



The TREE URCHIN

Newsletter of the Maine Chapter of the
American Chestnut Foundation



Volume 11 Number 1

Spring 2008

The mission of The Maine Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation:

- A.** To protect, conserve, preserve and propagate trees from all important remaining native Maine American Chestnut populations in the state.
- B.** To restore American chestnuts to a place of ecological and economic importance and self-sustainability throughout their original forest range in Maine.
- C.** To make blight-resistant American chestnuts available to the people of Maine as soon as possible.

President's Letter

This is an exciting time to be involved with American chestnuts in Maine. From the research farms in Meadowview, VA, TACF harvested the first BC3-F3 seeds and made them available for limited distribution. This is important since it shows that the science of backcross breeding for blight-resistant American chestnuts is a valid concept. Here in Maine, last June we inoculated our first BC3-F1 trees at Merryspring (Camden) and the trees at Dr. Phil Groce's orchard. We are fortunate to have Dr. Fred Hebard, head of the Meadowview research farms, to analyze our orchards—especially after the inoculations have taken place. This summer we expect to inoculate the BC3-F1 trees at Clark Granger's upper orchard at Weeks Mills. In approximately 10 to 12 years we hope to have BC3-F3 seeds available from our Maine orchards.

Last summer we received a \$7500 grant to conduct a new inventory of old growth "mother" trees in Maine. Part of this inventory was completed last year and we expect to finish it this year. Marshal Case, president of TACF, was instrumental in securing this money and we thank him.

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We need You!

**Help our Maine Chapter Grow
by becoming a member or volunteer!**
(see insert for details)

Lincolnvile Legacy *by Amy Campbell*

Deer flies and black flies are not the best memories of a first summer in Maine. Even twenty years later, these nuisances feature high on the list for Didier Bonner-Ganter, a certified arborist and licensed forester who lives in Belfast. As a young teenager during the latter part of the 1980s, he would ride his bike to Hans and Brigitte Gautschi's property in Lincolnvile, Maine to weed a nursery bed planted with American chestnut seedlings. Then and there he got his introduction to chestnut trees as well as to the biting insects. The story continues today and it is much sweeter than any revenge on the bugs.

It all began when Welles Thurber, one of the founding members of the Maine Chapter of TACF, planted seeds from Wexford, Michigan in the nursery bed in 1985. He had been managing the Lincolnvile property for the prior owner and when the Gautschis purchased the property which they named the Ducktrap Wildlife Preserve in about 1980, he continued his work cleaning up a previously cut wood lot and replanting the cleared areas. To improve the forest approximately 20,000 seedling trees such as red pine, several species of spruce, and various fruit trees were planted. One hundred and fifty American chestnut seedlings were added at several sites—an inspiration of Welles' who was an early fan of returning the American chestnut to the forests of Maine.

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**The Maine Chapter
The American Chestnut Foundation
Board of Directors**

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www.acf.org

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www.me-acf.org

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**Do you have an idea for the next issue of *The Tree Urchin*?
Think you know where there is an American Chestnut that we don't already know about?
If so, contact us at one of the addresses or emails above!**

Recommended Reading:

Freinkel, Susan. **American Chestnut: The Life, Death, and Rebirth of a Perfect Tree.** Univ. of California. 2007.

According to a starred review by Robert Egan in Library Journal (<http://www.libraryjournal.com/article/CA6529608.html?q=Mighty+Giants>), Science journalist Freinkel's compact, entertaining history of the tree's demise and the many attempts to bring it back reads smoothly, like a well-written novel: the settings, whether deep in the heart of 1920s Appalachia or in a modern, upstate New York gene-splicing lab, are richly drawn; the "characters," be they human, sylvan, or fungal, will entice many readers, perhaps even those with only a perfunctory interest in trees.

Bolgiano, Chris, editor. **Mighty Giants: An American Chestnut Anthology.** Images from the Past. 2007.

In a companion starred Library Journal review, Robert Egan wrote, Images of the big trees evoke an aching sense of what's lost, while stories of those trying to save them are cause for hope and admiration. Egan, from the Windsor (Ontario) Public Library, recommends both books to libraries.

