

Westward ho!

PA/NJ Chapter heads to Erie, PA.

Fall Member Meeting

Date: Saturday, October 21, 2017

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Cost: \$10 at door for lunch/coffee

Location: Erie Elk Lodge #67
2409 Peninsula Dr, Erie, PA

Please RSVP by October 19, 2017

mail@patacf.org or 814-863-7192

Meeting Program

8:30 – 9:15 AM	Coffee and Donuts
9:15 – 9:30 AM	Welcome: Clark Beebe, President
9:30 – 10:30 AM	Melissa Althouse Presentation Conservation and restoration efforts at the Erie National Wildlife Refuge", / Q & A
10:30 – 10:45 AM	Break
10:45 – 11:45 AM	Bryan Hed — Grape disease management research in the Lake Erie Region of Pennsylvania". / Q & A
12:00 – 1:00 PM	Lunch (Please RSVP)
1:00 – 2:00 PM	TBD
2:00	Adjourn

Featured Speakers

Melissa Althouse

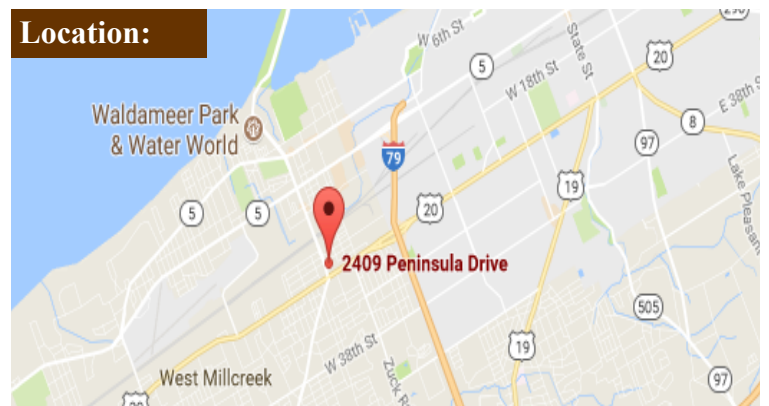
(Wildlife Biologist at the Erie National Wildlife Refuge) Melissa will discuss habitat management on the Refuge, and highlight the benefits that protected areas provide to the broader regional ecosystem.



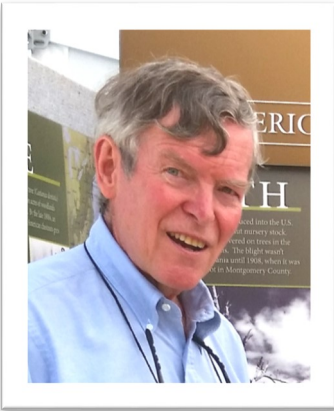
Bryan Hed (*Research Technologist at the Lake Erie Grape Research and Extension Center*). Bryan will be presenting a brief history of the Penn State facility and the grape industry in the Lake Erie Region. He'll also discuss the major disease challenges Pennsylvania grape growers face and current research underway to help them manage those diseases and remain economically sustainable.

Afternoon Presentation/Activities TBD

Location:



Erie Elk Lodge #67 — 2409 Peninsula Dr, Erie, PA



President's Corner

One hundred year-old member makes calls worthwhile:

Last time I wrote to you I asked for volunteers to make calls to members, thanking them for their support. Since then, I have started making calls myself. I would now like to share one of those calls and report a little on the call-making process.

I've been making calls to members for whom we do not have e-mail addresses, concerned about the communications they were missing. I wanted to see if they had an e-mail to share .

One call that stands out was to a gentleman in New Jersey. When I asked for his e-mail address, he replied that he didn't have a computer. I thanked him for his membership and asked how he got involved. He shared that he was born in Fauquier Co., VA. And that he and his father fought the blight when it swept through their woods in the 1930s! This coming October he will celebrate his 100th birthday! I asked him if we could do a story on him but he declined. He said he was just too busy and too tired. I plan on calling him back in October and to ask again if he'd consent to a phone interview.

