

Chestnut Tree

The Pennsylvania Chapter of
The American Chestnut Foundation



An Old Surviving
American Chestnut Tree
The Varndell Tree
DBH:12 inches Ht: 40 Feet
Found near Salisbury, PA

The Best Pollination Season Ever

by Ann Leffel

Each season is different. This year the male catkins emerged at the usual time and female bloom emerged later than usual. This kept volunteers returning time and again to their trees to monitor bloom for the right time to bag and pollinate. The females



were not as abundant as usual, but with our stalwart teams of volunteers, the results were fantastic. A PA-BC3 line is defined as the progeny of a PA-American chestnut tree (or several trees at a locale), and the previous generation BC2 tree exhibiting maximum, moderate resistance to chestnut blight. **Thus we reached, in 1999, the capability of possibly producing 20 lines in one year. We've placed 1750 bags, potentially 19 Clapper and 4 Graves BC3 lines, on PA American chestnut trees this pollinating season.**

The success of our breeding program is dependent upon very dedicated members and cooperating volunteers, including:

Lee Saufley with wife **Jean, Mary and Blair Carbaugh, Charlie Cian, Ron Stanley, Chris Castle, and Alex Reinke** placed 670 bags on 10 trees in Clearfield, Center, and Clinton Counties. Lee reports an average of about 7 female burrs per bag, an unusually high number.

Bob Summersgill with son **Bob, Bill Lord, Larry Patchel, Judith Gallagher, and Maggie and Jerry Rosborough** placed 247 bags on multiple trees at two locations to complete a Clapper line started last year, start a new Clapper line on Chestnut Ridge, and two new Graves lines all in Westmoreland County. (The Rosboroughs are moving to Alaska for two years in August. They will be greatly missed!)

Dave Armstrong, Tracey Coulter, Bob Leffel, Forester Phil Varndell, Mike Waldron, Judi and Bart Hogan, John Feldmeyer, and Dave Luckenbill placed 125 bags on multiple

trees in Michaux State Forest in Franklin County and **Dave, Tracey, and Chris Ditlow** placed 130 bags on the Kelly tree in Cumberland County for two new Clapper lines.

Veteran **Tom Pugel** with help from brother **Larry**, placed 288 bags at four locations for three new Clapper lines and one Graves line. Tom worked in Carbon, Fayette, Somerset, and Westmoreland Counties.

Eugene Dougherty and **Richard Schwartz** placed 42 bags on a tree in Schuylkill County for a new Clapper line and scouted a promising new area in Wayne County for next year.

Chandis Klinger placed about 50 bags on a tree in Snyder County for a new Graves line.

Bob Leffel and wife **Ann, Eugene Witmeyer, and Norm Wurzbach** placed 198 bags at three locations in York County and one in Schuylkill County.

Lloyd Lupfer worked with **Erik Johnson** a Dickinson College student, on several trees at Reineman Wildlife Sanctuary in Perry County. They placed 120 bags on a BC1 tree and pollinated with American pollen and placed 165 bags on three F-1 trees which Lloyd and **Richard Norrie** pollinated with American pollen.

Armstrong, Peifer, and Leffels also made Chinese by American crosses to produce check F-1 seed for next year's planting. Now we wait with great anticipation. What will be the yield of all this labor? Although bags cover multiple females, some females abort, some bags are lost to wind, bears, squirrels, or branch death. Sometimes the entire tree dies. We hope to harvest at least an average of one viable nut per bag. Time will tell!

Membership ---

600 MEMBERS AND RISING!

On August 2nd the PA Chapter membership went over 600. Today we are at 605 and expect 40 or more from a mailing campaign that TACF ran for the chapter in July. In the past eight months, we averaged a net increase of 15 new members per month. This increase in membership will expand our income and allow us to accomplish many of our future tasks utilizing the many talents of all our members.

Thanks for your enthusiastic support!

