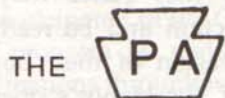


Chestnut Tree



CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN CHESTNUT FOUNDATION



Volume. 2 No. 2

September 1996

Chapter Board Plans Varied Fall Agenda

The PA Chapter Board meeting was held at PA Chapter headquarters at Brogue in July. Six area coordinators were unable to join the meeting. A total of 14 attended. The PA chapter received \$675 in donations toward the purchase of a farm tractor. An additional \$1325 was granted for a total of \$2000 toward the \$4000 requested by ACF. An appeal for the rest will be made via September newsletter.

As the chapter has grown so has the workload. Doris Goldman offered to investigate the possibility of a donated computer from Defense Department. She found they were restricted as gifts to schools. Doris is

(Continued on page 7)

New Memberships Are Lagging Badly

New memberships are at a standstill, and renewals are very, very slow.

It must be the season, or the *Off* season. The time between planting and harvest fields everyone doing something other than thinking chestnuts. This is not true of the planters, of course. They're busy.

Members are all the chapter's got, and the more the merrier. The yellow reminder on memberships is inserted again in this newsletter. Use it if you need to, and if you don't, pass it along to a prospective member. And after reading, send your copy of the newsletter with it.

Meadowview Farm Planting 2300 Nuts

The ACF Science and Development Cabinets and Board of Directors spent a weekend making plans for the future of ACF.

Friday afternoon was spent touring the new Glenn Price Farm where ground has been broken and the first planting of 2300 nuts are well on the way to becoming trees.

The farm frontage, presently an unattractive jumble of out buildings, some to be retained, some needing to be demolished is already being tackled. The view from the first rise is a beautiful pastoral scene with the Blue Ridge Mountains as a backdrop. You can easily envision a chestnut forest.

Chapter Backs Purchase of New Tractor

*Contributed by Bill Lord
ACF Board of Directors*

Dr. Fred Hebard, Superintendent of Meadowview Research Farms in Virginia needs a new tractor. The old heavily-used tractor is unreliable and the cost of maintenance and repair has become prohibitive.

This year the PA Chapter helped to acquire a used truck mounted "cherry picker" that enabled Fred, farm crew and volunteers to place 6000 protective glaucine pollinating bags on breeding trees this spring as compared to 2000 last spring. Proper equipment in good

(Continued on page 7)

PA Chapter Builds Relationship with Tyler Arboretum

PA Chapter met again with representatives of Tyler Arboretum in August.

President Ann Leffel and Bob Leffel, breeding program director, were there for the chapter, along with Al Eelman, board member.

Representing Tyler were: Richard Colbert, director; Gerry Leferriere, groundskeeper, John Bartley, Education Director and Jim Janczewski, Curator.

Emphasis was on education. Director Bartley related that Tyler offered school programs for grades 1 through 6 and asked for an education packet from the chapter. President Leffel offered a coloring book and story book for children and said the chapter will soon publish a hand

(Continued on Page 7)

Volunteer Time For Farm Show

It's volunteer time for the Pennsylvania Farm Show Jan. 11 thru 16.

Board member Dan Heacock can use all the help he can get to man the chestnut booth. Because of "the storm of the century" which cut Farm Show attendance drastically, the exhibit didn't get off to a good start its first year. Dan hopes for better weather and more volunteers to assist in this best of all publicity projects.

Call Dan Heacock at 717-957-2733 or 717-232-5300 or write to Dan at 1870 New Valley Road, Marysville, PA 17053.

President's Message

Ann Leffel

The attempts made by Pennsylvania to control the spread of chestnut blight through the state is an almost incredible story. It is an account of people struggling against an unknown and formidable enemy, the blight, and struggling against time. It involves the joint effort of people with diverse ideas and abilities and the resulting conflict and compromises. It is the story of people who live together in community trying to solve a problem which affects them as individuals and as a community, and of what they did in cooperation to make the most of a tough situation.

This story is well documented in a heavy volume of over 650 pages entitled *The Publications of the*

Pennsylvania Chestnut Tree Blight Commission. The commission was established June 14, 1911 and worked until July 25, 1913. Through quotations and excerpts taken from the volume and presented as news stories of the time, we have attempted to capture some of the events and the flavor of the era in a special history section of the newsletter. A series of articles will follow in future issues. We hope you will learn from and enjoy this step into the past. It should inspire Pennsylvanians of today to continue the battle of the blight with the same vigor and dedication that our ancestors displayed. We have the advantages of a method of fighting the blight that will be successful.