For me this one call made the whole effort worthwhile. So once again, I ask you to consider joining me in personally reaching out to members; to thank them for their support and to share their story.

The approach is simple. We provide a script for the start of the call, "this is not a fund raising call; we're just calling to thank members for their support and learn if we can connect with them through email." And we suggest making the calls mid-afternoon on weekdays. We do not want to bother people at dinner or be one of many calls making solicitations at that time. Hopefully you get an answering machine, leave the message asking for a call back if the person wants to share their chestnut story. Done. No pressure. It is then up to them if they want to call back. And many do call back. They want to share their story; their personal connection with the American chestnut. They want to tell of their volunteer efforts; how they got involved; why they stay involved.

So please consider helping in the cause. In two years I'd like to be able to say we'd spoken to every chapter member. Contact me at 908-265-4019, or call the office 814-863-7192 to speak to Jean about getting started.

Sincerely,
Clark Beebe,
President

PA-TACF Board of Directors

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Business Spotlight: Penn Line

By Steve Hoy

Many of you who have volunteered to help with pollination or harvesting operations in the past have probably wondered: *How on earth do you reach the majority of the flowers/burs when they're 20-40 feet in the air and you only have a 16 foot ladder?*

When I started with the PA/NJ Chapter in 2014, I wondered the same thing. There had been some inconsistent use of a bucket truck or lift. And within the Penn State System availability and cost were an issue. So the search began for an acceptable alternative, covering rental companies, state agencies, and vegetation management companies.

Long story short, one company was interested and enthusiastic about helping continue our mission. Penn Line, in operation since 1940, has been a solid partner in the field operations in our orchard at the Arboretum at Penn State. For the past three years they have sent out a special

piece of equipment, called a Versalift, a tracked lift platform, able to operate on the uneven terrain of the arboretum while allowing us to reach 45 feet into the air! This has made pollina-

tions and harvesting easier and more efficient many times over. Penn Line has even made an operator available for the day, typically averaging 14+ hours to pick-up the equipment, drive it to the arboretum, assist with our task for the day, instruct interns on use, then return the equipment before stopping for the day.

With their assistance we've harvested over 7,000 seed in 2015, 7,500 in 2016, and completed controlled pollinations creating 11 unique crosses.

Many thanks to our friends at Penn Line!



2018 Truck Campaign:

We've created an online campaign through a platform called [FUNDLY](https://www.fundly.com), with the intention of reaching out beyond our members and supporters to raise money for a truck replacement in time for the 2018 growing season. You can help by sharing the website via email and on Facebook.

www.patacf.org/chapter-2018-truck-challenge



2017 Summer Intern @ PSU — Meet Connor McInerney

The PA/NJ Chapter was fortunate to engage Connor McInerney as our summer-intern at our Penn State Research orchard this summer. Connor is a rising junior, working on dual degrees of Materials Science and Environmental Engineering at Penn State University. Connor says "working with The American Chestnut Foundation was a great personal goal of his, as he has an interest in ecology and an affinity for trees." In the future, Connor will be pursuing a career which has elements of both engineering and ecology.



Many thanks to Connor for his hard work and enthusiasm this past summer!

PLANTING TYPE DEFINITIONS

By Sara Fern Fitzsimmons,
TACF Director of Restoration

Member Plantings TACF member plantings are accessible to all TACF members, dependent on donation level. These plantings are generally conducted entirely by members on their private property and the only requirement to gain access to the planting material is TACF membership and a donation at the level required by the program. While instruction for site selection and planting is provided along with the chestnuts, it is left to the member to determine the best place to plant and to care for their trees.

- **An American Member Planting**, sometimes referred to as a “Backyard Breeder” planting, is a planting of pure American chestnuts supplied through TACF’s American chestnut distribution program (a member benefit).
- **TACF Annual Sponsor members** donate at a higher membership level (\$300-\$1,000) and receive access to our most advanced, potentially blight-resistant chestnuts (B3F3s) as a ‘thank you’ for their level of support.
- **TACF Legacy Tree sponsors** donate \$10,000 to support a B3F2 selection, or “Legacy Tree”, in TACF’s seed orchard, and in return receive access to 20 of our most advanced, potentially blight-resistant chestnuts (B3F3s) annually as a ‘thank you’ for their level of support.

