

Chestnut Tree



CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN CHESTNUT FOUNDATION



Volume 2 No. 3

December 1996



See how the Chestnuts grow — The first pollinating of the Ort Tree (at right) produced 273 crossbred nuts. The harvest from this and other trees this year was more than 800 nuts, all of which will go into the ground this spring. As the chestnuts grow, so must the chestnut restoration movement. From left to right: Alan Gehret, Bob and Ann Leffel; rear, Margaret Green, Ann's mom.

Bob Leffel Suggests Plan to Broaden Breeding Program

Bob Leffel, chapter scientist and retired USDA research agronomist, has been reviewing current chestnut research with Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Current federal and state spending on chestnut breeding and genetics, chestnut blight research and similar projects, Leffel said, "justify ACF's continued emphasis on the backcross breeding program to produce blight-resistant chestnuts."

He reports that the states and the federal government each spent more than \$1 million in 1995 for scientific research on such projects as chestnut

blight control. This can be compared with ACF's total budget of \$203,146 in 1995.

Leffel further points out that neither government, nor the ACF, are engaged in furthering the broad goal of the late Charles Burnham. As stated by Leffel, quoting Dr. Burnham, "The ultimate goal is to establish breeding populations of blight-resistant American Chestnuts, each of which will be adapted to a different growth zone in the natural range."

He went on to say "the ACF breeding program at Meadowview utilizes only the recurrent-parent,

(Continued on Page 7)

Executive Board Makes Plans for 6 Spring Plantings

PA Chapter executive board met in Roaring Spring late in November to advance the chapter's ever-broadening breeding program. Six new plantings are scheduled for this spring.

Focus will be on two sites in the Philadelphia area. There will be cooperative efforts with Longwood Gardens and Tyler Arboretum. Al Eelman is coordinating both projects. Spring plantings, with ACF participation, will be held at both locations this spring. "It is the beginning of something good, and something that will bring prestige and recognition to our effort," said Ann and Bob Leffel, who laid the groundwork for the new relationships.

Bob Leffel, science coordinator, with Bill Lord and Tom Pugel, reported on plans for spring plantings, which are sure to be much greater than this year. The next newsletter will publish planting locations and approximate planting

(Continued on Page 8)

See How the Chestnuts Grow

Five new plantings were seeded this spring. The PA Chapter has now planted over 1100 nuts. There are three small demonstration plantings, a forest regeneration study, two B₂F₂ performance tests, two F₁-B₁ plantings, two B₃ orchards, and our first American tree nursery. Many individual members are establishing American plantings.

President's Message

Ann Leffel

It was two years ago in November that 21 ACF members from across Pennsylvania came together to activate the PA Chapter.

The goals were, and continue to be:

1. *To educate members and the public of the tremendous economical, ecological, and cultural losses as a result of the devastation of the American Chestnut Tree by the blight, and the ACF research and progress of the last 10 years toward the development of blight resistant timber trees; and*

2. *To extend the ACF backcross breeding program into Pennsylvania to develop trees with the genetic diversity, local adaptation, and resistance needed to produce seed for future American chestnut stands in this region of the original range.*

Member Education - Two chapter and three regional meetings provided members and prospective members with the opportunity to learn about chestnut trees and ACF. Four newsletters per year to PA members, ACF Board members and staff and other state chapters provided a continuous flow of information and reports of activities to all. An additional 200 - 300 copies of each issue were sent to prospective members, potential cooperators, allied forestry and conservation groups, and editors of newspaper and selected publications. Field work opportunities were plentiful. A tour of Pat Chamberlain's chestnut experimental nursery topped off the year. Pat has numerous trees representing the species and crosses.

Public Education and Public Relations - Exhibits were manned for 6 days at the PA Farm Show and one day at Morris Arboretum. At least 18 public presentations were made to various groups in the state. Mailings of information to potential members and in answer to inquiries numbered in the hundreds. Articles appeared in at least six newspapers

or other publications. A one-half hour TV show was re-aired on July 7 on WGAL-TV in the Lancaster, York, Harrisburg area. A travelling exhibit has been prepared. Educational efforts are yielding tangible results. The recognition of ACF efforts, the good will and support of knowledgeable and influential people in forestry is increasing.