HISTORY of CHESTNUT BLIGHT

Governor Tener Signs Law

On June 14, 1911, by unanimous vote of both houses, the Pennsylvania Legislature passed an act providing for the appointment of a five-member commission to attack and destroy the Chestnut Bark Disease by whatever method they may adopt. It provides an appropriation of \$25,000 for scientific investigations and \$250,000 for field work for the prevention, control and eradication of the chestnut blight. The Commission has the power to enforce quarantine against the disease.

Blight Invades Pennsylvania

July 1911 — the authorities of the United States Department of Agriculture and officials of various state officials investigated the extent of the ravages of the Chestnut Bark Disease (blight).

In 1904 Dr. H. W. Merkel first called attention to the disease which was then killing the chestnut trees in

the Bronx Zoological Park in New York City. It has since radiated from New York, north to New Hampshire, south to Virginia and west into Central Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Authorities report an alarming spread of blight in Southeastern Pennsylvania. They estimate infection in 80% of the trees in Bucks, Montgomery, Chester, Delaware, and Philadelphia Counties, 50% in Pike, Monroe, Carbon, Northampton, Lehigh, Berks, Lancaster and York Counties, and 15% in Wayne, Lackawanna, Wyoming, Luzerne, Columbia, Montour, Northumberland, Union, Snyder, Juniata, Perry, Dauphin, Schuylkill, Lebanon, Cumberland, Franklin and Adams Counties. A quarantine line has been established between these counties and the western part of the state. Few people in the state realize how rapid and how devastating has been the progress of the blight. The commercial value of the timber and nuts lost has been great. "The threat of even greater losses looms imminently."

Governor Convenes Conference of Eastern States

Feb. 20 - 21, 1912 — Governor Tener hopes that states may be aroused to action and be ready to meet the invasion of their border. Highlights of His Honor's opening address:

"The Conference has been called for the purpose of obtaining all possible information concerning the best methods of fighting the destructive fungus disease . . . It seems almost unthinkable that this disease should have invaded so large an area and that no means of preventing its spread is yet at hand. It is, therefore, entirely in accord with the American spirit that we make every effort to destroy or check the advance of this blight.

"The value of this tree in the State of Virginia is reliably conceded by competent authority to be not less than thirty-five million of dollars. I believe that in Pennsylvania by a very conservative estimate, placing a valuation of fifty cents upon each tree in our woodlands, that the value of this wild chestnut tree is at least forty million of dollars.

"The time to act is now, and not after the scientific world has more fully worked out the history and pathology of the disease. Present day practical measures may well be aided by scientific inquiry, but the one by no means must wait upon the other . . . As Admiral Dewey, at the outset of our war with Spain, was directed by President McKinley to seek out the Spanish fleet and destroy it, so it might be said that the only direction given the PA Commission was to find this dread chestnut bark disease, and destroy it."

Speaker, Professor J. Franklin Collins, the Assistant Pathologist in the Federal Department of Agriculture, considering the question "What can be done?", presented three options: First: do nothing, let the disease run its course. Second: conduct scientific investigations

(Continued on page 7)

Who's Who in Chestnuts . . .

Many members have actively participated in the Chapter breeding program by making controlled pollinations throughout the state this summer. These volunteers are responsible for developing new parent lines to increase genetic diversity and provide local adaptation of blight resistant chestnuts in the state. That's one of the chapter's major goals. Thanks to all the following: **Bill Lord and Pat Johnson**, Butler Co.; **Pat Chamberlain**, Erie Co.; **George Dickum**, Bedford Co.; **Tom Pugel**, Somerset and Fulton Cos.; **Mark and Sharon Morrow**, Berks Co.; **Bob Leffel and Harold Floyd**, Schuylkill Co.; **Chandis Klinger**, Snyder Co.

Another pollinating activity involved training pollinators as well as developing new lines at the York County 'Ort' Tree. Participating in bagging and pollinating efforts were **Norm Wurzbach**, **Al Eelman**, **Alan Gehret**, **David Ort**, **Erin Meagher**, **Eugene Witmeyer**, **Barry McFarland**, **Jim Koenig**, **Ann** and **Bob Leffel**.

The group ranged in age from 13 to 75 and included a student, park naturalist, truck driver, cattle breeder, campground proprietor, self-employed salesman, farmer, teacher and retiree. Diversity. That's what it takes to make an organization successful and very interesting.