Cooperator and Partner Plantings

The remaining planting types described are primarily plantings that would be installed with a cooperator or partner, or on-site at the Meadowview Research Farms as appropriate. These plantings all require some level of assessment



and coordination with TACF staff or state chapter leadership.

A Site Test planting is recommended a year in advance for most plantings, as a way to test the site for suitability to grow chestnuts, as well as to test out the management strategies and capabilities of the partner responsible for the planting.

Orchard plantings require coordination with TACF science staff, and/or the state chapter to determine need, as well as available material and local logistical support. These planting types should not be offered to prospective hosts as anything more than a possibility before confirming that they are desired in a given location.

- **A breeding orchard** is typically comprised of 3rd or 4th back-cross generation trees from TACF’s breeding program (though they could be earlier generations for newer sources of resistance). These orchards are established as the need arises at the Meadowview Research Farms, and within the state chapter breeding programs.
- **A seed orchard** is comprised of B3F2 intercross generation trees from TACF’s breeding program. After making breeding selections, the seed orchard produces B3F3 chestnuts through open-pollination.
- **An American germplasm conservation orchard (GCO)** is comprised of American chestnut sources of interest.
- **A progeny test orchard** is comprised of B3F3 sources and used to test the quality of B3F2 breeding selections. A progeny test orchard may aim to observe performance long-term without intervention, or may be inoculated and rated to provide more timely results.
- **Transgenic plantings** contain transgenic trees developed by

(Continued on page 5)

Chapter News

the SUNY-ESF lab, which are currently in the process of seeking registration with EPA, USDA, and APHIS such that the trees may be released and made available to the public. At this time all transgenic plantings are conducted by SUNY-ESF under their permits. *Note: this planting type is not yet available.*

Education and Outreach may be coordinated for high-profile events utilizing high-quality seedlings, or for more local opportunities with chapter-grown seedlings, or even nuts. While these are typically small plantings, it is important that the Germplasm Agreement and membership requirements are met (as for any TACF planting), and if TACF staff are taking the lead the local chapter should be involved, or at least notified, in an effort to maintain good communication.

- **A ceremonial planting** is a small, high-profile planting aimed at boosting visibility for TACF and our programs.
- **A demonstration planting** is usually a moderately sized planting with some sort of educational goal. The format is relatively flexible, as long as there is some tie-in to TACF's mission and goals.

Research plantings require coordination with TACF science staff to determine need and available material. These plantings are generally installed and maintained by research collaborators, with guidance

and planting material provided by TACF. In some instances it may be appropriate for TACF staff to remain more involved in these plantings, however generally we expect collaborators requesting these types of plantings to take on the maintenance, as well as data collection and analysis

- **General Research** plantings refers to any kind of research planting not specifically addressed by one of the more standard planting types TACF



Left to right: Jim Walizer, Steve Hoy, & Connor McInerney

pursues, such as a silvicultural trial, a common garden experiment, a Phytophthora test planting, etc. As such, these plantings could address any of TACF's research goals.

- **Reintroduction Trials** These plantings are a preliminary forest planting of seed/seedlings

from parent trees that exhibit some level of resistance, but which may not have been formally progeny tested. They provide the opportunity to evaluate the long-term silvicultural aspects of potentially blight-resistant American chestnut trees in a real-world forest setting.

- **Restoration Trial** - After the performance of parent trees satisfactorily passes evaluation in both blight-canker evaluations AND progeny testing or genomic selection, seed from those trees may be placed into Restoration Trials. These trees will exhibit resistance significantly higher than that of American chestnut and will closely resemble American chestnut morphologically. Restoration Trials, like Reintroduction Trials, provide the opportunity to evaluate the long-term silvicultural aspects of potentially blight-resistant American chestnut trees in a real-world forest setting. *Note: this planting type is not yet available.*

• **Restoration Planting** - A majority of trees in this class are expected to have reliably high levels of blight-resistance. Parent trees will be proven through all testing methods available. These trees will be the source of self-perpetuating, blight-resistant American chestnut populations. *Note: this planting type is not yet available.*

Using American Chestnuts to Create an Early Succession Forest

By Robin Putzrath, Ph.D.