The Chapter Calendar.. 1999 & 2000

Aug 31 Chapter Newsletter Mailed
Sept 15 - 30 Harvest Time
Oct 1 - 2 PA Forestry Assn. Meeting
Oct 15 - 16 TACF Annual Meeting

Nov 12 PA Chapter Board Meeting
Nov 13 PA Chapter Meeting
Nov 30 Chapter Newsletter Mailed
Jan 8 - 13 PA Farm Show
Feb 29 Chapter Newsletter Mailed

Mar 15 - Apr 30 Planting Time
Apr 7 Coordinator Meeting
Apr 8 PA Chapter Meeting
May 31 Chapter Newsletter Mailed
Jun 15 - Jul 10 Pollination Time

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, none yet

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, Lackwanna, 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

Coordinator, none yet

Includes the Counties of:

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

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

Results of the PA Chapter Executive Board Meeting

On July 24th, the Executive Board consisting of the chapter officers and board members met to be briefed and make decisions on the subjects below:

Membership status - Dave Armstrong, Executive Director reported on the status of membership as shown on page 1 of this newsletter. The Board agreed to continue current membership actions. They recommended that we send a news release and copies of the latest newspaper articles to county coordinators to boost local news coverage of chapter activities. They also recommended that we do a mailing campaign to state politicians and government conservation groups to solicit support for the chestnut restoration.

Breeding Program status - Dr Bob Leffel, Chapter Scientist, outlined where we are with the backcross breeding program as detailed on page 6 of this newsletter.

1999 Elections - Board member Ann Leffel briefed on the status of candidates for officers and three board members. Many potential candidates are not available to serve until the year 2001. We are also evaluating a reorganization of the chapter executive board and action officers in the year 2000.

Based on these considerations, the board voted to extend the current officers and board through 2000 to give more time to evaluate and present a possible reorganization to the general membership this autumn.

September Newsletter - Based on a discussion held by the board last November, it was recommended and approved that we will publish four newsletters each year rather than three. The mailing dates will be the end of **February, May, August** and **November**. The board reviewed the NL items to be published and suggested we publish some safety tips for ladder use in the field.

Chapter Meeting in November - The board discussed two locations for the fall meeting; Powdermill Nature Reserve in Westmoreland County; and Mont Alto Campus of PSU in Franklin County. Based on the possibility of planting a nursery in the spring at Mont Alto the board voted to use Powdermill on November 6th.

Chapter Reorganization Proposal - A proposal to reorganize the chapter was presented by Dave Armstrong. It focuses on placing board members as overseers in six functional areas. The board voted to consider the recommendation with further study of other organizations before final approval of the board and the general membership.

The principal reasons for this proposal is to assign board members a functional responsibility thereby spreading out the supervision and planning of chapter functions among the six board members. The functional areas identified are shown below. Each Director will establish action members or committees as a part of their team to carry out their respective tasks. The advantage of this approach is to spread out the chapter responsibilities, insure that chapter vital tasks are planned and performed, foster a teamwork approach, and develop future board members from the action teams.

Board President and Directors Elected by the Members

Board President

Board Director Tree Breeding Program	Board Director Membership	Board Director Admin. & Data Management	Vice Pres. & Board Director Operations	Board Director Educ & Comm	Board Director Finance
Chap. Scientist Pgm Manager Tree I.D.		Data Analyst Programer	Exec Director Coordinators Admin Asst.	Historian Speakers Newsletter Staff Public Educ.	Treasurer Grants

Have Truck! Will Travel! or Pollinating, It's as Easy as Falling Off a Ladder!

The PA Chapter now has its own cherry-picker through the effort and generosity of four of our members. **Tom Monahan** from Altoona located the '86 diesel Ford 350 pickup truck with boom and bucket, one of several for sale at auction. Tom checked them out, selected one and placed the bid. We got it! His brother, **Bernie Monahan** (native Pennsylvanian now living in California), a great supporter of the breeding program in PA, donated a large chunk of the purchase price, and our chapter sponsors, **Charlotte and Barney Barnhart** chipped in the rest. The chapter paid the remaining costs of taxes, insurance, inspection, registration, etc. The truck enables us to reach higher into trees and to do so more safely and efficiently. Three new trees which were bagged on ladders, were pollinated by bucket truck upon it's arrival in Brogue. It was a bit scary and challenging first times up in this newly acquired truck, but we now much prefer it. We think it much safer! .