In a state where 59% of the land is forested, the support of state, national, private and industry foresters in PA is essential to restoration efforts.

Cooperative efforts involving tree planting, educational activities and public relations has been initiated with Longwood Gardens, Tyler Arboretum, Morris Arboretum, Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary, Pennsylvania Game Commission, and Penn State University.

Extension of Breeding Program - Five new plantings were seeded this spring. PA has now planted over 1100 nuts as a chapter. There are three small demonstration plantings, a forest regeneration study, two B₂F₂ performance tests, two F₁-B₁ plantings, two B₃ orchards, and our first American tree nursery. Many individual members are establishing American plantings for future chapter breeding work.

In response to appeals for locating flowering American trees, many scouts have reported. A file of potential trees is growing for use by future pollinators.

Pollinating efforts resulted in four new B₃ lines and 892 B₃ nuts this year.

The harvest season also brought in a collection of over 2000 native American seed to be used for establishing American chestnut nurseries to preserve the gene pool and to provide backcross breeding parent trees of diverse lineage.

(Continued on Page 7)

ACF Board Okays Sale of Seedlings

The annual meeting of the ACF was held in Connecticut in October. Some of the highlights:

— ACF will request that the US Dept. of Agriculture preserve the chestnut germplasm collection held at Glendale MD.

— Approved a program to grow and sell American Chestnut seedlings, with executive committee evaluation after four years.

— Approved hiring an extension specialist, dependent upon financial success of the Meadowview nursery.

— Set priority items: (1) developing methods for large scale forest plantings; (2) studying genetic diversity in wild chestnut populations; (3) plan practical use of hypovirulence in the field.

— That staff scientists include an update on the extent and status of additional sources of resistance.

— Approved a budget of \$351,000, with expenses of \$389,000. The \$40,000 deficit will be controlled by reductions in capital improvements at Meadowview if income is insufficient.

State Farm Show Volunteers Needed

The chapter will try again to make its point with a display booth and chestnut presentation at the State Farm Show in January.

No one who was there will forget the "snow of the century", but expectations are high for better weather Jan. 11 thru 16 from 8 a. m. to 6 p.m. Tracey Coulter has put together a great display that is sure to draw lots of interest.

Lots of hours means lots of help. Volunteers are needed to staff the booth. Contact Dan Heacock at home 717-957-2733 or at work 717-232-5300. His address is 1870 New Valley Road, Marysville, PA

Who's Who in Chestnuts . . .

"Nuttin" to joke about; the perils of chestnutting

(This is about people who are out in the field restoring the American Chestnut Tree, which makes this a field report, sort of. If you have little stories about chestnuts and the trees that grow them, send them along and we'll use them in this space.)

Jim and Evelyn Koenig from Johnstown wanted to participate in the pollinating of the York County "Ort" tree this summer. They left home about 8 A.M. that July Saturday morning for the 2 1/2 to 3 hour trip. The B2 pollen was supposed to be delivered to Brogue by 10 A.M. by overnight express. It wasn't. It sat on the truck in Memphis, TN over the weekend. By the time we tracked it down it was too late to contact Jim and Evelyn. We met at the "Ort" tree and made some F1 crosses (American X Chinese) so they wouldn't totally lose out and they also had the opportunity to visit the Reineman Wildlife Sanctuary planting north of Carlisle. (The five-day old pollen still yielded 57 B3 nuts.)

Tom Pugel experienced vandalism on some of his trees. Limbs with pollinating bags were torn off the tree.

In June, chief scout Harold Floyd led a small group of scouts to check out the blooms on a promising group of sprouting chestnuts in a burned over area at Indiantown Gap Military Installation. After securing permission and papers from all proper authorities we were led to and left at the site. We no sooner entered the tangle of regrowth when on the first fly-by of a helicopter the whirly bird opened fire on targets in the land sector adjacent to the one being scouted. The firing practice continued throughout the morning. Talk about nervous scouts! !!