In early 2014, after the Tennessee Gas pipeline that crosses our property was expanded a couple of years ago, we were left with a deforested 100 foot temporary work space along the pipeline right of way. Our original plan was to plant the same species of trees already growing in the area, in the hopes that eventually it would look like nothing had happened.

However, while attending a forestry seminar, my husband and I spoke with a forester who changed our minds. More specifically, he mentioned how this was a good opportunity for us to introduce diversity into our environment. Rather than planting more of the same, adding diversity could provide habitat for different species and additional resources for our resident wildlife. This was a very appealing idea to us.

With this new thinking, we started researching the concept of forest diversity, so we could consider which options would work best for us. About this time, I met Sara Fitzsimons with The American Chestnut Foundation, who mentioned that the Tennessee Gas pipeline was giving them a grant for an early succession habitat restoration project. The project was to align with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The US Fish and Wildlife Ser-

vice was especially interested in attracting golden-winged warblers, endangered songbirds that have been seen in NE Pennsylvania and require an early succession forest habitat for nesting.

The plan was to plant pure American chestnuts, which would grow to about 15 feet before they are knocked down by blight, after which they re-sprout and start the cycle again, creating a permanent early succession forest at the interface of the right-of-way and our mature forest. Hopefully, golden-winged warblers would find this irresistible. When they get old enough, regardless of their height at the time,

the trees will start producing chestnuts, which we know will be appreciated by many of the animals populating the area.

In implementing this plan, that spring we worked with the American Chestnut Foundation and the other various organizations to plant 1000 American chestnut seedlings along our pipeline right of way. We and others spent a lot of time coordinating the planting process and monitoring the success of different planting methods (mats and tree tubes) in seedling survival. The project seemed to be off to a nice start.



An Update: This summer, a new pipeline is being added in the right of way, next to the current two pipelines. As a result, the right-of-way along the pipeline where we planted American chestnut seedlings three years ago has been reactivated as a workspace. And our chestnut forest-to-be is being demolished. Of course this has been disappointing to us.

In our recent negotiations with the Tennessee Gas pipeline, one of our requests was to replant American chestnut seedlings along the right of way after the new pipeline is completed. We explained the project and how the permanent early succession American chestnut forest is designed to provide diversity and benefit the wildlife living in our forest. However, we were told that there was no money in the budget for replanting the seedlings, and no grants to be offered, so the plantings would not be replaced by the pipeline. A few weeks later, we learned that the pipeline's decision about not replanting the chestnut seedlings had been reversed. The Environmental Project Manager for the pipeline had reviewed our request and was quite enthusiastic about the concept. When we talked with him, he discussed how he is familiar with our area and its forests and he commented on his positive interactions with The American Chestnut Foundation. So now, despite a five-to-six year set back, our chestnut forest along the pipeline right of way will once again start growing, and it might provide a model for additional restoration projects along the pipelines crossing the northeastern forests.

Deed Restrictions and Deed of Easement Chestnut Orchard Stewardship Through the Years By Louise Aucott

When chestnut plantings are on privately owned property, they are potentially vulnerable if the land changes hands. A new owner may not see the value of continuing to protect existing trees, or may be unaware of their importance to nut production for a breeding program. Chestnut breeding and propagation programs may extend many decades, potentially going beyond an individual's lifetime. One solution to securing the future use of a chestnut orchard is to file an easement to the property, specifying terms for preserving or culling trees and harvesting nuts.

