 nuts from one tree.

Dr. Richard Zander of the Buffalo Museum of Science, who does the taxonomy for the New York Chapter, detected hybrid signs in a few trees, the nuts of which were not used for the pure American plantings. The field crews are taking a hard look at these to consider a plan for roguing, as well as the trees which were found during the survey done in 2000. We plan to check all orchards again, hopefully next summer.

We have reached another program milestone. The database for our genealogy has to be extended to identify the 3rd generation. The significance of this is that we have looked at each of 3 generations of family (cell) lines and any line with serious faults will be rogued. Except for the hybrids, so far, no defects have shown up, although it is still a little early to be sure.

As Dr. Jim Coufal, retired Dean of Forestry, Professor Emeritus at CESF, and one of our speakers at the annual meeting said: "Keep on doing what you're doing and plant lots of good trees."

Many thanks to all of you for your hard work in doing just that.

By John Ellis, TACFNY Director

Onaquaga was an ancient Iroquoian village that occupied an island in the Susquehanna River, approximately two (2) miles upstream of the present day Village of Windsor, Broome County. Onaquaga, which translates to "Place of Wild Grapes," was the stronghold of the Mohawk Leader, Joseph Brant, who fought on the side of the British during the American Revolution.

On the West Branch of the Delaware River at the present day Village of Deposit, NY, was another Indian village called Kookoose. In the language of the Delaware (Lenni-Lenape) Indians, Kookoose meant "Owl's Nest" or "Place of Owls" An archeological dig during the winter and spring of 2001 puts human habitation at this site to be 1,000 years before the present.

Linking the two villages was an old and important Indian trail which connected the Onaquaga and Kookoose villages. The route of this important trail was chosen because it was the shortest portage between the Delaware and Susquehanna Rivers. This trail was much used by both the Native Indians and the early European settlers. (Editor's note: This trail runs through the author's property.)

Interesting as these historical facts are, you may ask, "What has this to do with *Castanea dentata*?" The first evidence of agriculture in New York State has been found in Broome County and dates back about 1,000 years. Of course this was the agriculture of "The Three Sisters"¹—corn (maize), beans and squash. But the Archaic Indians have been in New York State for approximately 6,000 years. So what did these ancient people survive on? One part of the answer might be "Onye'Sta," an Iroquoian word for chestnuts.

Michael Kudish, in his recently published book, "The Catskill Forest—A History," states that Native Americans and the nut trees (including the chestnut) arrived simultaneously. The Indians' practice of burning the vegetation for agriculture resulted in the nut trees migrating North with them. He speculates that these Archaic Indians might even have planted some of these nut trees.

In 1769, Mr. Richard Smith, a lawyer from Burlington, New Jersey, traveled up the Hudson and Mohawk Rivers and down the Susquehanna to inspect and survey a land

grant near the present day village of Otego, Otsego County. On his return trip home he continued down the Susquehanna, stopping at Onaquaga and then by horseback across the portage trail to Kookoose.

Both while traversing the Susquehanna and at Kookoose, Mr. Smith did observe the Indians burning the woodlands. He also noted the presence of chestnut trees growing along the course of the portage trail.

The Indians' fire method of land clearing for agriculture also encouraged the spread of fire tolerant tree species, such as oaks and chestnuts. The Indians may also have used fire to improve conditions in their hunting grounds. Since the American chestnut tree produced a large and dependable crop of nuts, the early Indians also may have followed the example of the squirrel and the bluejay by planting chestnut seeds as both a food crop for themselves and as a wildlife feed for their game animals. The bark of the chestnut tree was used also to cover the longhouses and wigwams of the Indians.

Remnant chestnut trees around the former villages of Onaquaga and Kookoose as well as the trail between them have contributed to TACFNY's program to restore the American chestnut to our forests. This is due mainly to the efforts of James Donowick who has conducted fieldwork and seed collection from trees growing on ridges above the location of both villages and the high forests along the portage trail.

It gives one a good feeling to dream that it may have been the American Indian who first brought the chestnut tree to New York State. It's another good feeling to hope that the efforts of TACFNY may return the "King" to the forest.

