

Chestnut Tree

The Pennsylvania Chapter of
The American Chestnut Foundation



PA-TACF Contact Information:

Penn State University
206 Forest Resources Lab
University Park, PA 16803
Phone: 814-863-7192
E-mail: mail@patacf.org
Website: http://www.patacf.org

Chapter Honors ARMSTRONG for Dedication to Chestnut Restoration



Ann Leffel, Tim Eck, Bob Summersgill, "Chestnut", Dave Armstrong and George Perry at the Leffel's Brogue Orchard.

Dave Armstrong, former PA-TACF Executive Director and Operations Coordinator, was honored at the 2006 Annual Spring Meeting, in Hershey, PA, for his leadership and dedication to PA-TACF. "If someone didn't step up to the plate for a Chapter task, Dave would just get it done himself," said Sara Fitzsimmons.

Dave stepped away from his operations role this year to devote more time in the field. He continues to be an active member—serving on the science committee; mentoring, maintaining 3 orchards, American, Backcross and CMS consisting of 511 trees; identifying trees; and educating the public about chestnuts. Last year alone, Dave reported over 600 volunteer hours of chestnut work. "When Dave Armstrong volunteered himself to take early retirement it came as a jolt to all.," said Bob Summersgill.

While we would need to devote an entire issue of the *Chestnut Tree* to properly illustrate and acknowledge Dave's time and commitment during the past 10 years, we will do our best here to thank him and describe some of his major accomplishments.

Dave contacted Ann Leffel in 1997, expressing an interest in becoming involved in the chapter. He became actively involved in 1998, and agreed to relieve

(Continued on page 3)

PA-TACF FALL MEETING FEATURES WOOD IDENTIFICATION EXPERT

The PA-TACF fall meeting is scheduled for Saturday, November 11, from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. at the Silver Ridge Hunting Club, in Weatherly, PA. This fall's meeting will feature some updates on Chapter status, a presentation and workshop on wood identification, lunch, and a B3 orchard tour.

The featured speaker at our program will be Lee R. Stover, faculty member, Penn State School of Forestry. Lee's expertise is in the anatomical properties of wood, wood identification, lumber dry kiln operations, log and lumber scaling and grading, wood products manufacturing, and chainsaw safety training. **Bring your wood to get ID'd during the workshop!**



The meeting will also include a tour of the Graves B3 orchard on the Silver Ridge property. Members will have the opportunity to see large American chestnut trees with ~14" dbh. The trees had a low survival rate due to soil conditions and the harsh Pocono elements, however, the trees that have survived are an important part of our regional adaptability program.

Lunch will be provided for a donation of just \$5.00 to cover expenses. **Hope to see you there!** Driving directions, GPS coordinates, and local map provided on **page 4.**

Fall Calendar of Events:

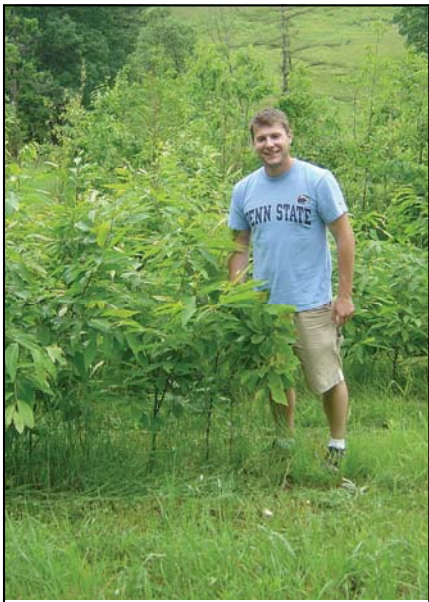
- **September-Harvest Time!**
- **September 23**-Forest Jubilee, Harrisburg, PA
- **October 19-20**-TACF Board and Cabinet Meetings, Abingdon, VA
- **October 20-22**-TACF Annual Meeting, Abingdon, VA
- **November 10**- PA-TACF Board Meeting
- **November 11**-Fall Member Meeting
- **January 6-13**-Pennsylvania Farm Show

Summer Intern Experiences

by Justin Bartley

If I had to choose just one aspect of my internship this summer that made this experience so profound, it wouldn't be easy. One thing that does stand out like the catkins in mid-June is the enthusiasm that everyone I met possesses. Most importantly, I recognize the dedication of the chestnut community to the central goal of restoring the great chestnut tree to the American forests. The American Chestnut Foundation's fellowship of volunteers and contributing members leads me not only to believe that the goal will be met, but will be carried out well past our wildest dreams.

