

Chestnut Tree

The Pennsylvania Chapter of
The American Chestnut Foundation

Volume 3 No.4

March 1999

Printing of the *Chestnut Tree* Newsletter is courtesy of The News Printing Company of Claysburg, PA
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SPRING MEETING at the News Printing Company in

Roaring Spring, PA - Saturday, April 10, 1999 - 9 AM to 3:30 PM

Join us at **Charlotte and Barney Barnhart's** Printing Company Farm "chestnut museum" for a great meeting featuring **Marshal Case** TACF Executive Director discussing the strategy for the future. **Dr Fred Hebard**, TACF Scientist, will discuss the future of the chestnut breeding program. **Dr. Bob Leffel** will update us on the PA backcross breeding program and considerations for the future. **Jeff O'Brien**, who writes for PA newspapers and magazines, will discuss his chestnut research and publishing techniques.

Ann Leffel will moderate a **TACF strategic planning** session (see next article for details). A Workshop will be conducted showing **pollination methods; planting nuts and seedlings; and chestnut identification methods**. Bring your chestnut crafts and other items for a **silent auction**. Meet new chapter members, old friends, and TACF guests. Please fill out the flier on page 5 right away and send it in for our head-count and planning.

TACF and PA Chapter Strategy Session -Looks to our future

A major session will be held at the spring meeting at Roaring Spring on April 10th that will deal with the direction of The American Chestnut Foundation and the PA Chapter for the next ten to twelve years. It will be important to get experienced members from a wide range across Pennsylvania to participate in this session. All PA Chapter members are encouraged to attend.

Ann Leffel will moderate the workshop with panel members **Marshal Case, Dr Fred Hebard**, and **Dr Bob Leffel**. The following goals have been proposed:

- ▶ Produce blight-resistant nuts for initial distribution by 2006.
- ▶ Reintroduce the trees into the forest in an acceptable ecological manner.
- ▶ Development of funds and assets to support these efforts.
- ▶ Diversify and strengthen the leadership of TACF and the PA Chapter.
- ▶ Develop a public education program
- ▶ Generate a science-based research, education, and data sharing system.
- ▶ Grow and enhance membership and expand member's roles.

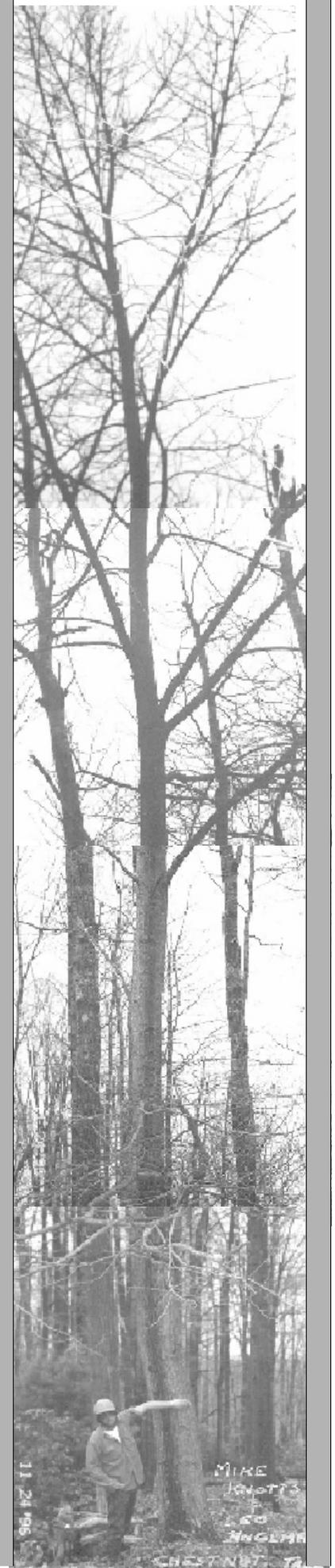
These strategy meetings are being conducted in other chapters, states and regions around the country and they will have a significant impact in the future activities of TACF, and the PA Chapter.

WANTED - The Largest Living American Chestnut Tree in Pennsylvania - - - - - Is This it??