If you know a grade 3 through grade 6 school teacher, please pass along a few of these brochures outlining TACF's online and classroom interdisciplinary curriculum. Contact for copies: TACF (802) 447-0110 or chestnut@acf.org. Postal address: Box 4044, Suite 1. Bennington, VT 05201

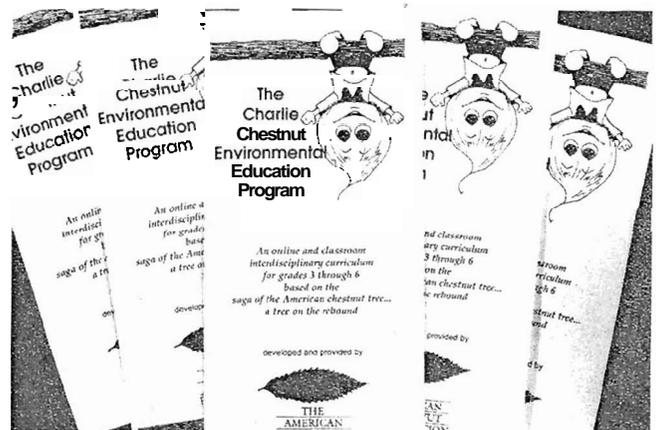
School Educational Program

Now on Website –
www.charliechestnut.org

TACFNY'S five-year-old Charlie Chestnut educational program originally developed for grades 3 through 5 has been readapted by TACF for use throughout the USA. Still directed for classroom work, it is a resource for anyone who wants to learn about the American chestnut, its ecology, history and uses. And it opens the door to a general understanding of tree biology, forest ecology, and the interdependence of forest, trees and wildlife.

The Website is a tour through Charlie's scrapbook, which illustrates his grand and sometimes tragic history. Through lessons in America's living history and global culture, children learn social studies. The Website teaches science with a focus on tree growth, forest ecology, and biodiversity. Math is used to highlight Charlie's family's stature and history. Several games help teach tree identification, vocabulary, and introduce children to the food chain. Teacher's resources include a free online newsletter, lesson plans, vocabulary lists, plus additional reading materials to expand the curriculum (and opportunity to download the entire original classroom handbook). There is even a section that provides career information.

The expanded Charlie Chestnut program was developed by TACF in cooperation with the Internet developer Knowledge Environments, Inc. The Environmental Education Curriculum Package is available for \$99. If you know any elementary school teachers, ask them to check the Website: www.charliechestnut.org.



THEY CAME IN LAUGHING

Folks coming to the 11th Annual Meeting of the NY Chapter of TACF had just read the Painted Post/Corning Holiday Inn Marquee – "WELCOME AMERICAN CHESTNUTS!" It was a small marquee.

In his welcoming remarks October 20, President Darling gave some of the highlights of the year 2001, and reported the results of the new Reward Program seeking to find undocumented American chestnut mother trees in New York. Flyers have been distributed through the NY DEC offices plus news releases. Over 250 responses have been received although no "Supertrees" have been found. There are some young additions to the mother tree bank.

A presentation of the biotechnology research being done at the College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse (CESF) was given by Dr. Charles Maynard and Dr. Danilo Fernando. Dr. Maynard described some of the interesting work they are doing. Dr. Fernando intrigued everyone with the "green spots" shown in some of his micrographs indicating transformation. (See the Science Report.)

Dr. Paul Sisco, TACF Staff Geneticist, brought us an excellent update on the back-cross research being carried out at the TACF Meadowview Farms in Virginia. They are now to the point of BC3F3 nuts and approaching the time of having the American/Chinese 15/16ths tree in the next few years. Work is also being done to add to the cell lines and increase genetic diversity.



During the two Annual Meeting Workshops, those seated heard James Coufal, Prof. Emeritus, CESF, discussing what should be considered in reforestation. The group standing at top right is gathered around Dr. Zander, Curator at the Buffalo Museum of Science, as he conducted an expert identification workshop.

Dr. Richard Zander of the Buffalo Museum of Science, who does the taxonomy for our Chapter, conducted an expert identification workshop offering various techniques for detecting hybrid strains.

James Coufal, former Dean of Forestry at Syracuse, and Professor Emeritus at CESF, conducted a workshop on aspects in the history of the American chestnut since the ice age which should be considered in the restoration – wind, water, fire, type of soil throughout the range. His question of, "What is an American Chestnut?" as indicated in our mission statement stirred much corridor discussion.