Herb Gedmark lives in an apartment building. He made a determined effort to plant, water, and care for about 30 seedling trees, moving them about to chase the sun.

He used them for public relations purposes in his New Cumberland community.

Chandis Klinger continues to be outsmarted by mice and other critters in his endeavors to grow chestnut trees from seed in the forest. He's gaining in wisdom, however.

In science, replication of an experiment is important. Budding scientist Ann Leffel repeated her experiment on chestnut weevil control in harvested nuts. (See Sept. 1996 Chestnut Tree, page 4). The outcome of the second experiment did not duplicate the outcome of the first.

Experiment #2 — Divided Chinese chestnuts into 3 lots of 20 nuts each and spread the three treatments on separate trays in a cool dark dry location for 40 days, Oct. 11 - Nov. 20 (Experiment #1 test only 7 days, Oct. 11 - 18, 1995)

Treatment 1 - No treatment - yield - 36 weevil larva.

Treatment 2 - Held nuts in 120 degree water bath 15 minutes - 0 larva.

Treatment 3 - Snipped off blossom end of nuts - 58 larva.

In addition, she opened one nut from each treatment on Oct. 25, 1996: T-1 10 larva inside; T-2 0 larva inside; T-3 6 larva inside.

Now before you start laughing consider the possibilities. She may have nipped nuts too late; the eggs may have already hatched. But it seems more likely that the first test, only 7 days, wasn't long enough to give the larva time to eat their way out. Certainly the hot water bath has proved successful. Scientists must be persistent.

The setting was a luncheon meeting at Juniata College with the local Environmental Board of

(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

ACF Report Given on Annual Meeting

by Ron Stanley

More than a hundred members of the American Chestnut Foundation gathered in a Connecticut drizzle for the 13th annual meeting. We were treated, not only to wet feet (those of us not smart enough to prepared), but also to a tour of the experiments at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station by Sandy Aganostakis. The tour included:

- trees from Scientists' Cliffs, MD which seem to have some natural resistance to the blight (but not enough to be timber quality); hybrids with Chinese, some selected for timber characteristics and some for nut production traits;

- partial protection provided by hypovirulence (the virus disease of the blight disease);

- a collection of many chestnut and chinquapin trees, including an Ozark chinquapin, a species I remember from my childhood in Arkansas; and

- a test of various Treessential browse protection tubes (my favorite was a clear mesh that I think will be a great improvement in partially shaded locations).

We also were treated to science reports that I found wonderfully optimistic. ACF, under Fred Hebard's able leadership, just finished a harvesting so successful that Fred's living room is filled with large garbage bags full of nuts. He has us more than half-way to being ready to start planting trees (that's my biased opinion, not a scientific analysis). In other important science news,

- the DNA of hypovirulence has been engineered into the fungus DNA so the blight cannot recover from its illness (we need to slow the blight down long enough to be able to capture a range of genetic diversity from local chestnut trees); and

— we know the range and locations of genetic diversity in American chestnut so we know where we have to go to capture the diversity we need (Pennsylvania is important for the "northern" genes).

Finally, I cannot close without mentioning two especially entertaining member-sharings:

The Pennsylvania President, Ann Leffel, gave an inspiring reading about chestnuts from a story set in 19th century Virginia (I can't swear to the authenticity of the accent but it certainly took me back); and

Our own Chandis Klinger entertained as well and informed us with a report on his exploits in foiling the four-legged enemies of chestnuts. If I got it right, bricks may be a useful tool.

Penn State, Forestry Discuss Projects With PA Chapter

PA chapter is continuing to explore a cooperative effort with Penn State's School of Forest Resources, the Bureau of Forestry and the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

Various possible cooperative projects have been put forth since the chapter met with Penn State and the Bureau of Forestry in September. The ACF is now advancing research in how to reintroduce a resistant American Chestnut tree into the forest, and Penn State and the agencies have expressed interest in cooperative research with ACF and the PA Chapter in developing methods for large scale forest plantings.

