

Chestnut Tree

THE



CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN CHESTNUT FOUNDATION



Volume. 2 No. 5

September 1997

September 27 Regional Meeting

At Clarks Summit

The PA Chapter will hold a regional meeting for the northeast on Saturday, Sept. 27 at Clarks Summit.

It will be held in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Forestry Assn., with the chapter closing the joint meeting with a slide presentation showing the progress of the breeding program in Pennsylvania.

The meeting will be held at the Ramada Plaza Hotel at Routes 6 and 11 at Clarks Summit. Members will leave the hotel before noon and travel to the home of John Maruhnich, chapter member, who will prepare and host a picnic lunch.

Following lunch the group will hold a discussion on identifying and collecting American chestnuts and establishing some plantings in the northeast region. Those planning to attend should inform John Maruhnich, 717-378-2584. Directions to the Maruhnich home will be provided at the hotel.

TACF Science Advisor To Visit PA Chapter

Dr. Al Ellingboe, science advisor for TACF, plans to visit the three B2F2 progeny test plantings and several PA Chapter breeding nurseries from Sept. 19 to 21. Bill Lord, chapter secretary and TACF board member will meet Dr. Ellingboe at the Pittsburgh airport and take him to several sites, ending the day at the 1600 new B2F2 nursery at Penn State

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Chapter Gets \$3,000 Grant

The PA Chapter has received a \$3,000 grant from the Hardwood Plywood Veneer Assn. and the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry.

The Hardwood Assn. promotes planting and research efforts aimed at forest resource productivity. Projects are implemented through the fund in cooperation with local, state and federal forestry departments.

The \$3,000 grant will help establish a planting next spring. This will take place in the Moshannon Forest District where the Bureau of Forestry has two sites it wishes to reestablish as tree nurseries. It will be the first chapter nursery in the north central region of the state.

Al Eelman, chapter board member, made the initial contact with the hardwood organization, and Larry Patchel prepared the project proposal.

The funds will cover the cost of soil preparation, tree protectors, and stakes and other supplies.

Wayne Wynick, assistant district forester at Moshannon, is the chapter's contact with the Bureau of Forestry. He has some burr-producing native American trees. He needs more nuts. The chapter issued a call to members to collect nuts for the chapter's breeding program.

Members nearby wishing to participate should call Wayne Wynick at 814-765-0821.

October 18 Annual Meeting

Near Danville

PA Chapter will hold its third annual meeting Oct. 18 at Montour Preserve near Washingtonville in Montour County.

(Get off I-80 at Danville Exit 33 and go north on Route 54. See map on Page 6)

Al Eelman has been nominated to serve as president. If elected he would be the chapter's second president. Ann Leffel has been president since the chapter was formed. Al has served as a board member, area coordinator and an active volunteer in the maintenance of the B3 nursery at Longwood Gardens.

Other nominations were: Dan Heacock, vice president; Bob Summersgill, secretary; Tracey Coulter, treasurer. Board of directors for 1999: Chandis Klinger, second term; Blair Carbaugh and Phil Gruszka, both first term. Nominations from the floor will be taken.

Officers serve two-year terms with a two consecutive term limit.

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Regional Meeting Set Oct. 10 at Manheim

Chapter members are urged to attend a regional meeting to be held Friday, Oct. 10 at Pinch Pond family campground at 3075 Pinch Pond, Manheim PA.

For more information on this meeting call Eugene Witmeyer 717-665-7640 and leave a message.

President's Message

Ann Leffel

The planting season was cold and wet. Volunteers nearly froze while planting at Penn State on April 18. Spring was unseasonably cold with a very late frost that damaged or killed some seedlings. Then came hot and dry winds which finally brought on the late female bloom rapidly with only a brief window of opportunity for pollinating. Then sustained drought . . . tough for tender seedlings to survive. Life is especially challenging when you don't have control. It's tough when you do have control also, because then you must bear the responsibility of what happens under your control.