Luncheon was highlighted by DEC forester "Billy" Morris who told us stories of the former great chestnut forests in the area, and regretted the lack of any remaining big trees for a field trip. Even the name of our immediate location "gang mills" referred to the giant sawmills where chestnut lumber was the most important product. He urged that land and trees be conserved not just preserved.

A field trip to the newly renovated Coming Glass Museum and visits to the historic Market Street were enjoyed during the afternoon. The hard working harvest exchange team preceded their trip with preparing the packaging of the nut mixtures for the various planters. It was greatly expedited this year by computer gurus Jim and Dana Kruser who brought their whole set up of computer, monitor and printer which provided fast sorting and printed stickers. It was much appreciated.

President Darling made a presentation of an American chestnut plaque to Sharon Lapierre, CESF Lab Manager, for her 7 years of work and achievements in the American chestnut research program. Her recent research with the TLC project (Tender Loving Care) has made her even more a part of the family. This entailed farming out treelets grown from tissue culture in the lab to various TACFNY members to care for on their property, monitor and then report to Sharon for the records. She will be missed.

Our keynote dinner speaker, Mr. Marshal Case, Executive Director of TACF, brought us up to date on national happenings. Among them were... TACF now has 8 Chapters with Tennessee to be accepted at the 2001 national meeting and Alabama and New Hampshire in the wings... the national membership is now over 5,000... and the national budget is a proposed \$1,100,000 for 2002.

Marshal continued by saying... there is a beginning effort to unify the database system of all Chapter chestnut planters and a workshop will be held to discuss various approaches... a new partnership has been developed with Penn State to work with advanced Meadowview nuts and have a presence in their new arboretum. Ten acres have been committed to chestnut planting and a membership education area... and enthusiasm is being shown for the new online educational program based on the NY Chapter's original Charlie Chestnut program (see "School Educational Program" in this issue).

New goals and budget for 2002 were adopted at the annual Board meeting, October 21.

At the conclusion of the 11th Annual Meeting, the comment often heard was, "Now *rkot* was a stimulating weekend!"

Thanks To:

- Member Richard Pope of Corning, both for his chestnut-wood kaleidoscope, which was auctioned for the Chapter's benefit, and for his role of magician at the chestnut annual dinner.
- Member Bethany White who conducted the very successful raffle.
- And all those who contributed to making the Annual Meeting the success that it was.

Reward for finding a "Supertree" extended through 2002

The Rewards Program for those finding new American chestnut "Supertrees" during 2001 was only partially successful. Although our District Directors chased down over 250 leads, only two were located with diameters over 1 4 DBH. However, perhaps half of the investigations turned up American chestnuts that with luck could survive the blight to reach Reward size in the future.

Because TACFNY did not reach its size goal despite public interest, it has been decided to continue the Reward Program through 2002. TACFNY will pay 3100 for the first 10 American chestnut trees over 18" DBH and \$50 for the first 10 over 1 4 DBH. The trees must be in NY State, found during 2002, and not previously recorded by TACFNY. It is necessary that the property owner allow access for identification, pollination and/or seed collection.

For identification material write for TACFNY's "Identification Bulletin" or visit the following websites: www.acf.org and the Botany section of the Buffalo Museum of Science web page, www.buffalomuseumofscience.org/botchestnut.html#chkey.htm.

To claim your reward, send a twig with a few leaves and, if possible, several leaves from different areas of the tree to: Dr. Richard Zander, TACFNY, c/o Buffalo Museum of Science, 1020 Humboldt Parkway, Buffalo, NY 14211. If you have questions, please contact your District Director.