Through this experience, I learned the breeding process and came to appreciate the time needed to develop successful gene lines. But it wasn't until I planted my first chestnut seed that it hit me. There is great pride involved in growing a tree from seed, and seeing it through the breeding process. However, there's also



Justin Bartley, PA-TACF 2006 Summer Intern, working at the B3F2 Chestnut Orchard at the Arboretum at Penn State.

great sadness in losing a tree to the blight. Yet we carry on, all with the hope that a few trees will carry the strength to bring these trees back into the forests. For that, I commend the growers and the volunteers who participate throughout the process. This internship has been a great learning experience.

The people, the places, everyone's attitude and the hard work has made this memorable. I would like to thank everyone. When a young professional is starting out in a new field, as I am, it is encouraging to find that along each step of the process there is someone there to help. Good luck and grow healthy.

Justin is a student in Forestry at Penn State University. Readers may contact Justin via e-mail at jmj5050@psu.edu



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

GIVING THANKS

First off, thanks to everyone who attended and contributed to the spring Grower's meet-

ing and making it such a great success. Eighty chestnut enthusiasts heard from two wonderful guest speakers, Jim Nelson and Eric Burkhart, who gave very interesting and educational presentations on PA forest history and agroforestry, respectively. It was also a joy to have the opportunity to honor Dave Armstrong for all of his hard work and dedication to the Chapter over the years. His leadership is already missed. Hopefully many of you will be able to attend the next meeting this fall. It is shaping up to be just as informative.

Thanks also to everyone who contributed to the vehicle campaign. The goal of raising \$15,000 to purchase a vehicle **has been achieved**; thanks in large part to one donor who wishes to remain anonymous. A grant proposal is also under review that could boost our buying power by \$5,000. This chapter vehicle will be used exclusively by our tree breeding coordinator, Sara Fitzsimmons, so that she can get out to visit all of the volunteer grower's orchards, and not completely wear out her own car in the process. Bidding for a mid-sized pick-up truck with low miles that achieves good gas mileage is the next step. Be on the look-out for Sara in the new vehicle at the fall meeting.

And last, but certainly not least, thanks to our staff, Sara Fitzsimmons and Sue Oram, for doing such a phenomenal job with the work of the chapter. Sara was recently promoted within the TACF ranks, and now has the title Northern Appalachian Regional Science Coordinator...Congratulations Sara! Sue, also, has done a tremendous job since she was hired last November in understanding our mission and finding ways to get the word out. If you've noticed more chestnut news in your local newspaper this year, it was because of Sue's ability to craft appealing and timely press releases.

Cheers to all who make this mission an enjoyable journey,
Tim

Tim Phelps
President, PA-TACF
Phone: 814-865-7228
Email: phelpst@psu.edu

(Continued from page 1)

Ann of some of her Chapter-related workload, including growing the organization, coordinating the breeding program, and serving as overall operations coordinator. "He was my knight in shining armor," said Ann.

"Dave Armstrong, is always enthusiastic, good humored, capable, interested and interesting, helpful, and available. He works well with people." reflected Leffel.

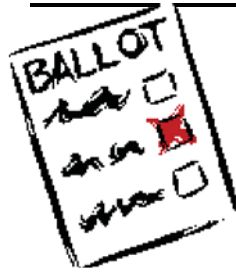
Armstrong first established an office in his home, then, as the chapter grew in numbers and activities, he opened an office in York. He later became the volunteer Executive Director of the Chapter. Under his leadership and vision, PA-TACF grew from 169 members in 1995 to more than 900 members today. PA-TACF reorganized several times to accommodate growth. "Dave was instrumental in achieving an organization that worked well, with talented leadership, and an expansive crew of volunteers." said Ann. Dave organized the state into growing regions, and set up a coordinator in each region. "Today the chapter is the best organized, has the largest treasury, most members, and the most extensive pollinating and breeding program of any TACF chapter," added Bob Summersgill.

In addition to directing the organization, Dave worked with the board to develop the current by-laws. He established PA-TACF as a charitable organization. He published the newsletter, planned two chapter meetings per year, organized the Farm Show booth in the winter and the Ag Progress Days booth in the summer. He handled all membership correspondence, dues, grant reporting, tax reporting, and recruited growers. He made educational presentations all over the state. He promoted publicity through newspapers and other venues, and created the PA-TACF website. He worked closely with Bob and Ann Leffel the founders of PA-TACF, and he became our chestnut identifier and grader of breeding trees. "He was never too busy to lend a hand. What a guy!!" said Ann.