In the June 1997 Chestnut Tree was an article not intended for publication titled "Leffel Takes Position on Exclusivity". The article was a copy of a 27 May 1997 memorandum to the American Chestnut Foundation (TACF) board of directors and science cabinet from Bob Leffel, coordinator of PA-TACF regional breeding, concerning changes of direction of TACF. Part of the memorandum was a documentation of changes, and part was a criticism of those changes.

Growth often requires change. Change requires criticism. Being a critic is not being an enemy. Apathy is an enemy. The PA Chapter perceives change of direction of the Foundation. The changes need to be examined, questioned, discussed and if necessary, challenged. This restoration project by a non-profit, largely volunteer organization is traveling uncharted waters. Mistakes will be made. All this is part of a healthy and dynamic organization. Criticism is an essential part of the dynamics.

The changes include three important areas: chapter autonomy, the control of TACF germplasm, and regional backcross breeding as a Foundation priority. Efforts to explore differences and to reach agreement are ongoing. Meanwhile

the chapter pursues its exciting progress in its breeding and educational programs set forth as our goals and our continuing support of TACF.

As a chapter president I represent the chapter at TACF cabinet and board meetings. There are two cabinets, science and development. I sit on the Development Cabinet. The cabinet met in Pittsburgh on August 23. Thirteen of 14 members were there from as far away as Iowa, Michigan and North Carolina. The cabinet is made up of TACF officers and board members, representatives from chapters and others who have an interest in the growth and development of the organization. One purpose was to make recommendations for consideration of the board at the October board meeting. Topics included administrative needs and priorities, educational resource needs and priorities, fund raising, public relations, and chapter relations. Large tasks undertaken were reviewing and updating the 1994 five year strategic plan, revision of by-laws, and budget recommendations.

Another function of the cabinet is problem resolution. Needless to say we weren't able to complete all these tasks but definite progress was made in some areas. The flow and exchange of ideas was enlightening and encouraging. There is always more to be done than time or people to do it. So my first trip to Pittsburgh was very interesting. I got to see eastern suburbs where I was hosted Friday night by the Lords, saw the center city train station where we picked up Bruce Wakeland of Indiana, saw the chestnut trees planted at Highland Park, the Saturday morning market, as we passed through the city on the way to the airport meeting room and the impressive skyline of the big city as we bridged the rivers on the way back to my car.

For someone who never got far

past Brogue over the last 10 years, I've certainly gotten to see much more of Pennsylvania these last three years through my activities with TACF. It's such a beautiful forested state with many beautiful people. I look forward to helping the chestnut grow and I still hope to sit in the shade of a blight-resistant American chestnut tree by the time I reach 80. Together, we can do it!

When I was in high school in the early '50s, all students were given a standardized interest test to help guide them in their selection of a course of study. Mine indicated an aptitude and interest in things mechanical and in the out of doors. The suggested career was that of a lineman for an electric company. In that era, in my community, the acceptable careers for women were limited to teacher, nurse, secretary or librarian. I pursued math education at the U of MD. There were two women in engineering at that time. My innate mechanical aptitude went undeveloped. I enjoyed teaching math, but my greatest love was and still is for the out-of-doors. being out much of the day is essential to my being. Even more so now that I am approaching the twilight years and my time on this beautiful earth is definitely limited. So being a farmer's wife and a chestnut tree breeder

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Now it's TACF

From now on it's TACF — not ACF.

It seems the acronym rightfully belongs to the Association of Consulting Foresters, and that organization recently informed *The American Chestnut Foundation* that it was infringing.

And since officially it is *The American Chestnut Foundation*, the problem is solved by adding a "T". The Foundation bows to the rights of the foresters, and from now on it's TACF.

Who's Who in Chestnuts . . .

Who's Who column, abbreviated this issue, introduces the reader to the many people who are the strength of the chapter.

John Maruhnich is the new coordinator for the northeast counties. One of his first chapter activities is to host the Sept. 27 regional meeting at Clarks Summit. He'll host a luncheon meeting. John spent his career in the military and now has a farm near Falls in Wyoming County where he and his wife Janice reside. John authored a children's book that was published.