ELECTIONS

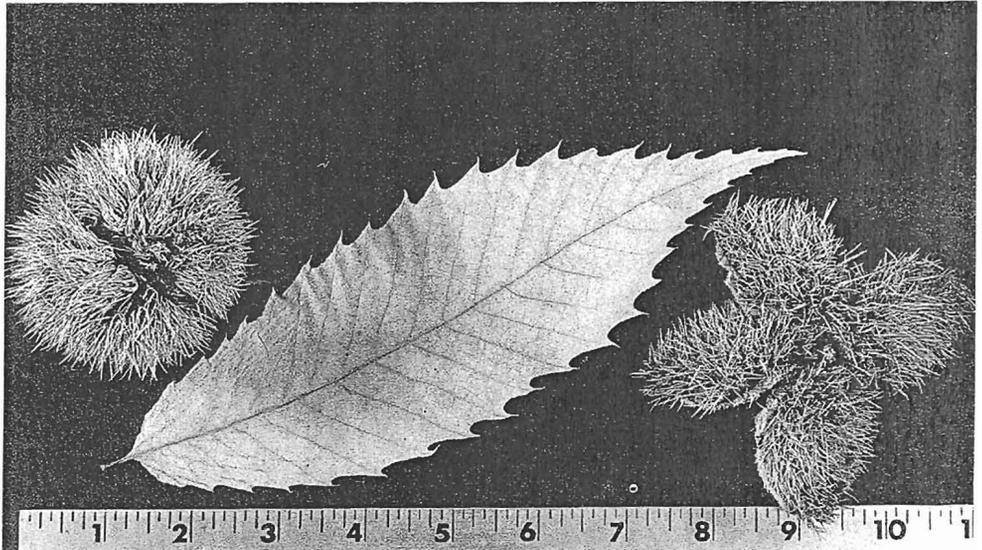
At the Annual Meeting the following were elected to the Board of Directors for the year 2002:

Thomas Deacon	Ted Kozlowski
Jim Donowick	Dr. Charles Lamb
John Ellis	Alan Nichols
Adrien Gaudreau	Dr. John Potente
Craig Hibben	T. Urling Walker
Bill White	

(The above will join other members serving longer terms.)

Also, the following officers for 2002 were elected:

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



REWARD! For additional ID information write for TACFNY's "Identification Bulletin" or see the website of the Botany section of the Buffalo Museum of Science, www.buffalomuseumofscience.org/botchestnut.html#chkey.htm or TACF website www.acf.org.

LONG LIVE THE NEW "SUPERTREE"

During the year 2001, the largest known American chestnut tree in NY State succumbed to the deadly blight. Dubbed the "Tarbox" tree, it measured a full 23.4 in diameter at breast height (DBH). It grew in Arkwright Township in the county of Chautauqua and by cross-pollination with the "Nagle" tree produced over 150 nuts, which are now in the ACFNY gene pool.

As the largest tree in the state, it reigned as TACFNY's Supertree, its owner receiving the "Supertree Award."

Now that it is gone, the honor will be bestowed on the "Friendship" tree which measures 18.5 DBH. This tree is located in the town of Friendship in the county of Allegany and was discovered by its owner, Phil Ackerman, in 1999. It is an exceptionally healthy tree with no signs of the blight.

At our recent Annual Meeting, Dale Travis, a member from NY City, offered to prepare a new commemorative plaque. The "Friendship" tree will reign as the NY State "Supertree" until one larger is found or it also dies from the blight. The plaque will then move on to the new owner.

100 YEARS AGO

The following are clips from *The Deposit Courier*, a Southern Tier newspaper, submitted by John Ellis, TACFNY Director.

October 17, 1900 – Chestnuts are plentiful this season. Bert Thomas of Sherman shipped a large quantity to New York last week. Over 4,000 pounds were also shipped from Oxford to New York.

July 25, 1901 – If present indications hold good, an immense crop of chestnuts will be gathered this fall. The burrs are beginning to appear.

September 19, 1901 – Signs of fall abound, the leaves are beginning to turn and chestnuts have made their appearance in the market.

October 4, 1901 – Chestnuts are bringing \$10 a bushel in New York now. Many in this vicinity are shipping. The first lots brought \$13.

November 28, 1901 – Lumber lot for sale – 100 acres, 7 miles from Cannonsville, near Rock Royal. Has standing 600,000 feet second-growth timber, 3,000 chestnut ties and 200,000 feet of maple.

December 4, 1901 – Twelve tons of chestnuts have been shipped from Montrose, PA this fall.

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

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE

BUFFALO, NY
Permit No. 2964

THE BUR

A thought for Autumn...

*A stillness, the bark of a dog far away
Geese winging over the forest cover
A chipmunk disappears behind a skeleton of an old chestnut stump
The chatter of a red squirrel dropping burrs to be opened later
A continuous spree from nature's forest haven
The graceful white vines, the mighty red oak blend in nicely with the majestic American Chestnuts
It's that time of year mists almost upon us, that silence, the chill in the air, that gust of wind that seems to
Sneak up behind us
It's almost time for the nut gatherers to enter the forest*

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