Knowing first hand the necessity and advantage of having a manned chapter office and partnership with Penn State, Dave worked with TACF to help establish the office and pay for a tree breeding coordinator. He is responsible for working with the state legislators to obtain the \$50,000 funding for the Leffel Center—the PA chestnut research and operations center. Dave also served on the grants committee, identifying funding streams and writing grants to maintain and grow the Chapter's breeding program.

"We owe it all, to many hard working volunteers but Dave Armstrong has been the guiding success of our chapter," said Bob Summersgill.

Thank you Dave for your dedication to the people and purpose of the Pennsylvania Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation. Your leadership will be greatly missed.



2007 – 2008 Election Ballots are in the Mail!

Please return your election ballot cards as soon as possible. Your current Board Members and position terms are:

- Tim Phelps, President (2005-2006)
- Chandis Klinger, Vice President, remainder 2006 term.
- Bob Summersgill, Past President (2005-2006)
- Jim Walizer (2005-2006)
- Jim Egenrieder (2005-2006)
- James "Bill" Montague (2005-2006)
- Alan Tumblin (2006-2007)
- Dylan Jenkins (2006-2007)

Appointed Positions

- Tim Eck, Treasurer
- Alex Day, DCNR representative

If you would like to be a board candidate, or know someone you would like to nominate for the board in the future, please contact PA-TACF at 814-863-7192

Congratulations...

to members **Jim and Libby Walizer**, of Bellefonte, PA, for earning the Mid-Atlantic Master Farmer award. Fewer than 1 percent of farmers in Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey and West Virginia receive the honor, which is known as the "Academy Awards Lifetime Achievement Award of Agriculture." It is sponsored by *American Agriculturist* magazine and the Cooperative Extension offices of universities in the participating states.

Jim is also now in the running for National Tree Farmer of the Year. Let's all wish him luck!

Directions to PA-TACF Fall Meeting

From Route 80:

Travel on 80 east or west to exit 273 White Haven. At the end of the ramp, turn onto State Rt. 940 West for approximately 0.7 mile. Turn left onto State Rt. 2055 (toward) Lehigh Gorge View Points). Travel 8.2 miles and enter shoot on the left. (Silver Ridge Hunting Club)

From Route 81 North:

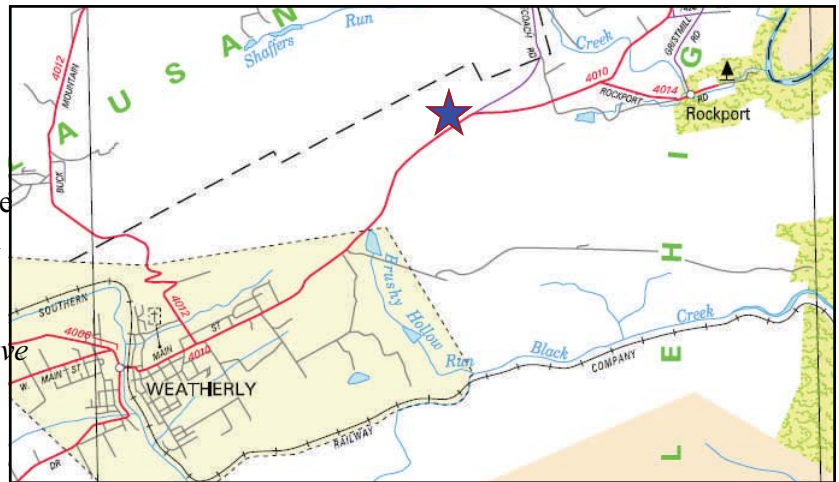
Travel north on Rt. 81 to exit 138. Stay in right lane and take 309 south to first light. Turn left onto Ben Titus Road. Proceed on this road for 12 miles to Weatherly and follow signs to club. *(At the Carbon County line, Ben Titus road turns into Quakake Drive and when you cross Route 93, it changes into Brinkman Drive.)*

From Route 81 South:

Take 81 south to exit 165, turn left onto 309 south. Go to the top of the mountain and turn left on RT. 437 south to White Haven, At the stop sign, go straight onto 940 West. Go approx. 1 mile and turn left onto SR 2055, travel 8.2 miles. The entrance to the club is on the left.