Charlotte Barnhart, our membership chairman, our membership committee, our hostess for Chapter meeting at the News Printing Co. farm, the person who prepares the newsletter for printing, addresses and mails them, is a PA Chapter volunteer who knows what it takes to keep an organization going, and gives what it takes. She's also a super saleswoman. At a recent family gathering she convinced everyone that they needed a PA Chapter T-shirt.

Now it only makes sense that it is easier for 100 people to each

bring in one new member than it is for one person to bring in 100. Let's each become a part of the membership committee. We've grown from 170 to 250 members. Our goal is 340 by April. Bring in a member!

Because **Charlotte** has recently been ill with pneumonia, our September newsletter is late arriving, and new members may not have yet received their welcome packets.

Eugene Witmeyer is our coordinator for Lancaster and Lebanon Counties. He arranged for a regional meeting at the Pinch Pond Family Campground near Manheim on Sept. 13.

Eugene, born in 1920, has lived in Manheim except for an absence during his five years as a mechanic in the Air Force during WW II. After the war he worked as a tool and die maker and completed his career in the engineering department of Federal Mogul, Inc. He is a long-standing member of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers. Gene and a partner established the Pinch

Pond Family Campground 26 years ago. He and his wife **Thelma** have three daughters and two grandchildren, one of whom now manages the campground. Gene is always ready to lend a hand in planting, fertilizing, and pollinating trees and supports the meetings with his attendance.

Kyla Hebard assists her dad, **Fred**, down at Meadowview Farm with the research work. Her Science Fair project helped Fred to determine the best planting medium for chestnut trees. The chestnut seeds in the orchard are planted in a 3-inch deep hole cut with a bulb cutter. The soil is replaced by a mix of equal parts peat moss, perlite and vermiculate. In the soils at Meadowview which retain water this mix works best as **Kyla** proved in her Science Fair experiment.

Pennsylvania Chapter added four to the ranks of volunteers at Meadowview Research Farms this summer. Learning the techniques of emasculating, bagging and pollinat-

(Continued on page 7)

PA Chapter American Chestnut Foundation

April 1996- April 1997

Board of Directors

President, **Ann Leffel**; vice president, **Dan Heacock**; secretary, **William Lord**; treasurer, **Tracey Coulter**; directors, **Robert Leffel**, **Chandis Klinger**, **Al Eelman**, **Tom Pugel**, **William Peifer** and **Rich Pollini**

Sponsors

Charlotte Barnhart, H. A. "Barney Barnhart

Committees

Membership, **Charlotte Barnhart**; co-editors of newsletter, "Barney" **Barnhart** and **Ann Leffel**; public relations and education, **Dan Heacock**, **Tracey Coulter** and **Al Eelman**; tree location, **Chandis Klinger**; breeding program, **Bob Leffel**, **Tom Pugel**, **Bill Peifer** and **Chandis Klinger**; grants, **Bill Lord**, and **Larry Patchel**

Area Coordinators

Rosina Coltellaro — 215-625-2482 — Phila., Delaware and Montgomery
Eugene Dougherty — 717-467-2303 — Schuylkill, Luzerne, Carbon, Monroe
Chandis Klinger — 717-837-0457 — Snyder, Union
Pat Chamberlain — 814-756-3197 — Erie, Crawford, Warren
Dan Heacock — 717-957-2733 — Perry and Dauphin
Bill Lord — 412-793-0255 — Allegheny
Tom Pugel — 610-346-6198 — Bucks, Somerset
Tracey Coulter — 717-486-8935 — Cumberland
Herb Gedmark — 717-774-7313 — York
Rod Clapper — 814-842-3307 — Bedford
Doris Goldman — 717-762-0755 — Franklin, Adams, Fulton
Jim Koenig — 814-539-8632 — Cambria
Eugene Witmeyer, — 717-665-4103 — Lancaster and Lebanon

Chestnut Harvest Information

by Bob Leffel

Breeding Program Chairman

Chestnut trees vary in date of maturity of seed. Monitor your seed trees at least twice a week during September for seed development and predators. Remember, many burs with seed coats but no seed open and fall prematurely. Ideally, harvest all burs of a tree when its fertile burs just begin to open: Last year's harvest of the 'Ort' tree in York County in late September resulted in highly germinable seed. In general the harvest season is the last week in September thru the second week in October depending on elevation.

Be sure to maintain the identity of the tree from which seed is harvested, and keep the control bags, cross bags, and open-pollination burs in separate seed lots. Remove burs from bags and store in baskets or boxes in a cool, dark room free of rodents.