Mike Knotts measuring the Knotts/Engleman tree in Sproul State Forest.
The tree was reported by Tom Monahan. ←←←←←

by Dave Armstrong

If you think you know where the largest American chestnut tree is located, we would like to hear from you, evaluate it, register it and publish it (with your picture) in the *Chestnut Tree* in the spring of 2000. Several PA members have indicated that they know where there is a candidate for the big one in Pennsylvania. Now is your chance to nominate it. (Cont'd on Page2)



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MIKE
KNOTT'S
200
ENGLEMAN
CHESTNUT TREE

The Pennsylvania Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation

800 East King St. York, PA 17403

(717) 852-0035 E-Mail: pachapter@acf.org

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 Gruska, Chester County,
610-388-1000, Extn: 541

Chandis Klinger, Snyder County, 717-837-0457

2000 Term

William Peifer, Ohio, 219-478-6413

Ann Leffel, York County, 717-927-9557

Tom Pugel, Bucks County, 610-346-6198

Region Coordinators

Western Region

Coordinator, Larry Patchel, 412-824-5019

Assistant Region Coordinator, Bill Lord,
412-793-0255

Includes the Counties of:

Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Crawford, Erie, Greene, Indiana, Lawrence, Mercer, Washington, and Westmoreland.

South West Region

Coordinator, Jack Laws, 814-623-2207

Assistant Region Coordinator, Ron Stanley, 814-784-3652

Includes the Counties of:

Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Fayette, and Somerset.

Allegheny Region

Coordinator, Dave Sorg, 814-834-7663

Includes the Counties of:

Cameron, Elk, Forrest, McKean, Potter, Sullivan, Tioga and Warren.

North East Region

Coordinator, John Maruhnich, 717-378-2584

Includes the Counties of:

Bradford, Lackawanna, Susquehanna, Wayne, Wyoming.

Pocono Region

Coordinator, Gene Dougherty, 717-467-2303

Includes the Counties of:

Carbon, Columbia, Luzerne, Monroe, Montour, Northumberland and Schuylkill.

South Central Region

Coordinator, Lee Saufley, 717-566-2993

Includes the Counties of:

Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Huntington, Juniata, Mifflin, Perry, Snyder and Union.

South East Region

Region Coordinator, Don Franks, 717-560-9632

Includes the Counties of:

Adams, Berks, Bucks, Chester, Cumberland, Delaware, Lancaster, Lebanon, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, York.

North Central Region

No Coordinator yet.

Includes the Counties of:

Centre, Clarion, Clearfield, Clinton, Jefferson, Lycoming and Venango.

* highlighted counties indicates that a coordinator has volunteered for that county.

President's Message

Al Eelman

Spring is definitely on the way. I can tell because the planting committee meeting is approaching. What an exciting year this is going to be! Pennsylvania will have more American chestnuts and hybrid nurseries planted than ever. In five years we will be standing in the shade of partially blight-resistant trees. Now if we could only find some that are deer resistant!

I have appointed a nominating committee to find a slate of officers for the year 2000. We will be nominating a President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary plus three new Board Members. Just think what a thrill it will be to guide the chapter into a new century. I may have to keep the names of the committee secret to save them from being deluged with candidates. Seriously, it is a privilege and honor to serve this organization in any capacity. We have a fine group of people who give of their time and effort, and their results are inspiration to all of us. If you are asked to become candidate for an office please consider it favorably. You will not regret it. If you wish to be considered for any position please contact **Ann Leffel**, nominating committee chairperson.

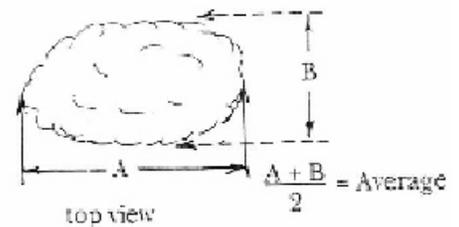
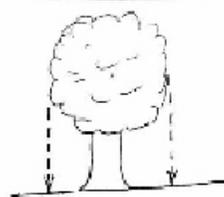
Largest Living American Chestnut Tree (Continued from page 1)

We will select three or four of the largest American chestnut tree candidates. After our evaluation, we will send the information to the American Forestry Association as candidates for the new PA Champ.

The last issue of the *Journal of the American Chestnut Foundation*, dated Autumn 1998, discussed Chestnut Champs on Page 15. They noted that the Pennsylvania Champ died recently with no new nominee. The tree that died was in Cameron County, Grove Township. It had a circumference of 53 inches, height of 85 feet, and an average crown spread of 48 feet.