Blair Carbaugh provides a valuable service to the chapter. He receives tree samples sent by members for verification as native American trees, an important and required process for the chapter breeding program. Blair is a retired professor of biological science at Lock Haven University. His wife Mary, who taught chemistry at Dickinson College, works in a master gardener program.

Bob Summersgill owns a farm in Westmoreland where he spends time usefully learning about and growing chestnut trees. He began his training with TACF as a pollinator at Meadowview this summer. He's high on Dr. Fred Hebard's efforts at the research farm. Bob, a candidate for chapter secretary, and his wife have three children and three grandchildren.

Lloyd Lupfer, a 1954 Penn State graduate, also spent some time this summer at Meadowview learning the restoration ropes. His interest in chestnuts stems from the stories his father told him as a boy growing up in the Harrisburg area. Lloyd has been in the program for a year and a half.

Lewis Santini, a physician at

Herrington Comments on Foundation

After seven years John Herrington has resigned as executive director of TACF. At the June meeting of the Foundation board John commented on his service to the Foundation. His views, in a condensed form, are presented here.

"TACF has come a long way since that meager beginning, when cash was scarce and loans were sought to meet the payroll, to our

Geisinger Hospital in Danville, with Blair Carbaugh are putting final touches on the chapter's third annual meeting coming up Oct. 18. Lew has developed a keen interest in the American Chestnut, so keen that recently he was wondering what a chestnut-fattened hog would taste like. He's a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh medical school.

present status. Our successes were accomplished through hard work, and commitment on the part of many individuals.

"Some of the successes include: operation of two research farms, one owned outright, with two full-time scientists and two seasonal laborers, 10,000 trees in the ground at various stages of backcross breeding, a new tractor, 3 full time staff in a professional office building in VT, enough revenue to make the budget and an endowment fund, 2200 members, a network of cooperators, financial support such as The Pew Charitable Trusts, Lyndhurst Foundation, Laurel Foundation, and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and becoming known as the chestnut organization with national and international recognition.

"Our strengths are the growing numbers of members, trees and dollars, fiscal responsibility (we're in the black with a reserve), dedicated, hardworking staff, committed base of support, committed board members, motivated members who want to be involved, strong chapters

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PA Chapter American Chestnut Foundation

April 1996- October 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

Committees

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
John Maruhnich — 717-378-2584 — Wyoming, Lackawanna, Susquehanna, Wayne
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

Establishing Nurseries Requires Commitment

Many requests for nuts and offers of land for planting chestnuts come to the PA Chapter. The interest in advancing the breeding program is great. What can you do to help? Here's how it works:

There are presently two types of nurseries being planted across PA for breeding purposes. One type is PA native American chestnut trees to provide breeding nurseries for the backcrossing program. The second type is backcross nurseries, in which the third backcrosses are to maternal PA American chestnut trees.

Member participation is needed. This is a volunteer organization. All the work is done by volunteers and cooperating institutions. Here's how to help:

1. Locate and harvest PA native American chestnuts. (see article: Collecting '97 Chestnut Seed)
2. If you are interested in learning to grow American chestnuts, or just having a few trees around to observe and to financially support the work of TACF you can purchase seed kits and seedling trees in the spring through The American Chestnut Foundation national headquarters, P.O. Box 4044, Bennington, VT 05201-4044.
3. Experienced tree growers who wish to establish and care for PA breeding nurseries for use in the PA cooperative regional breeding effort should contact the chapter.
4. Pollinators. Training provided at Meadowview or by the chapter.

What's involved in establishing a nursery?

American — Seeds from verified PA American chestnut trees collected in PA forests are planted in blocks of 10 per maternal tree. These blocks require much time and care to bring them into flower in about 5 years. When they produce sufficient female bloom they will be hand pollinated with pollen from selected backcross trees having the neces-

sary blight-resistant genes. The number of blocks grown depends upon the space and time available to the grower. The plan is to establish six regional American nurseries with at least four different American parent lines in each of those nurseries. There are currently two nurseries in the southeast region and plans for other locations and cooperators are being considered. Members are encouraged to help with nut collecting, and planting and maintenance of nurseries. New American nurseries need to be established for each generation of backcrossing to obtain genetic diversity, local adaptation, and because once a nursery becomes blighted, others will be needed to continue the breeding.