Remove the seed from the burs during the next 10 days after the burs open and the seed detaches from the bur. Then, remove all remaining seed from non-opening burs, and record the number of bags and seeds of each subplot. Keep seed lots separate and label them accurately.

For spring planting, immediately place the seed in moist but not wet peat moss, in perforated, plastic vegetable bags, or a poly food container with loose-fitting lid.

Layer in rows to prevent seeds from contacting one another. Provide identification and count of seed lot, within and outside the plastic bag. Store the seed bags in refrigerated condition, just above freezing. **Do not allow seed to freeze.** Freezing within a refrigerator in a non-heated area during a blizzard can be prevented by a kettle of boiling water within refrigerator, morning and night. Monitor with a thermometer — "chestnut setting". Some of the seeds will sprout before spring planting but, properly han-

dled, will produce good trees.

Seed Needed For Nurseries

PA Chapter ACF is cooperating with several arboretums and other organizations in establishing nurseries of native Pennsylvania American Chestnuts. This requires **YOUR** participation in collecting seed this fall from verified Pennsylvania American Chestnuts. The seed lots will be planted in American Chestnut nurseries for verification and will serve as germ plasm for Pennsylvania backcross breeding programs. We need a curator with adequate seed storage facilities for this activity **NOW!** Do any of our members have access to refrigerators or lockers that can maintain 32 degree temperatures?

When collecting leaf samples for verification as American, select twigs that are growing in the sunlight and that preferably have no burs. Place an 8 to 10" length of twig in a 9 x 12 brown manila envelope and mail to PA Chapter. Do not enclose samples in waxed paper or plastic which causes leaves to mold.

Be sure to scout the area for chestnut trees other than American. Include information about the size, condition, and location of the tree and approximate number of burs available.

Weevil Control Very Important

by Ann Leffel

One of the most common telephone inquiries received is about how to rid chestnuts of the chestnut weevil, those little white larva that crawl out of the nut after harvest.

After gathering information from several sources I ran a little experiment last fall. After harvesting our Chinese chestnuts I divided them into four lots of 30 nuts each.

Treatment 1 — spread nuts on

tray in cool, dark dry location for seven days.

Treatment 2 — Held nuts in 110 degree water for 10 minutes, let them dry and then spread out as in treatment 1.

Treatment 3 — Held nuts in 120 degree water for 10 minutes. let them dry and then spread out as in treatment 1.

Treatment 4 — You're not going to believe this! At our October Chapter meeting, George Dickum of the North American Nut Growers Association and great friend of PA Chapter said he had observed squirrels nipping off the blossom end of the nuts and observed that those nuts rarely had weevils. I could not resist the challenge even though I thought he may be testing my gullibility. I snipped off the blossom end (a sharp knife or fingernail clippers work well) and spread them out as in treatment 1. This removes eggs and they do not develop into weevils.

After 7 days I returned.

Treatment 1 — Every nut had at least one hole where weevils came out. The tray was loaded with weevils.

Treatment 2 — The tray was loaded with weevils.

Treatment 3 — There were no weevils.

Treatment 4 — **There were no weevils!** (Husband Bob wouldn't believe me so I'm going to repeat the experiment under his observation. This time I will also over winter the nuts and plant them in the spring to test for germination. Fred Hebard indicated that as long as the larva don't eat the embryo the nut will be viable unless it rots before spring planting.)

Chapter Seeking Gifts and Grants

Members are reminded that membership dues are not sufficient to finance the state's backcross breeding program. All must be on the lookout for gifts and grants.

More Information on Weevil Control

To protect chestnuts from weevils several measures can be taken.

1. Pick up fallen burs daily and keep area under tree clean. This prevents larva from burrowing into the ground where they over winter. It will reduce next year's weevil crop.

2. Spray trees with Sevin every 10-14 days beginning in August until two weeks before harvest. This kills adult weevil before eggs are laid in the nuts (American Chestnut Foundation).

3. Spray trees with Malathion 25% wettable powder applied at rate of 6 pounds per 100 gallons of water (2 tablespoons per 1.04 gallons). The application dates are August 15 and 23 and Sept. 1. Hygiene is also important. All leaves, burs, twigs and culled nuts should be collected and burned regularly to reduce recycling of weevils. (PA Nut Growers Assoc.)

4. Follow the practice of the squirrels and nip off blossom ends of nuts.

5. You can eliminate worms from nuts for eating by freezing them immediately after prompt harvest. This will however, kill the embryo and the nut will not germinate if planted.