The Procedure: Measure the circumference of your tree in inches at 4 ½ feet from the ground. Estimate the height in feet. Estimate the average crown spread in feet from the front and side as shown:

AVERAGE CROWN SPREAD



Send this information plus a leaf and twig sample and your phone number to the York Office: PA Chapter, TACF, Champion Chestnut, 800 East King Street, York, PA 17403. You may call me at (717) 852-0035 with any questions.

Blair Carbaugh and I will do the initial screening for size and American characteristics. We will then send the recommended leaf samples to **Dr Fred Hebard** and **Dr Sandra Anagnastakis** who have agreed check the final candidates.

The American Forestry Association and the PA Chapter will visit the top candidates for an official measurement and determine which one is the PA champ.

Pennsylvania Membership and Region Map

PA MEMBERSHIP SKYROCKETS

On November 7th, at the Executive Board Meeting, there were 407 PA Chapter members. As of March 1st, we are at 533, a 31% increase! The map above indicates where our members are located by county. We also have 23 PA Chapter members residing in Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Indiana, California, Kentucky, New Mexico, Ohio, Texas and Virginia.

CHAPTER PUBLICITY by Ann Leffel

The round of publicity through frequent newspaper and magazine articles, the help of the PA Bureau of Forestry, presentations by speakers, exhibits at public shows, and the TACF web pages have all contributed to our growth. Keep up the good work, members!

Recent presentations include one at Lancaster County Environmental Center. Recent newspaper articles appeared in *York Sunday News*, *Lancaster Intelligencer*, *Lancaster Farming*, *Westchester Daily*, and two articles in *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*. Recent articles were also in *The Resource*, *Pennsylvania Magazine*, and *Pennsylvania Township News* magazines. Chapter members manned TACF exhibits for six days at the Pennsylvania Farm Show in Harrisburg and five days at the Outdoor Show in York.

Coming up - The Free Library of Philadelphia will open a large exhibit on the Wissahickon Valley to be set up in the

gallery, off the main entrance hall, of the Logan Square Library. This exhibit includes 22 display cases and will open March 1 and run until September. TACF has been invited to participate. The chapter prepared one case, including an enlargement of a lithograph of "Gathering Chestnuts in Fairmount Park." Part of the Park is located in Wissahickon Valley. Folks in the Philadelphia area will want to visit.

AREA COORDINATORS UPDATE

by Dave Armstrong

The regional coordinator concept is progressing very well with all regions now having a coordinator except the North Central. The masthead on page 2 has the names of the region coordinators and phone numbers. The highlighted counties have a county coordinator who has volunteered to serve. We still need many county persons. Their duties are to contact county members and bring them together to do the basic functions of **planting, pollinating, and harvesting** within the county. Please contact your Region Coordinator or the York Office if you would like to be the county coordinator. We need your help to be part of the regional team.

We plan to have a meeting with all region and county coordinators on April 9th at 3 P.M. at the Printing Company conference room in Roaring Spring. We will discuss how we can do the coordinator's job; exchange ideas about region and county coordinator experiences; improving communications; membership; and education programs.

Spring Pollination and Fall Nut Collecting

Plans

by Ann Leffel, Board Member

While you are out in the woods this spring seeking the state champion American chestnut tree, be sure to **look up**. Mid-May to mid-June is the time to locate flowering trees for the breeding program and for the fall nut harvest. A minimum of 20 different American chestnut trees to serve as maternal trees in the breeding program are needed for each source of blight resistance, and 20 more different American female parents are needed for each successive backcross.

We plan to incorporate a great diversity of trees to achieve local adaptation and produce a breeding population of trees for the restoration of this forest species. The program is not one of producing a single tree — the perfect timber specimen with perfect resistance — and then cloning it for a mono-culture forest. That could work for tree plantations similar to pine plantations that are grown for specific purposes, but may not be advisable for forest restoration. The ultimate goal is to restore the chestnut to the forest.

We have two immediate goals for this spring: 1) To complete our 20 BC3 lines using Clapper source of resistance. To complete that goal we must hybridize 6 to 10 more BC3 lines this spring. and: 2) To provide seed to plant two American nurseries in each region, each nursery with 10 nuts collected from each of 10 native American trees within the region. That means locating 10 new flowering trees in each region, that have not been previously used, and collecting a minimum of 20 nuts from each of those trees. Can we do it? Surely we can! Get your forestry, hiking, farming, and hunting friends to be on the lookout. Send leaf and twig samples to Blair Carbaugh for verification.

Learn pollinating techniques by volunteering to help at Meadowview Research Farms. PA sends 6 to 8 volunteers every year to assist during this labor intensive season. (See calendar). You can also learn by attending workshops at spring meeting, and by assisting our teams of pollinators working in PA.