PA Chapter Bucket Truck

Wayne Wynick, Asst. District Forester and **Bob Merrill**, District Forester at Moshannon State Forest have again provided their large DCNR - Bureau of Forestry bucket truck. Its very secure caged platform reaches up to 60' and holds 3 people with ease. They also provided driver and operator, **Charlie Cian** and Staff Forester **Alex Reinke** with a support vehicle for two days of bagging and two days of pollinating in Center, Clearfield, and Clinton counties. We thank you!!

The chapter truck is currently housed in the SE Region. Now we have two major regions with access to bucket trucks. Perhaps the members from other regions can work at arranging such help within those regions. Contact your regional coordinator if you have suggestions.

The trucks will be used again in the harvest of nuts produced by the controlled pollinations.



DCNR Bucket truck from Moshannon State Forest.

PFA Annual Meeting

113th Annual Pennsylvania Forestry Association Meeting
October 1-2, 1999

Days Inn Penn State, State College, PA

Friday Field Trip- 8:30a.m.-4:30p.m.:

Penn State Stone Valley Experimental Forests - 7000
acre research, recreation, and industrial forest
near campus

Westvaco Paper Mill in Tyrone

Westvaco QC Pellet Plant in Warriors Mark

Ironmaster John Gilliland's restored mansion in quaint
village of Warriors Mark

Evening Banquet - 7:00 - Program: Visit Pennsylvania's Iron
History; portrayal by Richard Pawling.

Saturday 8:00a.m.-noon Annual Business Meeting and
program including update from the Pennsylvania
Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation.

The PFA has invited PA-TACF to participate in their annual
meeting for the last four years. It is always an informative,
entertaining, and pleasant two days. We value their support of
our mission. For more information and registration forms
contact Pennsylvania Forestry Association, 56 E. Main St.,
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055 Phone: 717-766-5371.
Registration deadline: September 10, 1999.

Timber Acreage and the American Chestnut Percent by County

KEY: First figure is the acreage of timber. The second figure is the percent of American chestnut prior to 1911. NL - Not Listed

The Range and Amount of American Chestnut Trees in Pennsylvania

In 1911, the Governor of Pennsylvania, Governor Tener, formed a commission to find a solution to the terrible blight devastation of the American chestnut trees. He invited scientists and representatives from every state in the natural range of the native chestnuts.

By 1911 the blight had destroyed about 35% of the chestnut trees in Pennsylvania and the economic loss of this great lumber tree was being felt.

A blight commission report was published which details the problem and suggested solutions and a path of action to solve the problem. The report contains a chart which tells how many acres of timberland and what percentage of chestnut existed in PA counties prior the blight problem. The map above shows these figures.

The conclusion of the commission was to:

1. Strictly quarantine the movement of any chestnut lumber products from entering the western counties which were not affected yet.
2. Cut-out and sell or destroy all blighted trees.

Obviously none of these actions worked. Today's backcross breeding program introduced in 1981 by Dr. Charles Burnham seems to be the very best recovery solution.

More From the Past

Contributed by Allen K. Risser

From the "Weekly Bulletin" Mt. Joy, Pa. March 9, 1904

The Paragon Nut and Fruit Company of Mount Joy has 800 acres of land under cultivation on which are growing 90,000 trees. Messrs. John and Eli Reist are the owners and recently had three large pictures taken showing paragon chestnuts. In a few days the photos will be sent to St. Louis where they will be on exhibition during the Worlds Fair.

Allen recounts that one 400 acre parcel is located in Martic Township near Pequea in Lancaster County. The other, still in the Reist family, is across the Susquehanna River in York County. (The 'Parragon' chestnut was a grafted European X American hybrid planted extensively in Pennsylvania as a nut producing orchard tree in the late 1800s and early 1900s.)

SEND US Your PA Chapter Photos!

We are building an automated photo album to be placed on a CD ROM. We are categorizing them by chapter activity and date. If you have photos to send, please note on the backside the activity, year, and folks pictured. We will scan them and return immediately. Send them to the PA Chapter office, 800 East King Street, York, PA 17403.

The Grower's Corner

Tips and Experiences of Planting, Pollinating, Harvesting and Nut Storage from around Pennsylvania

Ladder Safety has become more important with the increased level of our pollination and harvesting. Some tips:

Place the base of the ladder on the low side or downhill where the ground is sloping and level it.