6. Nuts for eating can be dewormed by holding them in 120 degree water bath for 20 minutes (not 122 degrees or above; not 116 degrees or below). The eggs will be killed and not hatch. Treatment must be done immediately after harvest. Spread out and dry for a couple of days before refrigerating to avoid mold.

Reports Needed on Chestnut Plantings

For many members there will be no nuts to harvest on newly planted trees, but it is the time of year for harvesting information about those plantings. Please send to Bob Leffel, P.O. Box 7, Brogue, PA 17309, a report on the seeds you received and planted this spring from PA Chapter. Please include number of seeds

Cooking with Chestnuts

To prepare chestnut for use in recipes either slit shell with sharp knife or cut nut in half. Place nuts in boiling water for five minutes. Remove nuts from water with slotted spoon a few at a time and peel as soon as they are cool enough to handle. Remove pellicle (dark skin) as well as outer shell. If they don't peel easily cook a little longer.

The following recipe was submitted by John Marunich from Falls, PA in Wyoming County.

Chestnut Dressing

Grind the following ingredients:

20 American chestnuts

8 Italian chestnuts

2 medium onions

5 stalks of celery

Grind all turkey giblets, using half for dressing and half for gravy

Cook 1 box of wild rice (keep separate)

Cook 2 cups of white rice (keep separate). Allow rice to cool.

Combine:

All ingredients, add one egg and mix together

Stuff the turkey. Keep in refrigerator overnight (important for flavor).

This is for a 14 to 18 pound turkey.

Another simple way to enjoy chestnuts:

Roasted Chestnuts

Using a sharp knife cut a slash or an X in the side of the shell. In a dry skillet shake nuts over medium heat for about 20 minutes until shell begins to curl away from the nut.

number surviving. Include the valuable information about your experience, such as heights attained, how many seeds sprouted more than one tree, causes of loss of trees, etc. Your information will be included in our annual report to ACF. Please send by Oct. 5. Members who wish to help with the ACF breeding program can do so by planting and caring for a small nursery plot of native American trees. A plot of 10 trees grown from seed from the same American parent, planted in 2 rows 10 feet apart, plants 5 feet apart within the row if properly planted, weeded and fertilized should produce a small plot of trees which in 5-6 years should produce enough female flowers to develop a new parent line for Pennsylvania. A great project for a youngster having an interest in nature. By the time the young boy or girl reaches high school years they will have an opportunity to make

Leffels Report

As an example, below is the report of Ann and Bob Leffel on the B3 (third backcross) planting at the Brogue nursery.

Planted April 3 were: 8 American, Floyd; 8 Chinese, ACF; 10 F1, ACF; 154 B3, Ort Tree.

Nuts were planted in 3' tree shelters for protection from deer, groundhogs and rodents. Germination rate was 94% by May 30, 1996. Survival rate was 93.3% (168 trees) by Sept. 9.

1. Fertilized with Miracid 1-1/2 T/gal of water, 1 qt. per plant, three times.

2. Weed control — Spraying a 2' circle with Roundup around each tube and hand weeding within the tube provided good control. Rainfall was adequate.

3. Japanese Beetle damage was light and so far deer have not been a problem.

Woodworkers Others Needed By Foundation

The ACF is looking for woodworkers.

At Meadowview they cut down trees that do not meet standards for form and resistance. Crafters and woodworkers are needed to put this wood to good use. The wood can be crafted into trinkets of all kinds and sold to benefit the ACF.

Other talent is needed. The ACF wants to develop a master resource list. It will be a catalogue of experts within the ACF who can make a contribution to fundraising, taxonomy, breeding, public relations, public speaking, education, etc. What skills do you have? The ACF is starting a master's list.

Don't Forget Leaf Samples

It is not too late to collect leaf samples. The chapter is ready to identify and verify American Chestnut leaves. The larger the tree, and the healthier, the more everyone needs to know. Be sure there are twig samples also. Place in a brown manila envelope and mail. Do not place in waxed paper or plastic. The leaves will mold.

Legal Advice Needed

The PA Chapter of ACF needs the help of a lawyer in conducting its business as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and with ACF, public agencies, and private industry regarding proprietary rights to its developed blight-resistant American Chestnut germ plasm. If you can help, please call President Ann Leffel 717-917-9557 or write to PA Chapter, ACF, P.O. Box 7, Brogue, PA 17309

Chapter Needs

As the chapter grows more talented and knowledgeable people are added to the membership. Perhaps some of you can help meet upcoming needs of the chapter.