Discussions are underway.

Chapter Seeking Gifts and Grants

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

Seed Samplings Are Still Needed In Pennsylvania

Dr. Yan Shi at ACF Meadowview Research Farms needs a sampling of seeds from diverse locations in the state of PA for one of his research projects. He is studying the diversity of germ plasm within the state. The study will help to determine ecotypes and how many different parent lines will be needed for local adaptation of seed producing trees in Pennsylvania. Chapter seed collectors have seed representing eight locations in Schuylkill, York, Montour, Northumberland, Bedford, Somerset and Fulton counties.

If other members have collected seed from native American Chestnut Trees in forested areas of other counties, please contact PA Chapter 717-927-9557, or pack them in moistened peat moss, insulate against freezing and overnight them to Dr. Yan Shi, ACF Meadowview Research Farms, 14005 Glenbrook Ave., Meadowview, VA 24361. As few as 3 seeds per tree will meet the needs of Dr. Shi's request. Please label with township or nearest town and county.

The chapter is also interested in expanding its native seed supply for research purposes. Help is needed particularly in the northern tier counties.

WANTED: Members who will collect seed and pollinators. Make yourselves known to the chapter and you will receive instructions on locating and identifying native American Chestnut Trees, and collecting, and storing chestnuts at the proper time this spring.

Chapter Inactive

The Illinois Chapter has gone by the wayside. Because of a lack of interest, the board decided to declare itself inactive.

"The Year the Chestnuts Died"

The magnitude of our losses due to the Blight of the American Chestnut Tree in the early 20th century were summed up in the book *The Man Who Moved a Mountain* by Richard C. Davids, Fortress Press 1970.

"Folks say that 1929 was a bewitched year, from the very start. For it was the year the chestnuts died."

". . . in 1929 not a chestnut was left alive. Trees in the yard that had been friends of a family since great-great-grandfather's time stood black as if fire had swept them. And all through the forests every chestnut was bare and ghostly, without a leaf to stir in the spring rain and sun."

". . . Life at best was a struggle. Folks say it was a land of make it do, make it yourself, or do without.

"The one thing that made life easier for the people of the Blue Ridge was the chestnut tree. It fed them, fattened their stock, warmed their fireplaces, cooked their corn bread, bought their luxuries — yard goods, pearl-handled pistols, and snuff. The more children you had, the more chestnuts you could gather to roast on the hearth on winter nights and to haul by wagon to market. A boy could quickly pick up enough to buy shoes and clothes and a doll or other play-pretty that father would bring home from selling chestnuts in a valley town. Hogs fattened on chestnuts were walked down the mountain in droves of hundreds.

"There was no better fireplace wood. Chestnut logs kept an even heat all night and didn't smoke. Blacksmiths used it instead of coal in their forges. Chestnut lumber sealed up a house; chestnut furniture was light enough for a porch-baby to move about; a broth of chestnut leaves could break up a deep-down cough. One mother who never

bothered with a husband used to say, 'A grove of chestnuts is a better provider than any man — easier to have around, too.'

"If you needed a footbridge to cross a branch, you simply cut a chestnut long enough and dropped it across. The slim stout pole was straight as an arrow, never sagged, and if floods didn't wash it away, would last a lifetime. Nail a board atop it and stretch a wire for a handhold, and you had a footbridge fit for a preacher and his lady. The acid that suffused the wood halted all decay; drainage ditches made of chestnut didn't rot.

"Most of all, rail fences made of chestnut fenced in your kingdom from your neighbor. Splitting rails and laying up rail fences was hard work, but it was reverent work, for it was something you were doing for your children, and their children too. There was something venerable about rail fences, even new ones. They seemed like old hands folded protectively around a place.

"The chestnut tree was a gift of God to the southern mountaineer, some said, a bounty so generous that people were stirred to awe — almost reverence."

