

Chestnut Tree

The Pennsylvania Chapter of
The American Chestnut Foundation



Volume 3 No.1

April 1998

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PA Chapter to Host TACF Annual Meeting!

Great news for Pennsylvania Chapter! The national annual meeting of The American Chestnut Foundation will be held at Longwood Gardens the weekend of October 17 & 18, 1998. The PA Chapter will have the opportunity to serve as meeting host. Plans are already in the making. Reserve the dates and mark your calendars now. More information will be provided in the next newsletter

Mt. Cuba Center Potential Planter

Mt. Cuba is the 230 acre estate of Mrs. Lamot du Pont Copeland located in Delaware's Piedmont region. The center provides for the preservation, protection, and propagation of native Piedmont flora. Mrs. Copeland is interested in adding chestnut trees to their collection of native trees planted on the Red Clay Creek farm and participating in the mission of TACF. Al Eelman, and Bob and Ann Leffel visited the site on February 25, 1998 to meet with Dr. Richard Lighty, Executive Director of Mt. Cuba Center.

Growers Meet to Prepare for 10 New Nursery Plantings

by Ann Leffel

Chapter nursery growers met at the Leffel farm on March 14 to finalize plans for the new spring nurseries and replacement needs for existing nurseries.

In 1997, hybridizers Bob Summersgill, Joe Beebe, Tom Pugel, Jack Laws, Eugene Witmeyer, Chandis Klinger, Bob Leffel and helpers in eight counties produced 171 BC2 (second backcross) nuts despite sparse female flowering, drought, blight, vandalism, and squirrel predation. The additional contribution of 40 seed nuts from Ohio member Ted Blaney will permit two BC2 plantings at Moshannon State Forest in Clearfield County. Two separate plantings are required because two different sources of resistance were used as pollen parents. Plans are to add to these plantings next year after repeating pollinations of the same trees with the same pollen parents this spring. One-hundred BC seeds per line is the goal for hybridizers.

The planting at Moshannon will be organized by Wayne Wynick, Assistant District Forester, PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Forestry. It will be partially financed from the Hardwood Forestry Fund by the Hardwood Plywood & Veneer Association. PA-TACF members are needed to assist in this cooperative effort on planting day, which will be on a week day during the last two weeks in April, depending on the weather. If you are interested in helping with this project, please contact Wayne at (814) 765-0821 or Ann Leffel at chapter headquarters.

Last year, scouts and collectors brought in 1800 seeds representing 12 different American lines. Collections of three or more lines of at least 10 trees each will be planted in each of nine new nurseries this spring by growers in the photo below. Additional seed will be added to existing nurseries. PA-TACF will have American chestnut tree plantings in 19 PA counties at the end of the 1998 planting season. New nursery growers and their county locations are: Dave Armstrong, York; Forkston Mountain Property Association-Barbara Bartusik, Wyoming; Bob

Harrison, Tioga; Jack Laws, Bedford; Bill Lord, Allegheny; Lee Saufley, Clinton; White Haven Sportsmen Club - Richard Schwartz, Carbon; Bob Summersgill, Westmoreland; Ed Wilson, Clearfield; and Norm Wurzbach, Susquehanna.

Members who are interested in helping with planting and/or maintenance in their area should contact the chapter or grower. With proper care these nurseries will be ready for backcrossing in 5-6 years. The more trees to work with the better the tree improvement program. The total seeds to be planted this spring are American -1279; F1 - 109; Chinese - 66; BC2 - 254; Total -1708. Over 400 seeds were provided for TACF as well. Join in the fun and the work of breeding a blight resistant American chestnut trees!



The PA Chapter Planters meet at the Leffel's home to pick-up seed nuts, supplies and guidance in preparation for the 1998 season. Top row left to right: Bob Summersgill, Bob Harrison, Eugene Daugherty, Lee Saufley, Richard Schwartz, Tom Pugel. Second Row: Phil Gruszka, Bill Peifer, Warren Lauder, Jack Laws, Blair Carbaugh, Bob Leffel, Bill Lord. Bottom row: Jean Saufley, Norm Wurzbach, Ann Leffel, Ed Wilson, and Larry Patchel.