1. **Nut storage** — a cold storage facility that can maintain a 32 degree temperature for the safer storage of seed nuts from October until planting season in March and April.

2. **Computer** — with word processing and other data base capabilities for establishment of PA Chapter office.

3. **Taxonomist** — to verify identification of trees used in breeding programs

4. **Public speakers** — to make presentations on behalf of ACF.

5. **Teachers** — to develop teaching packets for use of elementary, middle, senior high school age levels.

6. **Ideas and activities related to fund raising** — The Chapter needs to launch an annual fund raising activity, hopefully this spring.

7. **Officers, board members and area coordinators** — Elections coming in April.

8. **Public relations** — people who can write press releases and articles for environmental type publications.

9. **Members** — new and renewals.

10. **Salespersons** — PA Chapter T-shirts are available at \$12.00 each and they come in all sizes. Help is needed to sell or buy them. The chapter receives \$5.00 profit on each.

Maybe You Know

Maybe you know. Somebody asked: "Can a Squirrel get at a chestnut through the bur? That bur is almighty spiny and prickly and the squirrel would have to use its tiny paws and mouth."

Do you know if it can?

Calendar

September 25 - 27

PA Chapter Meeting

Joint meeting with PA Forestry Assn.
Cambridge Springs
Crawford County

September 28 - October 12

Chestnut Harvest

October 17 - 18

ACF Board Meeting
and

October 19 - 20

ACF Annual Meeting
Connecticut Agricultural
Experiment Station
Hamden, CT

Contact: Bennington Office

October 23 or 24

Presentation to Society of
American Foresters
Keystone Chapter - York Co.

October 23 - 25

NE-140 Meeting

Swift River Inn

Cummington, MA

Contact: Mark Mount or Terry
Tattar at 413-545-2280

October 26 - 27

NY-ACF Annual Meeting

Radisson Hotel

Rochester, NY

Contact: Arlene Wirsig

January 11 - 16

PA Farm Show

PA Chapter ACF Exhibit
Harrisburg, PA

Contact: Dan Heacock
717-957-2733

February 8 - 16

Outdoor Show

PA Chapter ACF Exhibit
Harrisburg, PA

April 19, 1997

PA Chapter Annual Meeting
Roaring Spring, PA

Board Plans Varied Agenda

(Continued from page one)

also seeking help from taxonomists in the verification of chestnut tree identification.

Volunteers for computer services and clerical help will be sought through local papers. The board granted up to \$1000 for a separate phone line, and fax machine to begin the set up the PA Chapter office. Ann Leffel will investigate staffing the office with an intern from a local college.

Larry Pachtel will review the criteria of potential grantors and select those that fit our program. Contacts will be made.

Dan Heacock will make arrangements for exhibits at PA Farm Show in January and the Outdoor Show in February.

Tracey Coulter will complete the traveling exhibit for its first showing at September Chapter meeting at Cambridge Springs.

Coordinators were encouraged to actively seek new members and publicity and to use the video and slide shows in presentations.

The group toured the B3 planting and those who wished viewed the video and slide presentations available on loan for presentations.

Who's Who . . .

(Continued from page 3)

ing takes about 10 minutes. The art of the procedure takes longer to learn. Timing is all important. Bag too late and pollination has already occurred naturally rather than by planned parenthood. Pollinate too early or too late and the receptive period of the female is missed. Members **Bill Lord, Chandis Klinger, and Eugene Witmeyer, and Eugene's friend, Harry Norford,** made the trip to help in the pollinating. Volunteers are also needed in the fall to help with harvesting; preparing seeds for storage and general clean up of the orchards. If you are heading toward Southwest Virginia on a fall foliage tour, be sure to check out the chestnut foliage at Meadowview and lend a hand if you have the time.

New Tractor

(Continued from page one)

working condition is important in advancing the work.

The new tractor selected is a Ford Narrow Tractor, Model 4430, specifically designed for tree orchards. It requires only 49" clearance through the rows and turns on a foot radius. The cab is air conditioned and equipped with a filtering system to protect the operator while spraying pesticides. The price is \$28,200. There was no provision in the 1996 ACF budget for the tractor. The PA Chapter sought funds at the April 20 Chapter meeting at Roaring Spring. Seven hundred dollars has been collected and an additional \$1300 was granted from the treasury at the July 20 Board Meeting. ACF has asked the chapters to raise \$12,500 and \$7,500 would come from the Farm Campaign launched in late June. Pennsylvanians requested goal, based on membership, is \$4,000.