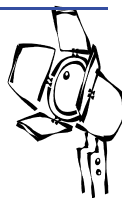
Location of: **Silver Ridge Hunting Club**
2200 South Lehigh Gorge Drive
Weatherly, PA 18255

GPS Coords: N 40° 57' 49" || W 75° 47' 22"



Volunteer Spotlight:

Alvin Jackson
Philadelphia, PA



Alvin assists in the inoculations at Tom Pugel's Rieglesville BC3 orchard in 2005.

Alvin is in the volunteer spotlight in this issue, for his ongoing support and willingness to help out almost anywhere.

A PA-TACF member since 1999, Alvin is "always there when we need him," assisting with inoculations and pollinations.

This year, Alvin helped the chapter when we

were in a time crunch, and drove to our Red Clay orchard in Delaware to finish pollinations with less than a day's notice! Alvin was also an avid supporter of our vehicle campaign. Thank you Alvin, for your dedication and support of our mission. PA-TACF depends on volunteers like you.

Know someone who has found an American chestnut?

Please complete our Tree locator form and submit it with a leaf and twig sample to help us record, map and analyze chestnuts across its range. Tree locators are important for the ongoing collection of germplasm as well as for public outreach.

Call us at the Leffel Center, 814-863-7192, and we'll mail one to you. Or, save time by downloading the form on-line at :

<http://chestnut.cas.psu.edu/Forms.html>

Cut a mature leaf that has been growing in the full sun and a twig with some leaf buds and place them in an envelope. Wrap the samples in a single paper towel to cushion in the mail, (Do not use plastic due to the molding effect.)

An analysis of morphological characteristics, both macro and microscopically, will be completed by a TACF identification expert. The results will be forwarded to the person who submits the form. Thank you for your help.

Purpose: This form is to help TACF record, map, and analyze chestnut trees across its range. The form should be printed and filled out with as much information as available and submitted with a leaf and twig sample to the office. An analysis of the characteristics and microstructure will be completed by a TACF identification expert and the results will be sent to the submitter.

Leaf and Twig Sample: Please cut a mature leaf that has been growing in the full sun and a twig with some leaf buds and place them in an envelope. Do not use plastic due to the molding effect. Wrap the samples in a single paper towel to cushion in the mail. We appreciate your participation.

SUBMIT SAMPLE TO:
 Dave Armstrong
 811 Pennings Station Road
 Hanover, PA 17331
 phone: 814-863-7192
 e-mail: 201@cas.psu.edu

Questions? Contact Sara:
 phone: 814-863-7192
<http://www.cas.psu.edu/>

For more information, please visit
<http://www.cas.psu.edu/>

Tree Locator Form (PA&NJ)

Location: _____
 County: _____ Town: _____ State: _____
 Latitude (N): _____ Longitude (W): _____

Location information is crucial. The closer you can get us to a tree with your GPS, the better. Leaf and twig samples and the best way to do so are provided here. A great program to use for obtaining geographic information is Google Earth. <http://www.google.com/earth/> (you can try a virtual called TopoDrive <http://www.topodrive.com/>). If you don't obtain latitude/longitude measurements, then please attach a map and directions to the tree from the nearest road.

Tree Information:
 Diameter (inches @ 4.5ft): _____ Height (feet): _____
 Isolated Tree Clump of Trees (number): _____
 Checked or many: _____ (years)
 Bark: None Few Many Unknown
 Corkiness: Present Absent Unknown
 Sunshading: Full Sunlight Partial Shade Full cover

Slight: Not Visible Visible Broken Corkers

Could we reach the tree with a large truck? Yes No
 Comments: _____

Owner of Property Information:
 Name: _____ Phone: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 E-mail: _____

Form Submitted By:
 Name: _____ Phone: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 E-mail: _____

Checker: _____ Analysis Information: _____ Date: _____
 Classification: American Other Hybrid
 Origin: _____ Type: _____
 Top: _____ (if hybrid, what was found?)
 Notes: _____
 Tree Name: _____ Tree Code: _____

Planting Chestnuts at Lark Nursery



From PA-TACF: Thaddeus Encelewski, Les Nichols, Tom Pugel, Paul Lobecker, Ethan Habrial, Bob Summersgill, and Ed. From Frankin Township Schools: Darlene Yarnoff, Mrs. Paisker, Mitchell Paisker, Nicholas Paisker, Mrs. Skalarski, Alan Skalarski, Brian Skalarski, Emily Hudak, Kacie Ward, Mr. Ditzel, and his son, Taylor.