To give you an idea of the time required, Bob and Ann Leffel tracked the hours spent in the third backcross (B₃) nursery at their farm located in York County. The time includes the preparation and planting of 230 seeds this spring and the maintenance of the total planting of just over 400 trees. The planned maintenance included watering, weed control, insect and deer control and fertilization through August. Total time was 100 hours not including walks through on a regular basis for inspection; occasional insect control by hand, replacement of broken stakes, and observations of the plantings. Also note we have a farm tractor used for soil prep, planting, hole drilling, and mowing. The equipment available determines time required. Record keeping will require additional time in September. Growing trees requires commitment!

Meanwhile, volunteer pollinators continue to conduct the breeding program in the forests. Eight pollinators were active in the state this spring. What will happen to the nuts produced by the pollinators? Most of our pollinators have an interest in planting the product of their efforts. But growing all seed from a given cross does not advance the breeding for diversity. The B₃ nuts produced in 1995 and 1996 were planted in five nurseries, each nurs-

ery having a collection of different parental lines suitable for the location to avoid inbreeding. A minimum of 75 seeds for each line is required. As of now there are seven B₃ parental lines planted. The goal is a minimum of 20.

The number of planting sites needed for spring of '98 depends on the number of American seeds collected and the number of successful pollinations. The chapter tries to select locations that are suitable for the needs of the chestnut tree, where care will be assured, and where at least a segment of the work ahead can be completed. A regional breeding program requires teamwork, cooperation and long term commitment.

Annual Meeting . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

The six board members serve two-year terms, elected on alternate years for an unlimited number of terms.

Board members whose terms expire this October are Bob Leffel, Chandis Klinger and Al Eelman. All are eligible for reelection. Board members whose terms expire Oct. 1988 are William Peifer, Tom Pugel and Rich Pollini.

Science Advisor to Visit . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

Lee Saufley will assist.

Al Eelman will be host for the Sunday visit to Longwood Gardens and take Ellingboe to the Philadelphia airport for his return home to Wisconsin. Dr. Ellingboe has a keen interest in the B₂F₂ progeny test plantings. All the nuts for these trees were produced at Meadowview and have been grown at that site for two generations. Twelve such plantings are being established up and down the original range. Observation of these plantings may give some insight into how much local adaptation will be required in the breeding program.

Dr. Ellingboe is a professor of plant pathology and genetics at the University of Wisconsin and has served as vice president of TACF. He's been active in the organization for many years.

PA CHAPTER - The American Chestnut Foundation ANNUAL MEETING

October 18, 1997

Montour Preserve near Washingtonville

10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

The PP&L Montour Preserve will be a perfect fall setting for the PA Chapter - TACF Annual Meeting. The Nature Preserve and Outdoor Recreation area lies in a low lying valley surrounded by two long rolling ridges. The 165 acre lake, hiking trails, and picnic areas provide ample opportunities for enjoying the beauties and wildlife of the region.

PA Chapter meeting will be held at the Visitors Center (see map on page 6) which has displays and exhibits focusing on wildlife, Indian culture and land-management practices.

The featured speaker is Jim Nelson, retired director PA Bureau of Forestry and a forest stewardship volunteer. Jim has rare slides depicting the early history of forestry in Pennsylvania. Lewis Santini, chapter member, is arranging for morning refreshments and lunch at the center. Join us for the gathering of the nuts. Bring your friends along to the meeting, and don't forget the nuts you collected. We need all we can get . . . both friends and nuts, to provide for the planting of next year's nurseries.

For those attending the annual meeting who may wish to make a weekend of it at such a lovely site, we have the following information about motels in the area:

Motels at Exit 33 of I-80 at Route 54 are:

Days Inn, 717-275-5510, Howard Johnson 717-275-5100, Knights Inn 717-275-4640 and Red Roof Inn 717-275-7600. These are about 7 miles from the preserve. Other accommodations can be found at Bloomsburg.