Donations, donations!

We could not survive without the generous donations of our members and friends.

Recent donations include 750 plastic veggie bags for nut storage from **Teneco Corp.** arranged for by Bob Summersgill through Mike Shaughnessy of Teneco. **Tom Pugel** has acquired and delivered 1500 plastic stakes for the spring plantings. **Richard LaRocco** of **Greymatter Illustration** designed and prepared a large laminated map, showing regional plantings and pollinations, for the Philadelphia Library Exhibit and for our traveling display units. The breeding work of the chapter is clearly and colorfully shown on the map.

Chris Ditlow, donated a finely made chest of reclaimed chestnut wood for the Philadelphia Library Exhibit and TACF

donated a wooden bottle or vase made from a piece of rail from an old chestnut rail fence, also on display in Philadelphia.

Again we thank the **News Printing Company** for their continued support in printing the newsletter-- our lifeline to all members. And lastly and mostly we thank **Charlotte and 'Barney' Barnhart** for hosting and providing the unparalleled chestnut meeting place for the spring chapter meeting, at the News Printing Co. Farm. We are most pleased to report that Charlotte and Barney are in much better health this year. Like President Jimmy Carter, they exemplify the 'virtues of aging'!

The **Allegheny Power Company** donated \$1,000 to the Pennsylvania Chapter for our breeding program and also in support of the cost to mail the *Chestnut Tree* newsletter.

Who's Who in Chestnuts

by Bill Lord, TACF Historian

Dr. **Sandra Lee Anagnostakis** is a Scientist, a status earned by years of preparation followed by years of productive research. We chestnut enthusiasts are fortunate that much of her research has involved the American chestnut tree and its nemesis, the blight. For most of her career she has been a staff member of The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven. Starting in 1966 in the Department of Genetics, she steadily progressed upward in status and responsibility, and attained her present position of Scientist, Department of Pathology and Ecology in 1992.

She was born in Coffeyville, Kansas, May 14, 1939. She attended college at the University of California at Riverside and received a Bachelor's degree in mycology and her Masters Degree in Botany from the University of Texas. Dr. Anagnostakis then joined the staff of The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station. She completed her Doctor of Agronomy degree at Justus-Leibig University in Giessen, West Germany in 1985.

Dr. Sandy's current work includes studies of the ecology of chestnut blight disease and its control by hypovirulence. Her many publications in professional journals include articles on genetic mapping with Dr. Tom Kubisick, Dr. Fred Hebard and Dr. R.L. Doudrick, and on the genetics of the chestnut blight fungus with Dr. William MacDonald and Dr. Mark Double. All of those mentioned are in the forefront of our endeavor to produce a blight-resistant American chestnut.

The greatest accolade we can give Dr. Sandra is to acknowledge the help she has given to our efforts in two particular instances. TACF acquired the lease of the Wagner Research Farm at Meadowview Va. in 1989. Sandra provided Dr. Fred Hebard, our newly acquired scientist and farm superintendent, with second generation hybrids that enabled a time saving "jump start" for our breeding program. More recently, in 1997, Sandra provided the PA Chapter with pollen essential to maintain the Pennsylvania Chapter's breeding program. Dr. Sandra, for this, and much more, we thank you!

Roaring Springs Meeting April 10, 1999

Please list all attendees names. Show the address/phone of the TACF Member

Name _____

Name _____

Name _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip code _____

Phone _____

Indicate your preference for strategy session or workshops:

You may change this and select any workshop at the meeting.

Person	1	2	3	4
Strategy session.	_____	_____	_____	_____

Planting, Pollinating, and Identification.	_____	_____	_____	_____
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Optional Dinner on Saturday at 5:30 PM. Select one meal per person.