The Pennsylvania Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation

Officers

President: Al Eelman, Chester County
610-358-1077, FAX: 610-358-9308
Vice President: Dan Heacock, Perry Co.
717-957-2733, FAX: 717-232-1885
Secretary: Bob Summersgill, New Jersey
908-647-5864
Treasurer: Tracey Coulter, Cumberland County
717-486-8935

Board Members

1999 Term

Blair Carbaugh, Montour County, 717-275-7848
Phil Gruszka, Chester County,
610-388-1000, Extn: 541
Chandis Klinger, Snyder County, 717-837-0457

1998 Term

William Peifer, Ohio, 219-478-6413
Rich Polini, Berks County, 215-675-1898
Tom Pugel, Bucks County, 610-346-6198

Committee Coordinators

History: Bill Lord, Allegheny County,
412-793-0255
PA Farm Show: Dan Heacock, Perry Co.
717-957-2733, WORK: 717-232-5300,
FAX: 717-232-1885
Membership: Ron Stanley, Bedford Co.
814-784-3652
Education: Mary Stanley, Bedford Co.
814-784-3652
Tree Location and Identification: Blair
Carbaugh, Montour County, 717-275-7848
Grants: Larry Patchel, Allegheny Co.
412-824-5019
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Barney and Charlotte Barnhart
Newsletter Mailing: Ron Stanley

The Chestnut Tree is published three times a year by The Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation.

The PA bylaws provide for an Executive Board composed of four officers and six board members. The board meets several times a year. The Committee Coordinators and the Area Coordinators participate in meetings. If you, as a member wish to attend, please advise and you will notified of the next meeting.

TACF was founded in 1983 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Its sole goal is to restore the American chestnut through co-operative research and a scientific breeding program.

President's Message by Al Eelman

Fellow Members:

The PA Chapter is happy to welcome so many new members for December, January and February as listed below. This reflects a lot of hard work by our members. Generating new membership is just a matter of all of us talking to neighbors, friends, co-workers, and anyone we feel might have an interest in TACF. Get a name and address and we'll send them a membership packet. My personal thanks and admiration to all who are working so hard to forward our program.

Another prime objective is to have regional meetings and workshops more frequently. A few regions are doing a wonderful job in this regard. They serve as a good example of what the rest of us could do.

If you would like to work with others in your local region to help promote TACF please contact your area coordinator or anyone on the executive board. A special thanks to Eugene Witmeyer - Lancaster and Lebanon Counties; John Maruhnich - Wyoming, Lackawanna, Susquehanna, and Wayne Counties; and Lloyd Lupfer - Perry County. They hosted fall meetings in their areas; and to Ann & Paul Hornberger, Lebanon County, joined our speakers group with their February presentation to the Cornwall Manor Tree Committee.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!!

Kenneth Balliet, Union Co.

George J. Beck, Montgomery Co.

Mark Boettner, Westmoreland Co.

Frank Brouse, Montgomery Co.

Bridget Chamberlain, Chester Co.

Margaret Hartman,

Northumberland Co.

Larry Hillaire, Northampton Co.

Matthew M. Hunter, Lehigh Co.

Joe and Cecilia Kent, Cumberland Co.

Lisa Woodside, Delaware Co.

Albin C. McGinnis, Green Co.

Barry D. Morehouse, Chester Co.

New Baltimore Sportsman Club,
Somerset Co.

Allen Risser, Lancaster Co.

Robert Peters, Perry Co.

Edward A. Raymond, III, Montgomery
Co.

David F. Wagoner, Dauphin Co.

Stephen Dadio, Centre Co.

Carl Drasher, Berks Co.

Gloria Frackler, Luzerne Co.

Dr. Dana S. Felty, Lebanon Co.

Thomas Frank, Cambria Co.

Stewart H. Hartman, Cumberland Co.

Hemlock Girl Scout Council, Dauphin Co.

Charles & Judith Hubler, Centre Co.