AGENDA

9:30 A.M.	Registration and Coffee
10:00 A.M.	Election of Officers Progress of PA Chapter
11:00 A.M.	History of Pennsylvania Forests . . . <i>Jim Nelson</i>
Noon	Catered lunch
1:00 P.M.	A Classic Reborn
1:15 and 2 P.M.	Concurrent Workshops <i>(select two)</i>
	1. Chestnut Identification
	2. Nut collection, handling and storage
	3. Educational Resources
	4. Planning & planting a chestnut nursery
2:45 P. M.	Member sharing
3:00 P.M.	Adjourn

REGISTRATION FORM

Members and Friends:

So we can provide morning refreshments, lunch and schedule workshops, please return this form no later than October 8, 1997

To: PA Chapter -TACF
P.O. Box 7
Brogue, PA 17309

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Workshop selection: (select two)

Person	#1	#2	#3
1. Identification	[]	[]	[]
2. Nut Storage	[]	[]	[]
3. Ed. Resources	[]	[]	[]
4. Planting Nursery	[]	[]	[]

Morning refreshments and lunch:

_____ X \$10.00 = \$ _____

Please make checks payable to PA Chapter - TACF and send with registration.

President's Message . . .

(Continued from Page 2)

suits me. This year I've neglected farming and the farmer. I'm struggling folks. Serving as president has been great but office work is not my cup of tea. The tracing of memberships, reports, data entry, correspondence, filing, etc. increases daily. I'm falling far behind. All because the PA Chapter and TACF are growing. Efforts to find a volunteer have not been successful. The York Co. Extension Office is stretched to the limit. Perhaps your county extension office, conservation district, or some other compatible institution could help. With the increase of members and activities, the chapter will have to consider hiring part-time staff as an option. Give us a hand in solving this wonderful problem of growth.

As a computer illiterate, my progress trying to learn on my own has been slow. My time to pursue some level of competence is very limited.

Herrington Comments . . .

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where they exist, and great organizational potential.

"Our structural weaknesses are ones of focus, communication, and accountability, lack of evaluation process, and low salary and benefits for staff. These weaknesses are caused in part because of limited resources, limitations of volunteer leadership, and geographical distribution of members and board.

"My vision includes taking time to take stock, to assess our current situation, set our course in the vital areas of science, chapter development, and fund-raising and to strengthen our leadership to empower the organization to reach its immediate and long-range goals. Once the course is chosen, I urge you to stay the course so that TACF can reach its destination . . . its vision . . . to promote the preservation and restoration of the American chestnut tree."

PA Chapter - TACF Mailing List Update

Dear Non-Members and Friends:

We take this opportunity to invite you to become a member of the PA Chapter - TACF, however, if you do not wish to join at the present time, but still would like to receive the Chestnut Tree, we ask that you consider a \$15 contribution to cover the cost of publishing and mailing it to you. Thank you for your interest, encouragement, articles, letters to the editor and financial support.

If you wish to remain on the Chestnut Tree mailing list, please let us hear from you no later than October 30 1997.

Please make checks payable to:

PA Chapter -TACF
P.O. Box 7
Brogue, PA 17309

Name(s) _____ Phone No. _____

Address _____

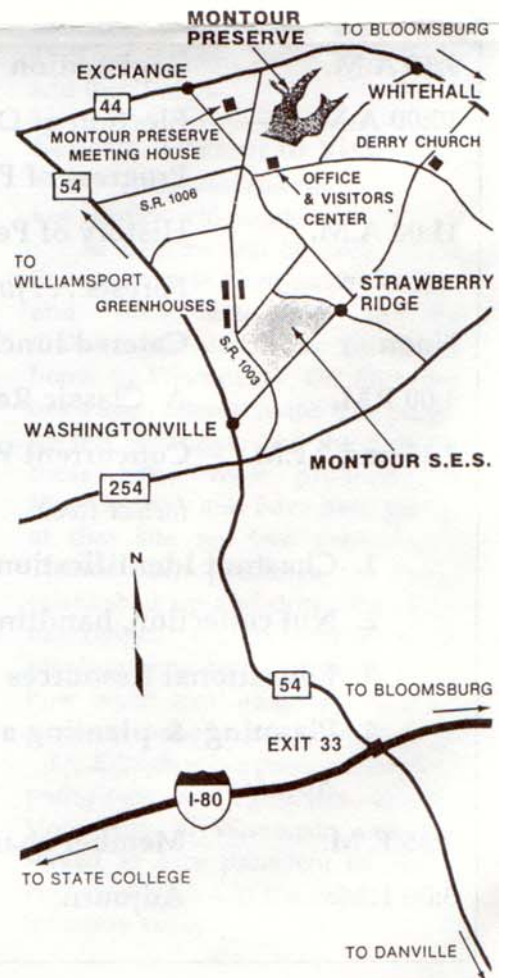
City/State/Zip _____

PA Chapter expresses appreciation for John's contributions to TACF and wishes him success and happiness in his new endeavors.

From 1908 Yearbook of Agriculture

The following diseases have been the most serious during the current year:

The chestnut bark disease (*Diaporthe parasitica* Murr.) has now destroyed practically all the chestnut trees in New York City and Staten Island, and in Nassau, Westchester, Putnam, and Rockland counties, N. Y.; Fairfield County, Conn.; and Bergen, Passaic, Essex, Hudson, Union, Middlesex and Monmouth counties, NJ. New centers of infection have been located in Bedford county, Va; Kent and New Castle counties, Del.; Baltimore County, Md.; Lancaster and Northumberland counties, PA.; New London County, Conn., and at many intermediate points. Nothing but general and vigorous quarantine methods will now keep the disease from completely destroying the chestnut timber of the country.



Drought Hurts Nurseries; What to do

by Bob Leffel

The chapter has nine breeding nurseries and holds great interest and support in the three B₂F₂ progeny tests in the State. Bob and Ann Leffel plan to visit all sites. They have visited eight of the total 12 in recent weeks. A summary of their observations follows:

The drought has made it a rough year for chapter nurseries. The drought continues at some locations.

Chestnut seedlings require watering during drought stress. Water well, but not too frequently. Chestnuts won't make it with "wet feet."

(This year we found one-half gallon of water with 30-10-10 soluble fertilizer per seedling (less with smaller seedlings) at two-week intervals, satisfactory on our Chester loam soil. Check with a soils specialist if you suspect a soil-water relationship problem.)

Japanese beetle damage was observed, seemingly defoliating and killing only the smallest seedlings within tree shelters prior to application of insecticide *Sevin*. If you choose to use beetle traps be certain that you place them on the perimeter of your nursery and not too close. The idea is to attract the beetles to the trap and not lead them into the nursery. Bag worm and orange-striped oak worm were also found on chestnut seedlings.

Grass and weed control is essential for proper chestnut seedling development. Check tubes frequently, removing all weeds by hand that are within the tubes. Plug the small holes on tubes with masking tape and have a good weed and

Spring Pollinations Late but Get Done

The season was all out of whack! The two weeks set aside for pollinating stretched into four weeks because spring was a little late this year. The onset of female bloom was not only late, the flowering was sparse compared to previous years. But the job was accomplished.

grass control the entire length of row with herbicides *Roundup* or *Rely*. Keep the pressure low and the nozzle close to the ground, allowing spraying all about the tube. No grass or weeds within a two-foot radius of the seedling.

Prepare the seedlings for winter. Elevate the tubes several inches above the ground by Sept. 1. We use a small rock under the tube, retuning tubes to the ground after all leaves cease activities.

Chapter Collecting '97 Chestnut Seed

by Bob Leffel

We always need seed of the American chestnuts in PA, for a number of uses. Our BC₃ and other nurseries required them for "check entries" — susceptible to blight. The demands for seed of American chestnuts for nurseries for our backcross breeding program are increasing. It will be much easier to make our backcrosses on PA American chestnuts in planned nurseries rather than on isolated, often too tall, female flower bearing trees in the wild. ACF-Meadowview needs all of the seed of American chestnut that the chapter can provide! They are used in the breeding program, to fill requests for seed kits, and for the seedling sale nursery which will begin offering American seedlings this spring.