ACF Makes Year End Appeal For Funds

The ACF is making its year-end appeal for funds to meet the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation challenge grant. The goal is \$25,000.

Said Dr. Albert H. Ellingboe, ACF science director, ". . . we support important research that complements our breeding at the farm and helps us to understand the broader considerations of science required to restore this tree.

Send your gift to:
American Chestnut Foundation
P.O. Box 4044
Bennington, VT 05201

Suggestions for April Meeting Needed by Jan. 31

Anyone interested in contributing suggestions or volunteering presentations for the program at the April 19, 1997 meeting of the PA Chapter ACF, to be held at the News Printing Co. (Barnhart) farm/golf course on Route 36 between Roaring Spring and Hollidaysburg, please contact Ron Stanley (814-784-3652) Rt. 1, Box 70, Clearville, PA 15535 by Jan. 31.

Items being considered for the program are: A fund raising auction; workshops demonstrating identification, grafting, pollination, plantings, presentations on genetics, silviculture, deer protection; and recreation, including golf match and square dancing.

Please volunteer or make suggestions about what items you would like on the program.

ACF has New Video on American Chestnut Tree

"A Classic Reborn — The Return of the American Chestnut Tree" is a new ACF video available for public viewing.

Science and history classes, environmental organizations; and civic groups are invited to share this video in telling the story of the survival and restoration of the Chestnut tree.

Calendar

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
(tentative — if space becomes available)
Harrisburg, PA

April 19, 1997

PA Chapter Meeting
Roaring Spring, PA

It's the care that counts

by Barney

It's not the planting; it's the care.

The 210 chestnut seedlings chapter members put in the ground here at our Roaring Spring farm last April was done in a matter of hours. The care is something else.

Our planting, you'll recall, was done in a festival-like atmosphere. A good time was had by all, you might say. The work was spread among two or three dozen chestnut lovers, and all agreed we did a pretty good job. And we did, too.

Of the 210 nuts planted, 170 took root in the aluminum cylinders. The experts (the Leffels) said that was good, so we were off to a good start. Well, not "we," really. It was me — alone on the side of that steep hill, holding the chapter's field guide and remembering a few things from Ann and Bob. And with the summer-long care ahead of me.

Oh, the care! You have no idea. At 76, I should have known better. Standing on that steep hillside and looking up those three long rows of sprouting chestnuts was quite intimidating. Even threatening. It was all of that, and more,

There isn't space here to detail this innocent experience, but you'll get the picture on care with a few examples. Here goes:

I realized nobody thought of, after planting, what would happen when applying liquid fertilizer when the time came. The two quarts per seedling would run off and down the hill. The only remedy, of course, was to trench the downside of the cylinder and then tamp a basin with the loose dirt. This becomes a big deal only after you multiply by 170 — the number of cylinders on the side of that hill. (Warning: Don't even think about this as a problem, at least not right after you have just finished weeding around 170 cylinders. If

you do, you'll go back to onions and radishes.)

Now consider this: The above is a preliminary to fertilizing. That's child play to the actual fertilizing. Lugging the drums and 5-gallon buckets of water around that hill every month for three months is something more than a picnic outing. It's hard work, and a lot of it. When space allows, I'll tell you about spraying, mowing, weeding, mulching and the like. This should be done before we get to trimming, pruning, pollinating, harvesting, storing and stuff like that. Ahead is an interesting four-or five years, especially for an old man.

(PS. Most of the project was done with paid labor. Wait until the chapter gets the bill. I don't have it added up, but an example will do. Let's stick with fertilizing. Eight man-hours for each of three fertilizing at \$13.50 per hour is \$108, or a total of \$324 — not to mention \$42.20 for the fertilizer. The total surely will be more than \$1200, so if the chapter hurries and sends me a grand, it can capitalize on a real bargain.)

Chapter Seeking Broader Support

The PA chapter is seeking broader support of the ACF board in providing more planning in the chapter's spring plantings.