Where there are many rocks or very soft ground, have a block or rock to place under the ladder feet as needed to stabilize it.

Keep at least one person at the base of the ladder for stability, observation, and assistance.

Do not go higher than the third rung from the top.

Finally, be sure to relocate the ladder rather than leaning too far or pulling the branches too much (saves branches too).

Bob Summersgill uses a **bulb planting tool** to plant chestnuts at his Stahlstown farm. He has experienced a nut germination rate of over 80% last year using this tool. Bob says it's fast (no big holes to drill), easy, and efficient.

At Michaux State Forest, chapter member and forester **Phil Varndell** recommends **storing chestnuts** in damp paper towel and in a thin storage bag. He stores acorns this way and gets a high germination rate. This fall we will give this method a try with some of our own chestnuts and compare the germination rates to those packed the usual way in damp peat moss.

During **pollination** season this year, we received two types of bags from the Leffels. One group was the usual white bag and the other was the brown pollination bag. **Dave Armstrong** used the brown bags as control bags and stacked nine white and one brown in his apron so the 10% controls were automatic and the control bags easily identified.

At Meadowview this year we learned from Dr. Fred Hebard that the best way to tell if the female burrs are **ready to bag** is to observe the length of the stile at tip of the burr. Regardless of the flowering status of the male catkins, bagging is best if the stile is out 3 - 5 mm or 1/8th inch.

Tube protectors are designed to protect against weed spray, deer, and other small animals. Fred Hebard suspects that they may also stunt the growth of the lower leaves and branches thereby retarding the tree growth. We already know that the tube prevents the young tree from hardening in the wind. **Dave Armstrong** experimented last year leaving some tubes on and some off in his American nursery and found the tubed trees small and spindly after one growth year.

If a tube is necessary it may be best to use a very short one as Dr. Hebard does for the first two years, then remove them.

Please send your grower's tips to the York Office.

Expressions of Appreciation ☺

To an anonymous member who donated funds for a deer exclusion fence for the American chestnut orchard at Tyler Arboretum.

☺ The **Pennsylvania Outdoor Writer's Association** for their immediate response to the PA-TACF presentation at one of their meetings. Many fine newspaper and magazine articles followed.

☺ To **Timothy McKechnie** for helping in the Brogue chestnut orchards for two full days when circumstances required it.

☺ To **Tom Pugel** for the purchase of 2000 pollinating bags.

☺ To **Tom Pugel** and **Bob Summersgill**? for procuring planting stakes for the new orchards.

☺ To **Chris Ditlow** for making two beautiful American chestnut cabinets for the annual PA Chapter auction.

☺ To all the generous donors and bidders at the Annual Auction.

☺ To **Carl Mayfield** for donating dollars that were used to purchase the five foot chapter slide presentation screen.

☺ To **John Hoffman** for donating several hundred tree tube protectors this year.

☺ **Scott's Miracle-Gro Products, Inc**

800 Port Washington Blvd.

Port Washington, NY 11050

Attn: Rose B Barretta, Director of Consumer Services

Three cartons of five, 10-lb. boxes each of Miracid to Little Schuylkill Conservation Club for fertilizing chestnut orchard, one of their many conservation projects. The club president is **Eugene Dougherty** who is PA-TACF Pocono Region Coordinator.

☺ The many, many others who have been so generous with both time, talent, material and money that keeps us in the American chestnut restoration business. Thanks!

Chestnut Kernels by: Ann Leffel

√Did you know: Crayola just named a crayon color, chestnut!

√Phil Gordon is the new president of the Connecticut Chapter.

√From Tom Kubisiak - Eric Wiese who is currently hiking the length of the Appalachian trail is taking a survey of American chestnut along the trail and has to date documented some 30,000 American chestnut trees/sprouts that lie within a hundred or so feet on either side of the trail. Eric has sent me some leaf tissue from a tree located in the Michaux State Forest in Pennsylvania. The tree is the largest, healthiest tree he has seen. The tree apparently is 18 inches d.b.h. and at least 40' tall as best as he can guess. The tree is extremely healthy with no signs of the blight.