Richard & Michelene Klim, Susquehanna
Co.

Volunteer for Meadowview

Help will be needed in June! PA Chapter has supplied volunteers each spring for the labor intensive pollinating season at Meadowview Research Farms.

This is a great opportunity to learn hybridizing techniques, tour the research farms, meet Dr. Fred Hebard, and serve the organization. The activities are scheduled for

June 9-12 and June 22-26

Select the days you wish to learn and work. Notify chapter headquarters of your schedule. Provide for your own meals and lodging.

Elderhostel is a program for seniors that allows them to learn and participate in local activities. Meadowview has recently participated in this program which is a combination of volunteering and exploring surrounding regions. This year Elderhostel week at Meadowview will be **June 15-19**. Contact (617) 426-8055 for more information on this program.

Annual Report 1997

Pennsylvania is nearly 60% forested. Forest ecology, health, management, economics, industry and all other aspects of forestry are important in Pennsylvania. The state plans for the management of forests as a sustainable, renewable crop, as well as a place of beauty, an essential ecosystem, and a source of recreation. Foresters are interested in the efforts to restore the American chestnut tree to its former place of importance in the state.

The Pennsylvania Chapter - The American Chestnut Foundation (PA-TACF) continued its goals of supporting The American Chestnut Foundation in its mission by:

- 1) promoting the work of the organization through various educational programs; and
- 2) extending TACF backcross breeding program into Pennsylvania to develop trees with the genetic diversity, local adaptation, and resistance needed for this region in the original range of the American chestnut.

Education - Two chapter and two regional meetings provided speakers, workshops, and hands-on experiences to learn about chestnut trees and TACF. Four editions of the newsletter, *Chestnut Tree*, was mailed to 350 members; an additional 350 - 400 copies were sent to prospective members, friends, and allied organizations and publications to advise them of activities and progress.

At least 32 public presentations were made throughout the state. An exhibit was manned for 6 days by 24 volunteers at the PA Farm Show in January 1997. Thousands of people attended. Hundreds of newsletters and membership brochures were distributed. Many articles appeared in newspapers and other publications including the Harrisburg *Patriot News*, the Scranton *Sunday Times*, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, *The York Sunday News* a five article series in the Huntingdon County *Valley Log*, the *Pennsylvania Forestry Magazine*, and The Pa Nutgrowers Association *The Nut Kernel*. The traveling exhibit went to Longwood Gardens for Arbor Day and then on to Tyler Arboretum educational center for a two-month stay as part of their environmental education program. Mailings of information to potential members and in responses to inquires numbered in the hundreds. Field experiences in locating, pollinating and harvesting chestnuts were provided.

Breeding Program - Four nurseries were expanded and five new nurseries were established. The new nurseries include:

- Longwood Gardens - 315 nuts in a B3 nursery
- Lee Saufley - 75 nuts - B3 nursery
- Tom Pugel - 165 nuts - B3 nursery
- Tyler Arboretum - 140 nuts - American nursery
- Henry Gerhold, PSU. - 1600 nuts - B2F2 nursery

A total of 2850 nuts were planted in chapter plantings. Six pollinators produced 436 nuts from various crosses including F1, B1, B2, and B3.

Seven collectors provided 1838 seed from 11 different American lines, many of which were given to TACF for seed kits and seedling sources.

Activities - In addition to chapter and regional meetings, four

executive board meetings were held to plan the work of the chapter. The membership has been increased from 169 on January 1, 1995 to 359 on December 31, 1997. A \$3000 grant was received for a planting in cooperation with a public agency for spring of '98. A \$5000 gift was received from Mrs. Lamot du Pont Copeland after her attendance at the Longwood Garden Seminar. Six chapter members provided labor during pollinating season at Meadowview. The TACF senior science advisor, Al Ellingboe, was hosted by the chapter for a weekend tour of the three TACF B2F2 plantings in PA and four of the PA chapter breeding nurseries.