Beef	_____	_____	_____	_____
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Fish	_____	_____	_____	_____
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Chicken	_____	_____	_____	_____
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Vegetarian	_____	_____	_____	_____
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Places to Stay in the Roaring Spring Area

Bedford (about 24 miles south on Interstate 99)

Best Western Inn, Rt 220	814-623-8999
Budget Inn, RR2	814-623-7800
Econo Lodge, RR2	814-623-5174
Quality Inn, RR2	814-623-5188
Red Carpet, Inn RR2	814-623-7979
Super 8 Motel RR5	814-623-5494

Altoona (about 8 miles north on Interstate 99)

Days Inn, 3306 Pleasant Valley Blvd	814-944-9661
Econo Lodge, 2906 Pleasant Vly Blvd	814-944-3555
Hampton Inn, Plank Road	814-941-3500
Holliday Inn, 2915 Pleasant Vly Blvd	814-944-4581
Ramada Inn, 1 Sheraton Dr	814-946-1631
Super 8 Motel 3535 Fairway Dr	814-942-5350

Bed & Breakfasts

Bedford House, Bedford	814-623-7171
Paris House, Hollidaysburg	814-696-2849
Spring Garden Farm, Roaring Spring	814-224-2569

Western Regional Planting and Workshops

On Sunday April 11 (the day after the PA Chapter meeting) region and chapter members are invited to meet at the **Powdermill Nature Reserve**, located near Rector, PA. Rector is located in Westmoreland County, South of Route 30 on Route 381.

The meeting will start at 9A.M. with a planting workshop. Lunch will be provided and a chestnut nursery will be planted nearby at the Summersgill Farm that afternoon.

On the following Saturday, the 17th there will be a workshop and planting at **South Park, Allegheny County**. South Park is near Bethel Park, south on Route 88. Members will assemble at 10 AM in the parking lot at the corner of Corrigan and McConkey roads. A sign will be posted there for latecomers.

Please notify the Western Regional Coordinator: **Larry Patchel** (412) 824-5019 or e-mail: larychop@aol.com, if you plan to attend either of these events.

Pocono Regional Activity

On May 29 & 30, the Pocono Region will participate in the Lehigh River Fishing Festival at Jim Thorp, PA with a booth serving chestnut pancakes. There will also be a chestnut slide presentation by **Paul Hornberger**. A meeting of the County coordinators is also planned.

On June 20th, Fathers Day, a Catfish Round-up Derby at Rabbit Run Reservoir which is three miles out of Tamaqua, PA. is planned. This is to support the Tamaqua Summer Festival.

Please contact the Regional Coordinator, **Gene Dougherty** 717-467-2303 for additional details regarding these events.



Please stamp

Foundation

Name & Address

fold and tape

Regional Breeding Activities

by Ann Leffel, Board Member

This past fall, 1795 backcross seeds and over 5000 American chestnut seeds were harvested. Five new BC3 (third backcross) and two new BC1 (first backcross) orchards plus backcross replacement seedlings will take place at seven locations. Seven new American orchards plus replacement seedlings will be planted throughout the state. The breeding orchards being planted by members and cooperators are listed below. Volunteers are always welcome and needed to complete and maintain these plantings. Call your regional coordinator or contact person for the particulars, if you will participate. The following schedule is planned, weather permitting:

Western Region

Allegheny County - South Park - Saturday, April 17, BC3 - 113 seeds.

Westmoreland County - Summersgill Farm - Stahlstown, Sunday, April 11 - BC3 241 seed.

Contact: Regional Coordinator, Larry Patchel, 412-824-5019 <larychop@aol.com>

South West Region

Bedford County - Buffalo Mills - BC1 - 107 seeds.

Contact: Regional Coordinator, Jack Laws, 814-623-2207

North Central Region

Clinton County - Beech Creek Township - April 17 BC3 - 353 seeds.

Contact: Lee Saufley, 717-566-2993

Clearfield County - Moshannon State Forest - (no date set) BC3 - 401 seeds, BC2 replacement -42 seeds.

Contacts: Wayne Wynick, DCNR, 814-765-0821 <wynick,wayne@al.dcnr.pa.us>

Jane Ramsey, PA-TACF, 814-692-7277

This is the second of two plantings at Moshannon State Forest in a nursery near the forest headquarters office. This two-year cooperative effort involves seed produced by hybridizations done by PA Chapter volunteers, financing of planting supplies by the Hardwood Plywood & Veneer Association, site preparation and maintenance by DCNR and their volunteers, and planting by PA-TACF volunteers and Agriculture students from Tyrone High School. The planting has been very successful to date. We look forward to increased participation by volunteers this year because of the size of the planting.

Centre County - Dr. Larry J. Kuhns - Pennsylvania State University - American - 120 seeds.

A research planting using container grown plants treated with root growth regulator which may promote acceleration of flowering, a great benefit to the breeding program, and trees that reach six feet the first year, a benefit in getting top growth above the deer browse height.

Dr. Kuhns will also grow seedlings from one-half of the seed planned for Clinton and Clearfield Counties above, to be set in the respective nurseries next spring, for a comparison with

direct seeding.