Scout your territory. Confirm identification as native American chestnut pollinated by adjacent American chestnuts. Collect the

Tom Pugel, a veteran pollinator, worked in Fulton County. Joe Beebe, a young and ambitious man in his 80s and first time pollinator, was a determined pollinator. When he couldn't reach the bloom from his ladder, he perched the ladder on top of his tractor cab roof and completed the job from there. He's surely a candidate for climbing the 40 ft. ascension ladder down at Meadowview.

The team of Jack Laws, George Dickum, Chuck Betsch, and John Custer tackled a cluster of trees in Bedford County. They recently reported the clusters of burrs are so large that the waxed bags were beginning to split. They enlisted help to cover the bags with mesh onion bags so that no burrs would be lost.

Norm Wurzbach, Lee Saufley, Eric Jordan, and Ann and Bob Leffel tackled a badly blighted group of trees in York County. Lee applied

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burrs just prior to their opening. Non-fertilized burrs generally fall first. If in doubt, harvest a burr, open, and if seed coat is brown, harvest it. Store the harvested non-opened burrs in a dry dark room. Many of non-opened burrs will open during the next 10 days. Then shell all unopened burrs. Place nuts in perforated veggie bags with moist peat as soon as nut is removed from burr. Label the bag of nuts both inside and out with collectors name and telephone number, location of tree, date of harvest, seed count and any other pertinent information. Store in refrigerator. **DO NOT FREEZE.** Bring to Oct. 18 chapter meeting or mail to chapter headquarters. If you wish to have your tree verified as American, cut a leafy twig about 8 inches in length that is growing in full sunlight. Slip the sample (without moistened towels or wax paper) into a manila envelope, label it with same information and bring it to the meeting also. Blair Carbaugh and Chandis Klinger will check it out for you.

Chapter Member Tells of Meadowview Visit

by Lloyd F. Lupfer

My work was shortened to four days because July 4 fell on Friday and Fred Hebard took a well-deserved holiday to spend with his family. Although there were ten Elderhostel volunteers there a week earlier, John Hoffman of Warrenton, VA and myself were the only volunteers the first week of July.

As a result of the cold and wet spring, the flowering of the trees, and thus the bagging of the burrs, was much later than usual. One day was spent in the orchard pollinating trees and applying mud packs to the blight cankers on some American chestnut trees. The remaining three days were spent with Fred and his crew cruising the normally closed roads to remote areas of the Jefferson National Forest searching for native American trees in flower, clearing around them for the bucket truck,

and bagging burrs. Flowering trees were scarce and we were able to apply just under 300 bags during the four days.

I think all able members should volunteer at Meadowview at least once. It was a great way to learn about the program and activities there and absorb some of Fred Hebard's vast knowledge of American Chestnut breeding, propagation, habitat, blight and genetics. I thoroughly enjoyed the time I spent there and will benefit greatly from all that I learned.

Memberships

New memberships have lagged over the summer. The renewals are coming in quite well, but more effort is urged to bring new members into the fold.

Chapter Has Fax

The PA chapter's FAX machine number is 717-927-8410.

Spring Pollinations . . .

(Continued from Page 7)

his Meadowview experience in mud-packing to one of the trees in this group.

Harold Floyd, Eugene Witmeyer, Ann and Bob Leffel pollinated two trees in Schuylkill county and scouted several areas for next year. They returned to Indiantown Gap National Guard Training Center to check out the large acreage of chestnut sprouts on a burned area. Once again the vigorous sprouts were loaded with male catkins but no female burrs were present. Once again aerial activity was encountered. This year it was jets having bombing practice on the adjacent sector with some chases and machine gun activity between planes over our heads. We weren't sure whether to hit the dirt or send up a white flag! Eugene Witmeyer located another tree in Mifflin County where he felt more secure. The adventures of being a pollinator are not for the fainthearted!

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.