

**SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND  
COLLECTING PERMIT**



Grants permission in accordance with the attached  
general and special conditions

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**Blue Ridge PKWY**

**Study#: BLRI-00341**  
**Permit#: BLRI-2013-SCI-0013**  
**Start Date: Apr 30, 2013**  
**Expiration Date: Dec 31, 2014**  
**Coop Agreement#: n/a**  
**Optional Park Code: n/a**

**Name of principal investigator:**

**Name:** Kathleen Marmet **Phone:** 5403646292 **Email:** kathymarmet@gmail.com

**Name of institution represented:**

The American Chestnut Foundation

**Co-Investigators:**

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**Project title:**

Data gathering study on American Chestnut trees along the Appalachian National Scenic Trail within the framework of the A.T. MEGA-Transect

**Purpose of study:**

The purpose of the study is two-fold. First to increase our understanding the status of surviving remnants of the American chestnut, a species that played a key role in forests throughout Appalachia before being devastated by a blight fungus imported with Asian chestnut trees in the early Twentieth Century. Secondly, data on large individual trees with the potential to produce flowers will assist TACF in increasing the genetic diversity of its backcross breeding program, which is intended to restore the American chestnut tree to its former place in the region's forests by producing an otherwise American chestnut with the blight resistant characteristics of Asian chestnut.

**Subject/Discipline:**

Vascular Plants

**Locations authorized:**

The study will take place along the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. Volunteers are instructed to limit their observations to within 15 feet of the Trail on either side.

**Transportation method to research site(s):**

Access is by foot only, via side trails that connect to the Appalachian National Scenic Trail.

**Collection of the following specimens or materials, quantities, and any limitations on collecting:**

n/a

**Name of repository for specimens or sample materials if applicable:**

n/a

**Specific conditions or restrictions (also see attached conditions):**

**ANY COMMERCIAL OR FOR-PROFIT ACTIVITY IS PROHIBITED WITHOUT THE EXPRESS PERMISSION OF THE BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY.**

Please read and understand enclosed NPS guidelines and Blue Ridge Parkway guidelines. Failure to submit an Investigator Annual Report (IAR) will result in the termination of this permit. Please address any questions or concerns to the address below. At conclusion of the study a copy of the final report including study locations, research methods, collected data, and results should be sent to:

Herbert Young

National Park Service

199 Hemphill Knob Rd.

Asheville, NC 28803

Herbert\_Young\_Jr@nps.gov

828-348-3441

**ALL RESEARCH MATERIALS, EITHER ORIGINALS OR COPIES ARE TO BE PLACED IN PARKWAY ARCHIVE COLLECTION.**

For information on Parkway weather, latest road conditions, fall color report, etc. call 1-828-298-0398

**THIS PERMIT DOES NOT AUTHORIZE VEHICULAR ACCESS BEHIND CLOSED GATES UNLESS ACCOMPANIED BY PARK STAFF.**

**PARK SPECIFIC CONDITIONS**

(1) This permit required that specific INFORMATION ON RARE OR SENSITIVE RESOURCES ACQUIRED DURING THE COURSE OF RESEARCH CANNOT BE RELEASED WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL FROM THE BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY. Your work on the Parkway makes you an agent of the National Park Service, and requires you to keep confidential any protected information that you develop or otherwise acquire as part of your work for the Park Service. By law, you cannot share protected information with anyone through any means except as specifically authorized by the National Park Service. Protected information concerns the nature and specific location of endangered, threatened, rare, commercially valuable, mineral, paleontological, or cultural patrimony resources such as threatened or endangered species, rare features, archeological sites, museum collections, caves, fossil sites, gemstones, and sacred ceremonial sites. This prohibition applies to inadvertent disclosure of such information through websites, maps, scientific articles, presentations and speeches.