As part of our ongoing effort to learn as much about Chinese resistance as possible, our Chapter undertook the planting of over 600 chestnuts. We only had about 1 week to plan the planting, but much of the area was already prepared, thanks to Lou and Ann Cyktor of Lark Nursery. Lou gave us three new rows in which to plant 215 individuals from each of three different families.

Honestly, the planting was one of the most smoothest plantings of which I've ever been a part. We started planting at 10am and were done by 2pm!! And that's a testament to the hard work that everybody put in. I cannot thank everyone enough for showing up on such short notice and really coming through. We had a great turnout, and I really appreciate everyone's help on that, especially because it was so last minute. We had help of both new and seasoned volunteers from PA-TACF, from the Lou and Ann Cyktor, owners of Lark Nursery, as well as representatives of a local grade school.

During the Smith Farm Arbor Day event (on April 28, 2006), I met an enthusiastic teacher from New Jersey named Darlene Yanoff. She works at the Franklin Township school in Quakertown, NJ. She put out the word to her students and they showed up with hammers in hand and great enthusiasm for the project.

Also of note, one of our members, Susan Charkes, wrote a very nice article that recently ran in the Bucks County Herald on our first planting at Lark Nursery. We completed that planting on April 20, 2006 with the help of students from the Solebury School. Thanks again go out to all those who helped us with the establishment of that first planting as well.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

Thank you, **Alcoa Aluminum Company** for your generous gift of aluminum flashing, which was shipped to Meadowview Research Farms. Meadowview planted nearly 10,000 nuts this year, requiring about 1.4 miles of the aluminum.



Thank you, **Creative Pultrusions and Ames True Temper** for donating more than 1000 stakes for our orchards.



Thank you, **Rudolf Keller** for donating office supplies to the Leffel Center this year.

And thank you to all of the people and businesses that help us pollinate, including:

Gary Micsky, Bob Summersgill, Tony Rosati, Linda Roehleder, Justin Bartley, Ron Sloane, Jim Wykoff, Jim Egenrieder, Lee Saufley, Fran Lawn, Dave Armstrong, Steve Hands, Alvin Jackson, John Guyer, Gene Stocker, Carl Wogelmuth, Bill Montague, Joe Lankalis, Eugene Dougherty, Peter Lane, Joanne Donohue, Linda Boice, Les Nichols, and Jack Shaffer, Robin and Cindy Wildemuth and family, John Crerand, David Thompson, Ron Farr, John Kressbach, Dane Mitchell, David Osborne.



- Tree Tech
- Sprint
- Monmouth County Shadetree Commission
- Pike County, PP+L
- Tioga-Tri County Electric
- Coolspring Township, and Supervisors Robert McGhee and Paul Minner

ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION FOCUSES ON PARTNERSHIPS



Representative Sam Smith speaks to the crowd at the Smith Farm Arbor Day event

An Arbor Day Celebration and tree planting was held on Friday April 28, 2006 at the Smith Chestnut Farm in Washington Township, Jefferson County, to highlight efforts to promote planting of high-value

hardwood trees on reclaimed mined lands and to re-establish American Chestnut trees in Pennsylvania. Groups toured the newly-planted grove of BC3/BC4 generation chestnuts, and students from local schools planted spruce and pine trees on a reclaimed strip mine. Featured speakers at the event included PA Representative Sam Smith, Sara Fitzsimmons, (PA-TACF) Doug Saylor (DEP), and Gary Gilmore (DCNR). Local television media covered the event. The celebration was hosted by: The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), The Appalachian Region Reforestation Initiative, (ARRI) and The American Chestnut Foundation, in cooperation with the U.S. Office of Surface Mining (OSM), The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Jefferson County Vo-tech, DuBois Catholic School, and the Woodland Owners of Clarion-Allegheny Valley.

In Remembrance

Lewis B. Barthels

June 28, 1925-December 26, 2005

Friend of The American Chestnut

Lewis B. "Bud" Barthels, PA-TACF member, died December 26, 2005, at UPMC Presbyterian hospital in Pittsburgh. "He had a lot of energy to do community service. He wasn't into getting recognition. He was into doing," said his lifelong friend, the Rev. Robert G. Pitavino. "He was a giver."