Good News/Bad News

Board member Jamie Weaver graduated from the Univ. of Maine last summer with a master's degree in forest management. We were hoping that he could find employment in Maine that would utilize his forestry talents, and keep him in this great state. He was able to find employment, but it is in Maryland. We wish him well and hope he can return to Maine soon. Jamie did an outstanding job managing the Veazie and Bradley orchards, and contributed greatly to our organization. He will be missed and our loss is Maryland's gain. Good luck Jamie, Brie, Ethan and Quinn.

President's Letter *(continued from page 1)*

Arnold Arboretum (Harvard Forest) in Boston wanted to replace their remaining American chestnut trees, which have been severely damaged by the blight. On Tues. April 8 of this year, Leila Pinchot, the N.E. Region Science Coordinator, delivered 24 seeds from two of our natural Maine groves – Atkinson & Embden. A photo is included in this issue.

We are revamping our web site and it should be up and running by the time you receive this issue. Concerning the TREE URCHIN, we are planning to publish it twice a year. In the Spring issue we are planning to concentrate on activities for the summer and fall. In the Fall issue we are planning to concentrate on reviewing the activities of the year and discussing plans for the coming year.

In the Spring/Summer issue of TACF's JOURNAL there should be an article about the large grove of native American chestnut trees at Atkinson. I gave a power point presentation about this grove at the spring Board of Director's meeting in Pittsburgh on April 4, and it was received very warmly.

Two of our major goals this year are to increase the membership of the chapter and to increase the participation of the members and volunteers. To help achieve these goals we had a booth at "All Things Woods Expo" in Portland on Sat. April 26. Long term member Bob BaRoss of Cape Elizabeth and Ann Rea helped me promote ME-TACF to a steady stream of people visiting the booth. It helped that SWOAM was holding its annual meeting that day at the same location. Welles Thurber did a fine job of getting this free booth on very quick notice. On Sat. June 14 we will have a booth at the River Festival Days in Augusta. This is a one day event also but will help increase our exposure. In Sept. we will have our usual booth at The Common Ground Country Fair in Unity which is a big event for the chapter. We would appreciate any assistance that people can provide staffing the booths at these events—especially the Common Ground Country Fair. You will see a schedule from Eric Evans concerning the inoculations and culling of trees in our orchards. This will be a busy summer for the Maine chapter.

Membership. The national organization, TACF, has adopted a distribution policy for the distribution of BC3-F3 seeds and an important part of this policy is to ensure that the first seeds go to members of TACF and longevity (seniority) is a factor in determining who will get the blight resistant seeds. If you are not a member yet, this would be a good time to join. Membership and Volunteer forms are available in this issue.

On a sad note, two of our good friends, Ivan Booker and Louis "Slim" Powell passed away this past February. They are remembered in this issue.

Glen Rea—President, Maine Chapter, TACF

Important Dates

Sat. June 14

The American Chestnut Foundation's Maine Chapter will have a booth at River Days in Augusta.

Sat. Sept 6

In observance of the 25th anniversary of its founding, The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF) is sponsoring a walk along the Appalachian Trail (A.T.). Six sites have been selected to conduct special observances; one of these is Mt. Kathadin. The Maine chapter is supporting this event and we are planning a hike up the trail at Mt. Kathadin on Sat. Sept 6. We encourage people to walk along any part of the A.T. and report their mileage to us, which we will forward to the national organization. You can read more about this adventure by going to www.acf.org and the Maine web site www.me-acf.org.

Sept. 19-21

The American Chestnut Foundation's Maine Chapter will once again have a booth at the Common Ground County Fair in Unity.

IN REMEMBRANCE

On Feb. 13 of this year we said goodbye to a dear friend of the Maine chapter. Louis “Slim” Powell, 87, spent his entire working life in the north Maine woods and moved to Old Town, Maine when he retired from Great Northern Paper in 1982. He was a registered professional forester and registered surveyor. He enthusiastically supported the chapter by telling his friends of the success we were having with the back-cross breeding program and encouraging them to help us in various ways. In 2005, when he learned we were having trouble keeping the weeds down in the new Veazie orchard, he provided us with a self-propelled mower. This year he also donated a riding mower to our chapter to help with the maintenance our many orchards. Thank you Slim. You were always there when we needed help and encouragement.