South Central Region - Regional Coordinator - Lee Saufley - 717-566-2993

Huntingdon County - Raystown Lake - (no date set) American - 60 seeds with cooperation from Juniata College students.

Contact: Jeff Krause, Wildlife Biologist - 814-658-3405 ext. 91-2813

Huntingdon County - Hemlock Girl Scout Council Camp - (no date set) - American - 60 seeds.

Contact: Howard Oesterling, Director of Properties - 1-800-692-7816

Maryland - Merle Thorpe Charitable Trust - Catocin Mt. (no date set) - American - 130 seeds.

PA-TACF provided seed collected from counties neighboring Catocin Mt. to start this Maryland planting. **Contact:** Robert Strasser, Horticulture Advisor, 301-271-7582

South East Region

Don Franks - Regional Coordinator - 717-560-9632

Chester County - Longwood Gardens - (no date set) BC3 - 136.

Contact: Phil Gruska, 610-388-1000 Extn 541

Delaware - Piedmont - Red Clay Reservation - (no date set) BC3 - 375.

Contact: Al Eelman, , 610-358-1077

Lancaster County - Lancaster County Environmental Center (no date set) American - 50.

Contact: Alice Stitt, Park Naturalist, 717-295-5919

York County - Codorus State Park - (no date set) - American - 150 seeds.

Contact: Dave Armstrong - 717-632-8669 or 717-852-0035 <pachapter@acf.org>

York County - Brogue Nursery - Saturday, March 27 weather permitting - American - 120

Contact: Ann and Bob Leffel - 717-927-9557 <pachestnut@cyberia.org>

Pocono Region

Schuylkill County - Little Schuylkill Conservation Club - (no date set) - BC1 - 115 seeds.

Contact: Eugene Dougherty, Regional Coordinator, 717-467-2303

North East Region

Lycoming County - Rich Norrie - American - 100 seeds.

Allegheny Region - Regional Coordinator - David Sorg, 814-834-7663

David Sorg is the new coordinator for the eight-county region. He will need the support of the membership to get a project going in that region. One activity in the planning for this summer, is the pollination of blooming native American chestnut trees which have been reported in Elk County.

PA-TACF provided 1005 collected native American seed to Flint River Nursery in Georgia for a special study by the Georgia Forest Commission and 1000 nuts for Empire Chestnut Company who provides seeds and seedlings for TACF seed kits and seedling sales.

Calendar of Events for 1999

March 13	-	Planters meeting. Leffel Farm, Brogue, PA
March 15 - April 20		Planting time.
April 9- 3 PM		Regional Coordinators meeting/workshop and dinner.
April 10 -9 AM-3:30PM		PA Chapter spring meeting at Roaring Spring, PA.
April 11	-	Western Region meeting and planting at Powdermill. Nature Preserve and at Bob Summersgill's farm.
April 17	-	South Park Planting, Allegheny County.
June 15 - July 7	-	Pollination time: bagging and hybridizing.
June 7	-	Meadowview volunteers activity week.
June 21	-	Meadowview volunteers activity week.
Let us know if you can participate.		
August 3	-	Deadline for articles and photos for the summer newsletter.
August 31	-	Summer newsletter mailed.
September 15-Oct 10		Harvest time.
October 16 and 17		TACF Annual meeting in Ohio.
November 5 afternoon		PA Chapter Executive Board meeting and dinner.
November 6	-	PA Chapter fall meeting in the Pittsburgh area.
November 19	-	Deadline for articles and photos for the winter newsletter.
December 17	-	Winter newsletter mailed.

Pennsylvania Farm Show Booth was a Success! By Dan Heacock, PA Chapter Vice President and Farm Show coordinator

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who visited and staffed the chapter booth this year. Even though the weather was miserable on the first and last days, we still had record crowds. We talked to a broad spectrum of visitors; teachers, researchers, wood workers, and "nutty" enthusiasts. 56 signed our guest log and we sent prospective membership packets to each of them.



Bob Leffel & Tom Pugel model their fancy chestnut ties at the 1999 Farm Show Booth. Ties and American chestnut items were donated by Chris Ditlow

Pennsylvania Chapter of
The American Chestnut Foundation
800 East King Street
York, PA 17403

Nonprofit Organization
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Claysburg, PA 16625
Permit No. 45



The strength of the Pennsylvania Chapter comes from our dedicated volunteer members.