Attendance at TACF cabinet and board meetings was good, and PA representation at the TACF Annual meeting in Ashville was excellent.

| Membership: | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Complimentary | 9 |
| Less than \$40 | 57 |
| Regular \$40 | 261 |
| Greater than \$40 | <u>32</u> |
| Total | 359 |
| Active out of state members | 12 |

With the on-going, dedicated help from members, the chapter will continue to support TACF and to pursue its primary goals of education and regional breeding

1998 Chestnut Hybridization Plans

by Dr. Bob Leffel

The immediate objective of our PA-TACF backcross breeding program is 20 third backcross generation (BC3) lines. Our progress to date is 7 BC3 lines in 1995-96 and 2 BC2 lines in 1997. We define a BCn, (n representing any number) line as the progeny of a PA maternal American chestnut tree (or two or more trees at the same locale) and paternal BCn-1 tree. The latter has been selected for partial resistance to chestnut blight.

For 1998, locate and verify PA American chestnut tree (s) producing female flowers. To verify identification, request location form from the chapter office and send the form and sample of tree, as directed on the form, to Blair Carbaugh, the identification committee coordinator. This must be done prior to the pollen receptivity of female flowers and prior to anthesis (pollen shedding) of the male flowers. Emasculate, and bag female flowers by recommended procedures. We attempt to obtain a minimum of 100 seeds per BC line, which requires 100 bags on female flowers plus 10 control (no pollination) bags. Training in emasculation and hybridization is available at the spring chapter meeting, and at the TACF Meadowview Farm and via PA-TACF upon request.

Please coordinate your hybridization plans and pollen requests with PA-TACF and advise of same ASAP. Our success will depend upon a properly planned, executed, and documented backcross breeding program. Our rate of progress in recovering the desired characteristics of the American chestnut is our backcross breeding program is partly dependent on the size of populations. Let us cover the hills of Pennsylvania with our plantings!

Dr Bob Leffel is a Research Agronomist who is retired from the USDA where he specialized in forage crop and soybean breeding

Early 20th Century Sober Chestnut Plantation

by Bill Lord

Having heard of a fabulous chestnut plantation once operated by an industrious over-achiever named Coleman Kimball Sober, 1848-1921, Larry Patchel and I headed away from the October 18 chapter meeting at PP&L Montour Preserve to visit the former site of “one of the greatest commercial chestnut orchards in the world”

We set out, following our impromptu road map, seeking the last survivor of a chestnut empire that reigned 1896-1913. After the final four miles through sun splashed and verdant farm land we stopped, intending to make local inquiry. No need. There to our immediate right stood a great barn fitting its written description: One hundred and twenty-five by fifty feet, three stories high and topped by a cupola seventy-five feet above the ground. The last survivor.

Once it shared the grounds with a palatial “L” shaped three story home with a wrap around porch. Once its owner viewed hundreds of nut bearing trees from the cupola atop the barn. No more. The barn was deserted and gothic. Cobwebs cloaked the beams and sagging doors creaked on rusty hinges. It had seen better days.

The better days had their genesis in 1854 when 12 year old “Coley” asked his father, a professional orchardist, to let him graft some young chestnut trees. Dad was primarily concerned with fruit trees. In good humor, he gave the green light to his son but didn’t expect much from the effort. At least some of the grafts took hold and Sober never let what he had accomplished slip from the back of his mind.

As an adult he made a fortune in lumber and in 1896 he returned to the ancestral farm and applied his energy and talents to producing a nut crop and nursery stock. The farm lay in Northumberland County’s, Irish Valley, bordered by a long ridge of the Alleghenies. The slopes had long since been cleared of its optional forest of oak, “sap” pine and chestnut and was now covered by an opportunistic second growth of native chestnut as grafting stock. The roots of the harvested trees would nourish the grafts of what became known as the ‘Paragon’ chestnut, a nut tree of modest size and unchallenged productivity.

Sober knew of a chestnut tree of undetermined origin that grew on the property of W. L. Shaffer in the Germantown section of Philadelphia. Experts agreed that it was neither American, Chinese, nor European. The nuts were sweet like those of the American but were five times as large. And their taste was far superior to that of either the Chinese or European. Species identity was a lesser consideration to Mr. Sober. The nuts were a marketable resource he planned to develop.