Mr. Barthels operated his family's funeral home and worked at a brewing company to supplement his income. He helped found and run Smithton's volunteer ambulance service and served on the local sewer authority board. In 2003, he was recognized as Smithton's Citizen of the Year. He was a veteran in the Army Air Corps and the Air Force Reserve. One of Mr. Barthels' passions was nut-bearing trees.



Lewis B. Barthels

"He planted numerous chestnut, walnut and butternut trees on his family's 30-acre, wooded homestead," Daniel Barthels said. He left the scattered nuts, supplemented occasionally with store-bought field corn, to feed the deer and turkeys. Mr. Barthels was a member of The American Chestnut Foundation, and believed in the mission to restore the American chestnut.

In honor of Mr. Barthels, a memorial fund to PA-TACF has been established. We thank the continued generosity of Bud and his friends and family.

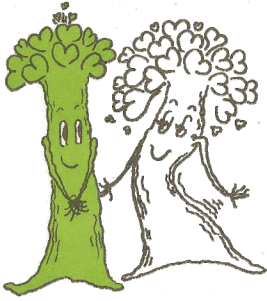
This is the third year that we've had students help with planting trees or seed. Sometimes they are doing it as a special project for a class, sometimes, just as a good activity, and the first time, May of 2004, the whole senior class did it to honor me as I was about to retire from teaching at Westtown and they knew that I love Chestnut trees and wood. The May 2004 planting was of 15 pure American seedlings that Sara gave us. The plantings in 2005 and 2006 have been seed of varying parentage, that she has sent down. We have a total of 48 "trees" growing and we've planted 39 seeds. If all seeds develop, we might have a total of 87 trees out there. I enjoy tending them: weeding around them, watering them, and making sure that the wire protectors stay in place. It's a lovely place to work.

Planting at Westtown School

by Peter Lane

The faculty member, Ted Lutkus, announced at school that we'd be planting some Chestnut seeds and offered it as an activity for students to come out and help with on Easter Saturday, April, 15. There were 8 students and 3 adults; a pretty good turnout for a quiet Saturday afternoon when most kids had chosen to be off campus.





BREEDING PROGRAM UPDATE

SARA FITZSIMMONS

The 2006 planting and growing season went by as almost a blur! As a Chapter, we had much business to which to attend including, as usual, planting, pollination, inoculation and selection, general orchard maintenance, etc.

First Chapter BC3F2 Selections

The breeding program of The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF) rests upon a minimum of six generations of breeding¹. In 2002, TACF and PA-TACF planted the first members of 5th generation material (BC3F2 generation) at the Arboretum at Penn State². As an exciting development, the first members of that generation were selected at the PSU Arboretum this summer (Table 1).

Based on a three-gene model for blight-resistance, where the trait is incompletely dominant, 1 out of every 64 trees planted should, statistically, harbor high amounts of blight-resistance. In our BC3F2 plantings, we plant 150 plants to get at least 2 selections from which to choose the best that will go on to parent BC3F3 (6th generation) material³.

Similar material was planted at TACF's Meadowview Research Farm facilities in southwestern VA. Staff pathologist Dr. Fred Hebard reported on the resistance class breakdown of similar family lines in the Fall 2005 issue of the Journal of The American Chestnut Foundation (Volume 19, Issue 2).

Inoculation of more BC3F2s will take place in the summer of 2007 and we'll need your help!

Family	June 2002	June 2005	Nov. 2005	July 2006	(Nov. 2005) Number per Rating Class				
	# Planted	# Inoculated	# Selected	# Selected	1	2	3	4	5
CH271	86	84	17	5	2	3	35	42	2
CH283	16	13	2	0		1	5	5	2
CH526	26	24	4	0			5	13	6
CH726	131	111	18	3		3	29	64	15
TOTALS	259	232	41	8	2	7	74	124	25

classes break down phenotypic resistance types from 1 - 5 where 1 is highly resistant and 5 is highly susceptible.