√President Al Eelman has the champion young tree. He planted a seed brought back from the West Salem, WI stand in 1996. As of August 10th it reached 16ft. in height with a d.b.h. of 2 ½ inches. We've heard that he sings to it every morning!

The PA-TACF Breeding Program

by: Ann Leffel, Breeding Program Coordinator

On August 12, Bob and I will drive down to TACF Meadowview Research Farms for the TACF Science Audit. A panel of experts will thoroughly review the Foundation's science program, particularly the backcross breeding effort. The Pennsylvania Chapter effort will be included in the audit. The first trees were planted at Meadowview in 1989. A complete Review Packet has been prepared, including activities, documentation, and questions to be considered. It is a time to evaluate what has been done, and to plan where to go from here.

A brief summary of the PA-TACF breeding program:

<u>Source of Resistance</u>	<u>BC Generation</u>	<u># Seeded</u>
Clapper	BC3	2264
Clapper	BC2	127
Graves	BC3	418
Japanese - NHR2T2	BC2	101
Nanking	BC1	133
Chinese MAU - USDA 104061	BC1	177
Meiling	BC1	2
Sub Total		3222
Clapper	B2F2	1896
American		2239
Other (Demonstration)		283
Total		7640

7640 seeds planted at 47 orchard sites in 30 counties since spring 1995.

Surely, the PA Chapter has accomplished much with minimum



Bob and Ann Leffel's Brogue BC3 orchard newly planted in 1996. Shown are Don Nunemacher, John Peifer, Bob Leffel, Eugene Witmeyer, and Bill Piefer.

funding. Our members and friends scout the woods and collect, plant, and pollinate to produce more nuts than required as an insurance policy to cover our inexperience, our mistakes, and our losses. After all, this regional backcross tree breeding program for chestnuts has never been done before. We all have much to

learn.

The two goals of PA-TACF set by the steering committee in November 1994 were:

1. To educate members and general public of the history of the American chestnut, and the purpose, goals and accomplishments of TACF.
2. To produce 20 BC3 lines of at least 100 trees per line using a diversity of PA native American chestnut trees and the most advanced pollen from screened and selected BC2 trees from Meadowview.

How have we done? Numerous presentations, public displays and seminars before environmental educators, foresters, state agencies, civic groups, and allied organizations have brought cooperative support, increased the chapter membership from 169 to 600, and awakened the general public to our mission. The media, including newspapers, magazines, and TV have spread the word. A May 1999 presentation to the Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association resulted in four newspapers articles and two magazine articles over the last several months.

Through chapter meetings, workshops, regional meetings, on site training at Meadowview, on site opportunities in the state, and publication of a member handbook, active and dedicated members learned to locate, identify, and hybridize American chestnut trees; to harvest, stratify, and store seed; and to plant and maintain chestnut orchards. We also learned by experience and with help from our mentor, Fred Hebard and now also Paul Sisco, the ups and downs of weather conditions, soil conditions, planting sites, insects, diseases, ladders and bucket trucks. Our quarterly newsletter keeps members informed.

American orchards are planted to maintain the gene pool, test sites, provide parentage for backcrosses and testcrosses, and for educational and demonstration purposes. Member growers and cooperators have been sorely tested by deer, bears, wasps, and water bucket brigades (drought). BC nurseries are planted as steps in the breeding program. BCF2 orchards are planted to measure progress in the breeding program and for identification of future breeding material. With good fortune we should complete our first goal of at least 20 BC3 lines with the Clapper source of resistance with the fall harvest and spring 2000 planting. Continued on Page 7



Bob and Ann Leffel in their orchard ("jungle") today.

PA TACF Breeding Program continued from page 6

The plan for the new century will be to complete other lines using different sources of resistance. It will also be time to inoculate our earliest BC3 lines to test them for resistance and screen them for American qualities. Once tested we will start the intercross generation. At this point all the resulting seed from controlled pollination BC3 intercrosses will need to be planted in a single large orchard with a minimum of 8000 trees. Assuming two or three gene loci for resistance, this will be the orchard where 1/16 or 1/64, respectively, of the trees will have the complete resistance of the donor parent. A good site with capable growers and caretakers will be needed.

Thus will begin an era when volunteers will no longer be able to handle the program. We must plan how to accomplish this. Professional help will be needed. What an exciting prospect! Other goals include training more pollinating teams for each of the eight state regions and fine tuning the data management system.