During the winter of 1896 he cut down chestnut trees on his farm. In February he acquired scions from a clone of the Germantown tree from W.H. Engle of Marietta, PA in Lancaster County. These were placed in sand awaiting spring when they were grafted into the sprouts growing from the stumps of Sober’s native trees. Initially he did most of the grafting himself, using a “whip” or “tongue” graft of his own design which proved to be far superior to the more common wedge graft. The whip graft results in much greater contact between the cambium layers of the scion and shoot, where the viable union must occur. Sober also utilized bee’s wax to seal and protect the graft. The wax withstood melting under the direct rays of the sun. He also added a personal touch. According to plan it aided efficiency, but incurred the resentment of his workers. Each grafter was given wax of a specific color whereby Sober could determine productivity.

Workers also suspected that they were often under the observation of a lone occupant in the cupola atop the barn. Sober employed a maintenance crew of 25, most of whom were immigrants who lived on site in four tenant homes. In spring he hired 20 to 40 nurserymen for grafting. But the farm became a traffic of activity in October at nut harvest time. Over a hundred workers combined to work the five teams of horses bringing the nuts from the orchards, freeing them from burs and packing them. A machine, designed by Sober, efficiently solved the prickly problem of “deburring” the nuts.

Year by year the fame of the Paragon chestnut spread across America and even to Europe. Nuts were shipped the breadth of America, from New England to Seattle, Washington. The nursery also thrived. In 1910, Glen Brothers of Rochester, New York, purchased seven carloads of nut bearing trees.

Sober worked diligently and with innovation to protect his orchards. Game hens policed the area for insect pests and sheep close-cropped the ground cover. Fire lanes gave insurance against the spread of unsought flames. When problems arose, the farm persevered. 1906 was a year of trial from a scourge of so called seventeen year locusts or “periodical” cicadas. The adult females split the bark of new, outer limb growth to lay their eggs. This typically kills the ends of the branches where the chestnut blossoms occur. But Sober overcame and 1907 was better than ever.

But a far greater problem, the chestnut blight, was on the wind. I have found no record of the year it first appeared in Sober’s orchard, but it may have been around 1911. At first it was believed under control by prompt removal and burning of diseased trees. To no avail. Sober was out of business by 1913.

For several years he had frequently been visited by officials of the USDA and the Pennsylvania Department of Forestry. They were impressed by his use of the steep, unfertile mountain slopes for a productive chestnut industry. Then these same officials were joined by members of the Pennsylvania Chestnut Blight Commission. Were the Sober Orchards the source of this pestilence that was devastating the native trees? Some scientists suspected that the blight was somehow a result of too much cloning and inbreeding, causing a greater susceptibility to the blight, and spreading from shipments of Sober’s nursery stock. If you would have asked Sober’s farmer neighbors, they would reply in unison that “Kimber” Sober was to blame.

Today, thanks to the pioneer efforts of men like Frank N. Meyer who tracked *Cryphonectria parasitica* to its source in China and Japan, we know that Coleman “Kimber” Sober was no part of the blame.

Larry Patchel and I took a last look at the ancient barn and gave our best wishes to the solitary spirit in the cupola. His industry and energy deserved a better fate.

Bill Lord is a TACF Board member and the PA Chapter historian. He is a retired veterinarian who resides in Pittsburgh with his wife Faye.

Reference: Genealogical & Biographical Annals of Northumberland County, PA, J.L.Floyd & Company (1911)





The Sober Chestnut Plantation house and Barn (circa 1896) A major producer of the 'Paragon' Chestnut.

PA Farm Show Exhibit

by Dan Heacock

Mother nature broke what we had assumed was a tradition of snow for the annual PA Farm Show. This January 10-15 we had great weather and record attendance, estimated between ¼ and ½ million.