¹For basic information on TACF's breeding program, visit: http://www.acf.org/r_r.htm

²Located on the University Park campus. For more information, visit: <http://arboretum.psu.edu/>

³For more information on the layout and justification for a seed orchard layout, visit Volume 16, Issue 1 of The Journal of TACF available here: <http://acf.org/journal.htm>

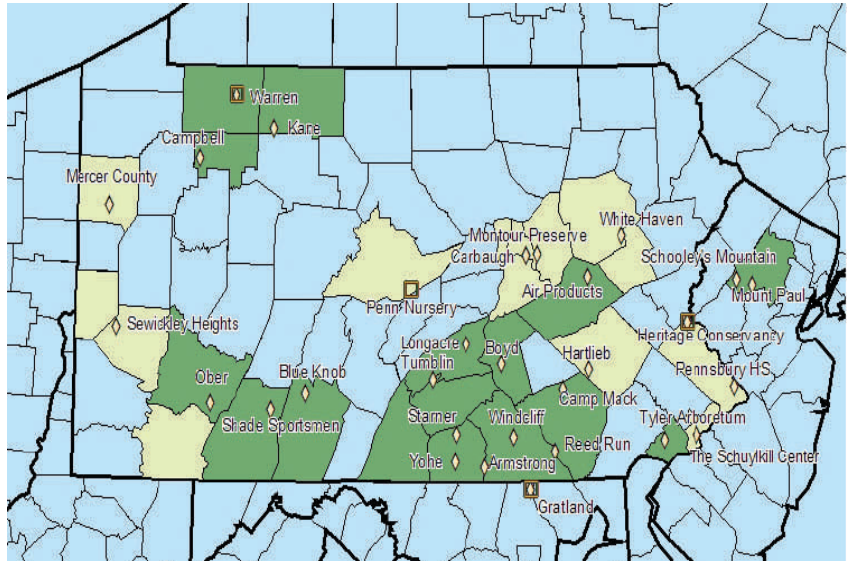


Figure 1. CMS orchard locations and currently represented counties across Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Green counties denote fully represented counties while yellow counties will require further breeding/planting.

PA-TACF Breeding Program: CMS

Following most of the methodology of the TACF back-cross breeding program, PA-TACF's CMS program has been in testing since 2001. The goal has been to quickly add much more diversity to the Chapter's germplasm pool, and to efficiently utilize localized material from all of Pennsylvania. With the planting of F1 material in 2006, the Chapter now has CMS presence in over 33% of PA counties with about 5500 trees planted as part of the effort, and about 50% survival of those plants first generation (F1) plantings.

2006 saw focus on breeding in New Jersey central Pennsylvania. With your help, CMS breeding and planting will take place in the northern and northeastern counties of Pennsylvania.

Inter-Chapter Outreach

The Pennsylvania Chapter has historically been quite altruistic, and this year was no different. Besides normal breeding efforts, the Chapter took part creating material for two exciting studies, the results of which will

hopefully create beneficial material for all Chapter of TACF.

In more southern states, those with warmer climates, many growers have a serious problem combating *Phy-*

Pennsylvania Chapter
The American Chestnut Foundation

206 Forest Resource Lab
University Park, PA 16802

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
State College, PA
Permit No. 234

The Chestnut Tree Newsletter



Press Releases Help get the word out about PA-TACF and our mission!

PA-TACF was featured in the some of the following media this spring: *Asbury Park Press, Delaware On-Line, Lancaster Sunday News, York Daily Record, Bucks County Times, Centre Daily Times, Boyertown News, Dubois Courier, The Lockhaven*

Express, Penn Lines, WJAC-TV, Johnstown, and The Hazelton Standard Speaker.



We have press release templates and photos for you to provide to your local media and we can help you locate contact people in your area. Call us at the Leffel Center 814-863-7192 before your next community event.

Want to give a PA-TACF presentation to your local community or civic group? (Master Gardeners, a school, an environmental group, or social club) Call the Leffel Center. We have Powerpoint presentations, projectors, brochures, ****new**** stickers (above right) and chestnut “discussion points” for members to borrow. With all of this supporting material, you’re sure to put on a fantastic show and raise chapter membership!!

(Continued from page 7)

tophthora cinnamomi in their orchard locations. In many infested areas, >90% mortality has been experienced. But some TACF advanced backcross lines have resistance to the pathogen, and PA-TACF is working to create material that can quickly be screened to determine on which lines breeding should be focused in order to combine resistance to both *P. cinnamomi* and chestnut blight. Scientists at

NC State and Clemson who are working closely with Carolinas Chapter grower, Joe James. Thanks to several PA-TACF pollinators, more than 300 bags were put on in support of that effort.

Controlled pollinations of large, surviving American chestnuts were also made in order to facilitate clonal propagation of American chestnut lines. Scott Merkle is spearheading that work at the University of Georgia.