(2) All collecting/research must be done away from roads, trails, and developments unless otherwise specified in the permit. Collection methods shall not attract attention or cause damage to the environment. Any disturbance in excess of one square meter shall be rehabilitated to the satisfaction of the Superintendent prior to completion of this project. Access trails shall be brushed in; natural contours shall be reestablished; soil scarified and mulched.

(3) If designated parking areas are not convenient, park in a safe place with plenty of sight distance for other traffic that does not cause any damage to the resources.

- (4) Investigators may use temporary biodegradable surveyor-type flagging, standard aluminum tree tags, and non-reactive aluminum nails or marker stakes not taller than one meter as measured above ground level to mark a corner of the study area; landmark keys and/or field surveying procedures shall be used to reach plot sites. Stakes, flagging, and tags shall be indelibly stamped or marked with researcher's name, project name, and year-date. Unmarked plot markings are routinely removed by park personnel roving an area. Markers, when used, shall be located in areas not readily visible to visitors. All plot markings shall be removed at the conclusion of the study.
- (5) Habitat disturbance associated with collecting specimen or conducting research can be very destructive, especially in headwater streams. Rocks, logs, etc., should be replaced as nearly as possible to their original position after collecting.
- (6) No chemicals that result in the death of the specimen or which would permanently alter the habitat will be permitted, unless specimens are to be preserved for a collection or future dissection. The use of anti-freeze (ethylene or propylene) is strictly prohibited.
- (7) Any collecting or research that will result in permanent changes or degradation of habitat is prohibited.
- (8) No species collected from outside the park is permitted to be introduced or reintroduced into the park.
- (9) At least one copy of all scientific and other publications resulting entirely or in part from research and/or collecting through the issuance of this permit will be furnished to the Superintendent of the park.
- (10) To indemnify, save and hold harmless, and defend the United States against all fines, claims, damages, losses, judgments, and expenses arising out of, or from, any act or omission of the research permittee, its employees or representatives, arising out of or in any way connected to activities authorized pursuant to this Agreement. This obligation shall survive the termination of this permit.
- (11) To cooperate with the NPS in the investigation and defense of any claims that may be filed with the NPS arising out of the activities of the cooperator, its agents and employees.
- (12) Researchers working in wetlands must dip waders and associated equipment in a 10% chlorox solution and clean any mud from lug soles. Alternatively, a 50% chlorox solution may be sprayed on waders and associated equipment in lieu of the dip method. This is an effort to reduce the spread of Chytrid fungus. For more information contact Bob Cherry, Parkway Wildlife Biologist at 828-295-7591.
- (13) A copy of this permit must be displayed in the dashboard area of the vehicle involved in the research, so law enforcement may see it.
- (14) The following areas are closed to research and other activities: Yonahlossee Overlook (MP 303.9), Devil's Courthouse (MP 422.4), and Craggy Pinnacle Trail (MP 364.2).
- (15) Use care when pulling off on road shoulders. Grass can be slick and soils soft, resulting in many stuck vehicles.
- (16) In the event of mortality, carcasses will be placed in a sealed plastic bag with relevant information to include; Species, Location, Date, Researcher's name, cause of death. Carcasses will be placed in cold storage and Parkway Staff notified immediately. Contact Bob Cherry, Biologist at 828-295-7591, Jackie Holt, Museum Curator at 828-348-3436.

Recommended by park staff (name and title):

Herbert Young Permits Coordinator

Reviewed by Collections Manager:

Yes  No

Approved by park official:

Bambi League

Date Approved:

05/01/2013

Title:

Chief Branch Resources Management

I Agree To All Conditions And Restrictions Of this Permit As Specified  
(Not valid unless signed and dated by the principal investigator)

Kathleen Munt  
(Principal investigator's signature)

May 1, 2013  
(Date)

**THIS PERMIT AND ATTACHED CONDITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS MUST BE CARRIED AT ALL TIMES WHILE CONDUCTING RESEARCH ACTIVITIES IN THE DESIGNATED PARK(S)**