We had excellent co-operation from member volunteers, who met with the countless visitors to our exhibit. We distributed literature, answered a multitude of questions, explained our story and shared our goal. Ann and Bob Leffel had the opportunity to give a slide presentation to the members of the Pennsylvania Nut Growers Association who annually meet at the Farm Show. The volunteer exhibitors not only enjoyed the opportunity to meet many new folks and to visit among themselves, but they also enjoyed the yearly opportunity to indulge in the many delicious Pennsylvania food products offered for sale in the food court. Should we open a chestnut concession next year? We're open to suggestions!

A hearty thank you to all 24 volunteers who helped run the exhibit, and also to everyone that stopped by to visit. Those who helped: Chandis Klinger, Gene Witmeyer, Don Franks, Al Eelman, Peter Wohld, Tom Pugel, Ray Noll, Phil Gruszka, Dave Armstrong, Bob Summersgill, Ron Stanley, Mary Stanley, Lee Saufley, Jean Saufley, Lloyd Lupfer, Ed Wilson, Mary Carbaugh, Blair Carbaugh, Lou Santini, Ann Leffel, Bob Leffel, John Maruhnich, and Dan Heacock.

Dan Heacock is the PA Chapter Vice President and Farm Show Coordinator who resides in Marysville, Perry County, PA with his wife Cindy.



Pennsylvania farm show exhibit January 10-15. Photo on left shows the farm show coordinator Dan Heacock (on left) with Volunteer Bob Leffel. The Photo at right shows some of the volunteers (l. To r.) Pete Wohl, Tom Pugel, Al Eelman and Phil Gruszka. Photos by Ray Noll.



The Chestnut Tree Staff Meets to Improve the Newsletter

by Dave Armstrong

On Tuesday, March 3, the Newsletter Staff met at Longwood Gardens to review and develop ideas to make the Newsletter more interesting and informative for readers. The attendees were PA Chapter President, AL Eelman; Newsletter Editor, Warren Lauder; Communications Coordinator, Ann Leffel; Chapter Scientist, Bob Leffel; PA Chapter Board Member, Phil Gruszka; Membership Coordinator, Ron Stanley; and Newsletter Producer, Dave Armstrong. We were also pleased to have Elizabeth Sullivan of Longwood Gardens Public Affairs in attendance. She contributed substantially to the meeting.

Some very innovative and exciting ideas and focus for future editions of the Chestnut Tree Newsletter came from our Meeting. We realized that all these good ideas can not be implemented immediately, but can be integrated as we prepare future issues. The following is a summary of some of the highlights of the meeting:

Improve membership participation and recognition.

Much of the discussion focused on this issue and we are going to include new member names and their county of residence in the paper. We will encourage member article submission and print letters to the editor to include a broad spectrum of membership opinions, ideas and questions. We will ask the help of regional coordinators to designate a person to report on any local events that may be of interest to the general membership. We will do more "Who's Who" articles in each issue to highlight members who are making significant contributions to the Chapter and a brief biographical sketch of the authors of Newsletter articles.

Improve the appearance of the Newsletter. A review of the last issue of the newsletter showed that we can do many things to improve the appearance of the Chestnut Tree in the areas of better photography, higher quality paper and crisper line drawing. We also discussed a better layout and format and flow of information for the readers which will appear in future issues.

Other ideas. We will produce three issues per year to coincide with the Chapter meetings, planting season, and PA Farm Show. Three issues instead of four will allow for more time to receive articles from our members and a longer time-frame to develop and prepare a higher quality product. We may also investigate the possibility of an annual youth issue where younger members of the Chapter can write and produce an issue. We are interested in pursuing advertisers in the Newsletter to raise funds for a better paper and offer interesting products to our membership.

In summary, it was a great meeting and we had abundant ideas and innovations. Our thanks to all participants. The Newsletter Staff is dedicated to the production of a quality Newsletter that will inform and stimulate our readers as well as support the restoration efforts of the American Chestnut Tree.

Dave Armstrong is a retired Army officer and Financial Consultant who resides in Hanover, York County with his wife Madge and daughter, Beth.