My first PA-TACF chapter meeting was in October 2012 at Barneywood, the chestnut-rich facility owned by the family of H.A. (Barney) Barnhart, a founding member of PA-TACF. At the meeting, my husband Mike and I learned of the Recurrent Selection Timber program developed by Dr. Bob Leffel and Ann Leffel, who were both present, and by Dave Armstrong, who coordinates and manages the F1-F2-F3-Fn plantings. Dave was recruiting growers to plant additional RST orchards, and we volunteered to plant an F2 orchard on our land in Potter County. The main use of an F2 orchard is to grow hybrid trees of various pedigrees, then to cull out undesirable trees and allow open pollination of the resistant timber types to produce F3 chestnuts. Since planting our first F2 orchard in 2013, we have been thinking about how to be sure the program will still have the use of our trees and nuts once we are gone.

We consulted with a local attorney, who agreed that there are probably lots of ways to go about protecting the F2 trees and permitting access to PA-TACF for culling trees and maybe one day collecting F3 nuts. Together we worked on a pair of documents worded to allow PA-TACF access to our chestnuts, with the easement to run with the property's deed. These are not intended to be specific only to RST orchards, but could be generally applied.

The first is a Deed of Easement, conveying to PA-TACF the use of the part of our land containing the chestnut orchard. This is described in precise legal terms with reference to the County Deed Book for identifying the location of the property and the orchard. From the document: "The purpose of this grant of easement is to provide access to and the right to monitor and maintain orchards of chestnut trees and to harvest chestnuts on the land of Gran-

tors. Grantee (PA-TACF), its successors and assigns, is also granted nonexclusive rights to enforce the restrictions set forth in a separate Declaration of Deed Restrictions made by Grantors contemporaneously herewith and recorded in the land records of Potter County."

The second document is the Declaration of Deed Restrictions, referred to in the Easement. In this the legal description of the easement is repeated, along with our desire to keep the orchard undisturbed, and our wish to create certain restrictions and a process for enforcement.

In basic terms, the document declares:

1. (We)... impose a restriction on the portion ... of land ... containing the chestnut orchards so long as one or more chestnut trees exist there, that they shall not be disturbed or removed... except as stipulated in item 2 below.
2. The ... trees shall not be destroyed or removed except pursuant to a culling program consistent with the purposes of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation (PA-TACF).
3. ... restrictions shall run with the land and be enforceable by (us) and any other person or entity granted rights of enforcement by (us), set forth in writing and recorded in the land records of Potter County.
4. (We) shall record this Declaration of Deed Restriction in ... the Recorder of Deeds Office.
5. When (we) transfer the ... land, or the relevant area thereof where the chestnut orchards exist, said transfer document shall include the restrictions ... or ... a recital of this document, which restrictions shall run with said ... land.
6. Any later owner of the subject premises, or any portion thereof where the chestnut trees exist, shall be bound by this Declaration of Deed Restrictions ... (and) shall include a provision in said deed or other transfer document that the premises are conveyed under and subject to these restrictions in the use of the subject premises. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, etc....

Other property owners may find solutions better suited to their circumstances. We are planning to live to be healthy 150-year-olds, but if that plan falls through, we are optimistic that we have things covered in case the ideal F3 through Fn seed stock is somewhere in our midst.



The Chestnut Newsletter

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The American Chestnut Foundation

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

EVENT CALENDAR

- ◆ **September 9-10— New Jersey WILD Outdoor Expo**, New Egypt, NJ

New Event:

- ◆ **September 15-17 — Mother Earth News Fair** Seven Springs Mtn Resort Seven Springs, Pa.
- ◆ **October 7,—PEEC Fall Family Fun Day**, Pocono Environmental Education Center 538 Emery Road Dingmans Ferry, PA
- ◆ **October 14 -- 2017 West Milford Autumn Lights Festival**, West Milford, NJ
- ◆ **October 21 — 2017 Fall Member Meeting** Erie Elks Lodge #67 Erie, PA
- ◆ **January 6-13 — 2018 PA Farm Show**, Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex & Expo Center, North Cameron and Maclay Streets, Harrisburg, PA.

JOIN OUR VOLUNTEER TEAM!

Email Jean at mail@patacf.org or call her at 814)863-7192

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