If you have ever visited Meadowview, you know that Fred has worked miracles with safety pins, binder twine, and dedication. Let's help provide a new tractor for Meadowview Farms!

Send your contribution to: ACF Tractor Fund, %Tracey Coulter, PA Chapter Treasurer, 403 N. Baltimore Ave. #2, Mt. Holly Springs, PA 17065.

History continued . . .

(Continued from page 2)

but make no attempt to control the disease until the investigations yield conclusive results. Third: investigate, but at the same time take immediate measures to save the trees, recognizing there is not time to prove efficiency or effectiveness.

"As an immediate result of the recent burning of the Equitable Building in New York City, a special commission was appointed to devise better methods of fighting fires in the congested business section of New York; but I notice that the New York Fire Department went ahead and did its best to put out the fire

PA Chapter Builds

(Continued from page one)

book for adults.

Four types of demonstration plantings were explored. Tyler officials expressed an interest in participating in the educational and breeding programs presented by the Chapter.

For adults Tyler provides lectures, exhibits, forums for teacher training and tours close to Tyler Arboretum. Mr. Bartley further suggested craft activities using chestnut wood would be interesting to both children and adults.

Longwood Gardens, Kennet Square, and Morris Arboretum at the University of Pennsylvania also are being approached to take part in similar programs.

without waiting for the reports of any commissions. It appears to me that we are in much the same situation. The fire is burning too fast for us to wait for reports of experiments which will take from two to ten years or more of time to carry out."

Collins recommendations were immediately contested by Professor F. C. Stewart, New York Agricultural Experiment Station.

"My views are so much at variance with what I conceive to be the sentiment of this conference that I hesitated somewhat to present them. I feel like one throwing water on a fire which his friends are diligently striving to kindle. But a sense of my duty to the public and, also, myself, impels me to proceed."

Stewart questioned the control of the disease by the method of destroying advance infections and establishing an "immune zone" by destroying a large band of trees between infected areas and blight free areas.

"There is great need of some real evidence that the method of control will work. It is a question to be answered by expert mycologists and plant pathologists. It is better to attempt nothing than to waste a large amount of public money on a method of control which there is

(Continued on page 8)

History continued . . .

(Continued from page 7)

every reason to believe cannot succeed.

Stewart continued, "What will be the future course of the disease can only be conjectured, but it can be safely predicted that nothing which man can now do will materially alter its course. However the situation is by no means hopeless. That the disease has already reached its zenith and will now gradually subside is quite possible. So far as known, no plant has ever been exterminated by disease. It is unlikely that the chestnut will be exterminated."

A multitude of presentations and spirited arguments continued for two full days.

Blight Commission's Battle

July 1912 — Two hundred field agents and scouts have been hired by the Commission to locate diseased trees and supervise their proper dis-

position. If the owners of chestnut trees, when notified to remove diseased specimens, refuse to cooperate with the Commission, after 20 days, the work will be done by the Commission at the expense of the owner.

A quarantine on chestnut stock prohibits shipment of stock not bearing the Commission tag of inspection. This certificate means that the stock has been inspected in the nursery rows, and again after it has been dug diseased trees are destroyed and those which are apparently healthy are immersed for several minutes in Bordeaux mixture or lime-sulphur wash as a sanitizer and are then tagged by an inspector.

The Commission is given the power to establish a quarantine or destroy trees not affected by blight, if so doing will prevent spread of the disease. Good trees so destroyed are to be paid for at current stumpage prices. The Commission plans to

thoroughly scout and cut all diseased trees west of the advance line.

Forestry Dept. Advisory

July 1911 — Advisory from the Department of Forestry, Harrisburg.

Owners, examine your trees thoroughly and frequently. Cut your invested trees and market at once. Trees infected with blight will die* and the lumber rapidly deteriorates after the tree is killed. Trees fit for telephone and telegraph poles will not be accepted for this purpose if they have been infected with blight for more than one season. Cut all infected trees. Burn the bark that is infected with the disease and also the bark from the stump. Prevent the spread of the disease to your own and your neighbors healthy timber. Be careful to extinguish your fires.

*Note: It was later learned that the wood of dead trees did not deteriorate from the blight.

Pennsylvania Society for the American Chestnut Foundation
P.O. Box 7
Brogue, PA 17309

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Claysburg, PA 16625
Permit No. 45

Dedicated to restoring the **American Chestnut**



Lumber Tree

Ecological Link

Abundant Food
for Wildlife

Forest in good
health & balance

Become a life giving leaf of the American Chestnut Tree with your membership dues or donation.