Family Festival in Schuylkill County

(An Invitation) by Eugene Dougherty

The Little Schuylkill Conservation Club has initiated a Family Day Music Festival Community Benefit.

All Members of PA -TACF, Little Schuylkill Conservation Club, Air Products Corporation employees, and all their immediate families are invited.

May 24, 1998 beginning at 8:00 A.M. (Rain date, May 25)

Located at the Air Products Corporation Wildlife Sanctuary Pavilion in Hometown, PA

About 10 miles south of Hazleton at Rt 309 and 54

Entertainment by "Patchies" an environmentally concerned group singing their new song "Susquehanna Son"

Fishing - catch or release - bring fishing gear and license.

Tour of club fish nurseries and wildlife sanctuary led by Boy Scout Troop; a great place for hiking and birdwatching.

Refreshments available from concession.

Bring your own lawn chairs;

picnic benches and parking are available. ___

Please **Leave** your pets at home

Entrance fee: adult \$6; 12-16 yrs \$4; 5-11 yrs \$3; free under 5 years old.

Purpose: To benefit the Conservation Club and community for the purchase of a mine slurry pump for use at the club cooperative fish nursery and for use by community fire company. A percent of ticket sales will be donated to the PA Chapter-TACF.

Contact: Purchase your advance tickets from **Eugene Dougherty**, P.O. Box 89, Delano, PA 18220, Phone: 717-467-2303

Make checks payable to Little Schuylkill Conservation Club

Directions will be sent with tickets. Please purchase tickets by **May 1, 1998.**

Door Prizes too!

Eugene Daugherty is a conservationist from Schuylkill County, area coordinator for PA-TACF, and a member of The Little Schuylkill Conservation Club.

Pennsylvania Chapter Automation

Last December we purchased and installed a desk-top personal computer at the Chapter headquarters in Brogue, PA. This system provides our Chapter with the current capability of sending and receiving electronic mail; accessing the internet; and using state-of-the-art word processing.

We are in the process of establishing an automated capability of recording tree nursery and individual tree data and providing this information periodically to TACF. This development is with the guidance and cooperation of Dr. Fred Hebard who has developed an excellent system at Meadowview Farm over the last eleven years.

To contact the PA Chapter by e-mail, use the following address:
pachestnut@cyberia.com

Please send us your e-mail address so we may update our records and make use of this communication tool throughout the Chapter.

For software development questions and suggestions, e-mail Dave Armstrong at: deejaya@cyberia.com

**PA CHAPTER - The American Chestnut Foundation
SPRING MEETING**

April 18, 1998

**News Printing Company Farm, Roaring Spring PA
9:30 A.M. - 3:30 P.M.**

The museum of antique chestnut tools, furniture, and artifacts housed in the “Pig Barn” at the News Printing Company Farm/Golf Course provides a perfect setting for the spring meeting and fund raising auction.

Last year’s auction was such a huge success we will once again help support the work of the chapter by holding a silent auction concurrent with the other activities offered. In order for the auction to be a success we need each attendee to bring a suitable item to the meeting (and bid on at least one item to take home with you!). Please bring an item of at least nominal value and be prepared to give Chandis Klinger an estimate of its value. If it is related to chestnuts in some way (made of chestnut wood, useful for planting chestnuts or with some 19th century nostalgia theme) so much the better, but anything likely to “bring a pretty penny” to the financial well-being of the chapter will be gratefully accepted. Auction items will be accepted beginning at 8:30 am.

We are excited to have Marshall Case, Executive Director, and Dr. Fred V. Hebard, Staff Scientist at the Meadowview Research Farms as special guests from the American Chestnut Foundation. Dr. James Bailey, Forest Geneticist, PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Forestry and Robert Leffel, Research Agronomist, USDA (re“tired”), also known to us as the Breeding Coordinator for PA Chapter, will add their expertise to the morning program.

Lunch will be followed by concurrent workshops and the final bidding for the auction items you just can’t live without. Bring a friend and join in the learning, the friendship, and the fun.