The Chapter's new association with Penn State, the state Bureau of Forestry and various environmental groups makes this necessary.

The ACF board will have to make its intentions known if the chapter is to include other groups in the planting programs. These groups stand ready to participate but require the direct involvement of the larger organization. The resources at Meadowview must come into play.

Royal Kline, at 95, Remembers Chestnut Barrel Stave Mill



Royal Kline

American Chestnuts have played a prominent place in the life of 95-year-old Royal Kline, of Pine Grove Mills, Centre Co.

His father, James, manufactured chestnut barrel staves for making packing barrels. The business started in McClure in 1901. The family moved to Port Matilda in 1907 and stayed until the chestnut blight hit several years later. Following the blight line, the Klines moved the mill twice more before settling at Pine Grove Mills.

Three men were employed at 15 cents per hour to fell the trees with axes. The full log was hauled out of the woods with teams of horses. The boiler was fired to run the steam-powered sawmill. After sawing the logs into 18" lengths, those lengths were fed by hand into the stave mill which cut the staves into proper width and thickness. The top and bottoms of staves were then grooved to hold the tops and bottoms of the barrel. Then the edges were finished. The staves were packed on a cart to dry for a week.

Finally, young family members packed the staves into bundles of

(Continued on Page 7)

Who's Who . . .

(Continued from Page 3)

Huntingdon County Conservation District on November 14. Science Chairman **Bob Leffel** was concluding his presentation on the ACF backcross breeding program. He mentioned the problem of deer damage at the Reineman planting. He told of the deer chomping off the tops of young trees as they grow out of 5-foot tree shelters.

The astute chairman, **Andy Patterson**, offered a solution; "Bob, you should begin a breeding program for shorter deer."

Member **Joe Zembas** from Tunkhannock, Wyoming County, works for Proctor and Gamble. On reading of the chapter's need for a computer in the Chestnut Tree, he arranged the donation of a computer, complete with printer, keyboard and monitor, through his employer. Unfortunately all but the separately boxed monitor was damaged in shipment. Joe is going to try again.

Al Ellingboe, ACF science director, is on the mend. He suffered a severe head injury in March and was discharged from the hospital in May. Al is recovering at a good pace and is already back into things — much earlier than expected.

Cindy Carpenter is helping keep track of membership out of the Vermont office. She's new and part time. When you call, welcome her to the Chestnut movement.

Ronald A. Stanley, PhD, of Clearville, Bedford County, was elected to the ACF board of directors at the October Annual meeting. Ron and his wife, Mary, bring to ACF and the chapter a broad base of experience.

Bill Lord, received 68 phone calls when the Pittsburgh Post Gazette in October carried a story on the American Chestnut. The story showed once again the widespread interest in the American Chestnut

President's Message

(Continued from Page 2)

Beyond our two goals, the PA Chapter increased state membership from 169 on Jan. 1995 to 274 as of Dec. 3; contributed \$2,025 to the Meadowview Tractor Fund; provided ACF with 300+ seed for seed kit sales; provided volunteers for Meadowview; provided plant materials for research by outside agencies; relieved the ACF office of extension type activities, calls and mailings for PA members; and provided representation at ACF cabinet, board, and annual meetings.

All this could not have been accomplished without the very dedicated help of each and every PA Chapter member.

It's been a good year!

Royal Kline

(Continued from Page 6)

100 for shipping to the barrel maker. The mill produced 5000 to 6000 staves per day. Royal was paid 8 cents per hour for 10 hours a day for work at the mill. The boy and girl packers were paid 2 to 2 1/2 cents per bundle. Injuries were common at the sawmill.

By 1921 the chestnut trees in central Pennsylvania had been ravaged by the blight. The stave mill operation closed and the Kline family opened a garage in Pine Grove Mills. It is still family operated. Royal retired in 1970.

Through the years Mr. Kline has planted, grafted and produced cross-bred chestnut trees. He used to sell 600 to 1000 pounds of nuts each year at local markets.

Memberships Stand at 274

Chapter memberships are now at 274.