Benefits of Membership
Pennsylvania Chapter
American Chestnut Foundation

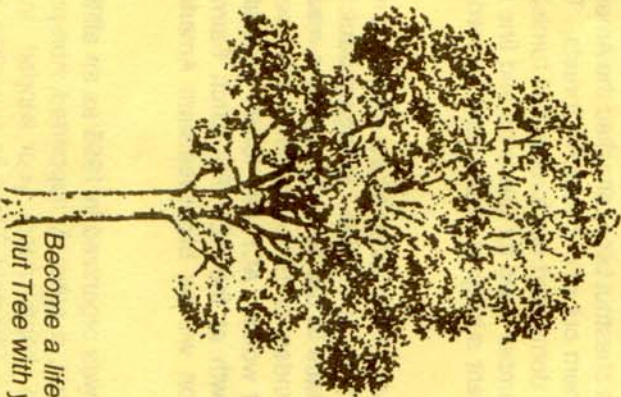
Publications:

- "The Journal of the American Chestnut Foundation"
- "The Bark" ACF newsletter
- "The Chestnut Tree" PA Chapter newsletter
- Members handbook (PA members)

Other benefits:

- Access to expert advice of growing chestnuts.
- Opportunities to assist in research and breeding activities.
- ACF annual meeting to learn about Foundation projects and meet scientists working to restore the Chestnut trees to our forest land.
- Statewide meetings and workshops.
- Hands on experience in growing and caring for American Chestnut trees
- Non-profit organization — The ACF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

**Dedicated to the Restoration
of the
American Chestnut Tree**



Become a life giving leaf of the American Chestnut Tree with your membership dues or donation

- Lumber tree
- Ecological link
- Abundant food for wildlife & people
- Forest in good health & balance

**Pennsylvania Chapter
American
Chestnut Foundation**

American Chestnut Foundation

Membership Registration Form

Date _____ [] New [] Renewal

- \$5,000 Gold Leaf membership
- \$1,000 Silver Leaf membership
- \$500 Chestnut Leaf membership
- \$250 Bronze Leaf membership
- \$100 Green Leaf membership
- \$40.00 Regular membership**
- \$15.00 Student membership

The Pennsylvania Chapter receives \$15.00 for each new or renewed membership of \$40 or more. This \$15.00 received from membership fees, along with contributions to the Pennsylvania Chapter, are used to further the work being done here in Pennsylvania. The chapter also supports American Chestnut Foundation projects and research throughout the nation.

ACF members who are Pennsylvania residents automatically become members of the PA Chapter and will receive both ACF and PA publications and benefits.

Non-member contributors to the PA Chapter will receive the "Chestnut Tree", our chapter newsletter.

Enclosed is my check to support the effort to restore the majestic American Chestnut trees to our state and national forests:

Membership dues \$ _____ Total \$ _____
Contribution to PA Chapter \$ _____

Please make checks payable to:

Pennsylvania Chapter
American Chestnut Foundation
Post Office Box 7, Brogue, PA 17309

Name: _____

Spouse's name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone No. _____ County _____

Comments:

Pennsylvania Chapter American Chestnut Foundation

Post Office Box 7
Brogue, PA 17309
Phone 717-927-9557

At the turn of the century the chestnut blight attacked the America Chestnut Trees and nearly wiped them out of our nation's forests. This fast growing, rot-resistant tree once dominated our forests and furnished beautifully grained easily worked lumber used for buildings and fine furniture. It also produced an abundant supply of sweet nuts favored by wildlife and people.

Through the American Chestnut Foundation's past efforts we now know that the chestnut blight problem has a solution. **Bringing back the Chestnut Trees to their rightful place in our forests can be a reality.** Dr. Charles Burnham, one of the founders of the foundation, introduced a backcross method of breeding that works. ACF has fourth generation trees in their second year of growth at the ACF Research Farm in Meadowview, VA. Sixth generation will be blight-resistant American Chestnut Trees.

The Pennsylvania Chapter was organized in 1995 as an affiliate of the American Chestnut Foundation, a privately supported, non-profit organization founded in 1983. The chapter needs your support in its efforts to help restore the American Chestnut Trees to our state and national forests.

Your membership, your participation in our education and breeding programs, and your contributions are needed. We invite you to become a member of this non-profit volunteer organization and participate in our PA chapter activities. We welcome your comments and suggestions. Let us hear from you.

Ann Leffel, President