There will be a dutch treat dinner on Saturday Evening at The Creekside Inn at Roaring Spring. To facilitate food planning, please select your entree in advance. The Choices are: **#1.** Roast Beef @ \$12.95 **#2.** Broiled Haddock @ \$15.95 **#3.** Roast Turkey @ \$12.95 **#4.** Delmonico Steak@\$15.95 **#5.** Prime Rib@\$15.95. All selections include soup, salad & house dessert. Beverages are additional.

Please indicate your meal choice with a number on the registration form above your name if you plan to attend the dinner

AGENDA

- 9:00 A.M. Registration and Coffee
And Begin Silent Auction
- 9:45 A.M. Welcome
- 10:15 A.M. Breeding American Chestnuts
Fred Hebard
- 10:45 A.M. Red Oak Breeding
Jim Bailey
- 11:15 A.M. Progeny Testing
Bob Leffel
- 12:00 Noon Lunch
- 1:00 & 2:00 PM Concurrent Workshops
(select two)
 - 1. Chestnut Identification -Dave Armstrong
 - 2. Pollinating - Ann Leffel
 - 3. Grafting - Tucker Hill
 - 4. Planting & Culture - Bob Leffel
 - 5. Talk with Exec. Director - Marshall Case
- 3:00 P.M. Conclude Silent Auction
- 3:30 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 April 10, 1998.**

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

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City/State _____ **Zip** _____

County _____

| Workshop selection: | Person # | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|-----|-----|
| (select two) | #1 | #2 | #3 |
| 1. Identification | [] | [] | [] |
| 2. Pollinating | [] | [] | [] |
| 3. Grafting | [] | [] | [] |
| 4. Planting, Culture | [] | [] | [] |
| 5. Talk | [] | [] | [] |

See back page for directions and information

PA CHAPTER-TACF SPRING MEETING NEWS

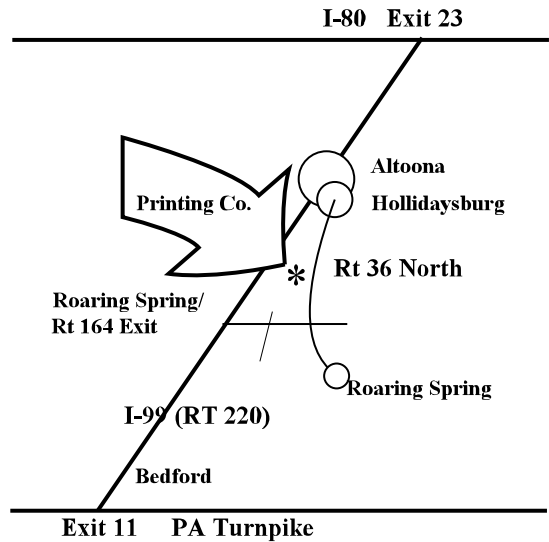
Take the Roaring Spring Exit off I-99 (formerly RT 220). Go east toward Roaring Spring. Turn left at the second traffic light onto Rt. 36 north. Proceed 1.6 miles to News Printing Company farm on left (directly across from Nelson's Nursery).

Lodging opportunities are available at the following places:

- (Bedford or Altoona)
- Super 8 1-800-800-8000
- Econo Lodge 1-800-553-2666
- (Bedford only)
- Quality Inn 1-814-623-5188
- If you prefer a Bed & Breakfast:
- (Bedford)
- Bedford House 1-814-623-7171
- Historic Chalybeate Springs Hotel 1-814-623-7792
- (Roaring Spring)
- Spring Manor 1-814-224-5820

Post-Meeting Options:

- Saturday - 5:30 P.M. Group dinner at Creekside Inn Restaurant, Roaring Spring (Indicate meal selection on the Registration form if attending)
- Sunday - PA Chapter chestnut nursery planting at Bob Summersgill's farm near Stahlstown in Westmoreland Co.
- Tour Old Bedford Village, Fort Bedford, antique shopping in Bedford, etc.



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

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Dedicated to restoring the **American Chestnut**



- Lumber Tree
- Ecological Link
- Abundant Food For Wildlife
- Forest in good health & balance

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