They're growing, but not fast enough. A membership brochure is enclosed. Use it for renewing or, better yet, give it to a prospective new member. As the breeding program grows, so grows the need for more money and more members. Use the yellow sheet in this newsletter.

President Asks For More Help

Now is the time for all interested people to come to the aid of this chestnut chapter.

"We are weak in financial development," said President Ann Leffel. "We need help in media public relations. And in education. We need area coordinators in the northern tier. We want to hear from those with limited time to take on short-term projects, such as planning a chapter or regional meeting. Editing help is needed for a handbook being developed this winter. Whatever your interest, your help is needed."

"Board members must be committed to serving year-around, attending all meetings, and a willingness to support the organization financially, physically, and enthusiastically."

Bob Leffel Suggests

(Continued from Page 2)

American Chestnuts from the southern Blue Ridge area of Virginia in most of its backcross breeding program."

To further a broader breeding program from Georgia to Maine, Leffel recommends a starting point with four new substations with outlying test locations, the purpose of which would be to broaden the planting and breeding program. He sets the cost of each substation at \$250,000 per year, or \$1 million a year for the program.

This program would be coordinated by ACF from Meadowview farm which would lead the project and provide blight-resistant germplasm. Leffel added, "Each substation would provide funding to ACF's program at Meadowview to cover costs of coordination, collection and development of chestnut germplasm, etc."

Leffel admits \$1 million a year is a lot of money but adds that "it's only half of current public expenditures." He seeks "the support and coordination of ACF to achieve our part of Dr. Burnham's vision."



Chapter Executive Committee — A larger committee for an expanded breeding program in 1997 is now in place. The committee met at Roaring Spring late in November. From left to right are: first row, Ann Leffel, Charlotte Barnhart, Tammy Carpenter; second row, Ron Stanley, Bob Leffel, Chandis Klinger, Bill Peifer, Tom Pugel, Dan Heacock, Rich Pollini, Tracey Coulter and Bill Lord.

Executive Board Makes

(Continued from Page 1)

dates. Chapter members must find time in March and April to assist in the plantings. Phone or write the Brogue office and offer to help.

Tammy Carpenter, ACF membership director, drove down from

Vermont to attend the meeting. Tammy is the administrative contact the chapter has with the home office, and this benefits the chapter in more ways than keeping track of memberships.

Larry Patchel is in charge of

grant sources, and he said his direction will be to pursue smaller grants for a specific purpose. Chandis Klinger stressed completing tree location forms and submitting them with twig and leaf samples. He reported that Blair Carbaugh, a botanist from Danville, has offered tree identification screening for the chapter.

More than 300 members were on the rolls as of Oct. 31, according to Charlotte Barnhart, with 26 of that number listed as not having renewed. Another 20 were due to renew in November.

Ron Stanley, new ACF board member, and Rich Pollini attended their first committee meeting. Mr. Stanley will be in charge of the April program. This meeting will include the chapter's first fund raiser.

A change in the by-laws was made that moves the chapter's annual meeting to Nov. 15, 1997. This will follow ACF's annual meeting.

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

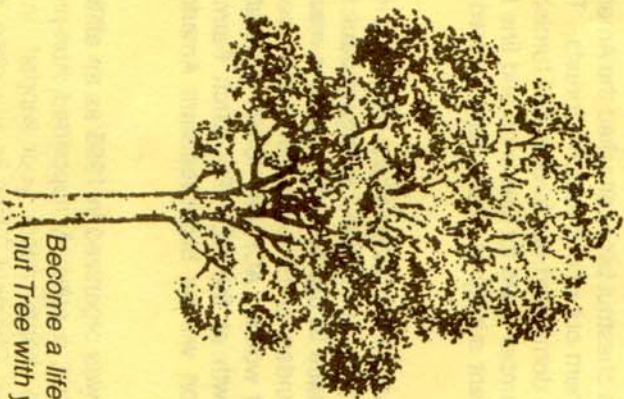
Publications:

- "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