This program is about more than statistics, however. It is the teamwork of many active members that have led to the success of the program and to lasting friendships. We enjoy what we do and we enjoy each other's company. No statistics can begin to show the efforts put forth. Just in mileage alone, I marvel. Growers travel unbelievable distances to care for trees: Summersgill from New Jersey to Westmoreland Co., Peifer from Indiana to Northumberland Co., Saufley from Dauphin Co. to Clinton Co., Pugel from Bucks Co. to Somerset Co., Lupfer from Delaware to Perry Co. The list goes on and on. And Dave Armstrong, our volunteer Executive Director since October 1998, puts in untold hours to man the office 5 days a week, to work in the breeding program, and to travel where he must to represent the chapter. He's made a remarkable difference in our organization.

We continue to plan, pollinate and plant with hope!

Collecting Chestnuts by: Ann Leffel

Gathering of the Nuts

How to Collect and Store American Chestnut Seed

The chestnut harvest season is coming soon! Nuts begin to ripen the last week in September. Now's the time to locate nut producing native American chestnut trees. It's also a great time of the year to walk in the woods. We'd like to have nuts from every PA county represented in our American chestnut gene pool nurseries. It is desirable to collect from different trees every year to assure diversity of parents in the breeding program. Last year our members and friends collected several thousand nuts. In addition to being planted in PA mother tree nurseries, American seeds are also required for "check entries" in the backcross nurseries. TACF-Meadowview needs seed from each state for breeding program for research purposes, and to fulfill requests for seed kits. We also supply seed to Empire Chestnut Company, which grows and sells American seedlings for sale,

with profits donated to The American Chestnut Foundation. So members are very important in accomplishing this delightful and essential autumn task.

Scout your territory. American chestnuts are found in oak/hickory hardwood forests, usually in close association with chestnut oak trees. Nut producing trees are found only in areas open to sunlight such as road or trail openings. Confirm identification as native American chestnut pollinated by adjacent American chestnuts. Collect the burrs just prior to their opening. A minimum of 10 nuts per tree is desirable. Non-fertilized burrs generally fall first. If in doubt, harvest a burr, open, and if seed coat is brown, harvest the tree. Store the harvested unopened burrs in a dark, cool, dry, rodent-free room. Many of unopened burrs will open during the next 10 days. Store the nuts as they are released from the burrs. After 10 days, remove all nuts from the remaining unopened burrs. Place nuts from each tree in separate perforated plastic bags with dampened (not dry; not wet) peat as soon as nut is removed from burr. Label each 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 or mail the stored and labeled nuts to Ann Leffel, 13275 Laurel Rd., Brogue, PA 17309 by priority mail as soon as your collecting is complete.

To have your tree verified as American, cut a leafy twig about 8 inches in length that is growing in full sunlight. Slip each sample (without moistened towels or wax paper) into a manila envelop, label it with pertinent information as indicated above and mail it to Blair Carbaugh, 161 Moser Road, Danville, PA 17821. Blair will verify by microscopic examination and report his finding to you.

Volunteers Awarded Pins for Chapter Service

by Dave Armstrong

The January Farm Show weather was COLD, COLD, COLD but our volunteers took it in stride and operated the display as usual and produced ten new members as well as educated hundreds of visitors.

Volunteers receiving the Farm Show pin were: Dan Heacock (our farm show leader), Bob Summersgill, Don Franks, Tom Pugel, Gene and Thelma Witmeyer, Chris Ditlow, Bob and Ann Leffel, Ann and Paul Hornberger, Lee and Jean Saufley, Al Eelman and me.

Meadowview was HOT, HOT, HOT but we survived in June and did a lot of bagging, pollinating, weeding and all other duties as assigned by Dr. Fred Hebard, Dr. Paul Sisco, and Peter Wood.

The volunteers receiving the Meadowview pin were: Gene Witmeyer, Bill Lord, Larry Patchel, Tim McKechnie, Don Franks, Jane Sohns, and me.

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

Nonprofit Organization U.S. Postage Paid York, PA 17403 Permit No. 238

The Chestnut Tree Newsletter

Address Service Requested



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