On Feb. 3, 2008 our dear friend and mentor, Ivan “Buster” Booker, died at the age of 97. As a child growing up in the Skowhegan area he would gather chestnuts on the way to school and eat them at recess for a snack. In the evening he would share these seeds with his family. He also recounted how devastating the chestnut blight was as it rampaged through this area. In his later years he constantly searched for surviving chestnut trees throughout the mid-Maine area. Whenever he would find one, he would get on his computer to show us a picture of the tree and direct us to it. Then at pollination time he would be there to watch and to encourage our efforts. He was the top seller of seedlings for the Maine chapter and he could talk at length about the TACF story. When it came time for planting the seeds or seedlings he would be there. He especially loved

talking with the younger children and encouraging them to take care of the seeds they were planting. He was an inspiration to us, and a great source of knowledge. He will be missed, but we are glad we had a chance to know him and learn from him. We are grateful that he lived long enough to know that this magnificent tree was on the way back. As a final gesture, memorial gifts were directed to the Maine chapter.

Note: A YouTube video of Ivan, called “Buster’s Quest,” can be seen at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OjlUQqGQ3PU&feature=related>

In photo: (left to right) Ivan Booker, Glen Rea (ACF-ME), Jamie Weaver (ACF-ME), and John Manter (Veazie, Maine Conservation Board) at the planting of the Veazie orchard in May, 2005.



Lincolnvilve Legacy

(continued from page 1)

The story continued when the Gautschis asked Didier if he would manage the property after his graduation from college in 1993. According to the Gautschi's wishes, the emphasis has been on cultivation of mast-producing trees for wildlife and habitat improvement. Species of oaks, red and white pines, and white and yellow birches are favored by thinning out the red maple and poplar. Among the planted trees, the chestnuts have been particularly favored. Thanks to diligent clearing of the areas around the trees to maintain airspace for their optimal growing conditions, and the removal of hazards such as dead fir snags that could damage the chestnut trees if they fell, the average tree height now is over 45 feet. Didier has also monitored the trees for the inevitable appearance of blight. Only about 15 very badly diseased trees have had to be culled, removed from the property and burned. In other cases, blighted trees are treated immediately by torching the affected area and packing the wound with mud.

As far as trees go, American chestnuts are remarkably rapid in reproducing. Didier noticed that seed production started in about 1998, roughly 10 years after planting out.

Soon after that Didier moved to New York State for several years. In 2003 he returned to Maine and resumed his work on the property with Brigitte since Hans passed away in that year as well. One of the first things he noticed were new chestnut trees in the under story. Many seedlings from 6 inches to a foot in height peppered the woods near and far from existing trees. He recalls his excitement upon the remarkable discovery. "After finding a couple of seedlings I started looking around and everywhere I saw 1-2 year old sprouts, one here, three there. Even in the blueberry fields! Even in the shade! I was absolutely amazed, like WOW!"

Some of these seedlings are now 6 to 7 feet tall. If their existence is exciting for Didier and great news for Brigitte Gautschi and the wildlife on her property, it is exceptional news for the Maine Chapter. And even though Welles comments that "they are just doing what they are supposed to do," it is proof that blight-resistant trees, once they become available, planted out in the forest can be self-sustaining, beginning a new dynasty of American chestnut trees for future generations.

Note: A YouTube Video of Welles in this orchard, called "The Grove," can be seen at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WWZ4OUGhgBO&feature=related>

Hikers Wanted

**Join us for TACF's
25 Year Anniversary**

2174 Mile

**Appalachian Trail
Commemorative Hike**

Saturday Sept. 6, 2008

Check out the TACF website:

www.acf.org

**Or contact Glen at
glenrea42@msn.com**



photos of Gautschi grove by Amy Campbell

DISTRIBUTION POLICY AND DISTRIBUTION PLAN

For BC3F3 chestnut seeds from The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF)

The distribution of BC3F3 seeds of American chestnut will follow the policy hereby presented and with the approval of an annual Distribution Plan which will be voted on by the Board of Directors of TACF.

POLICY

Distribution committee:

1. The Distribution Committee is composed of the following nine members: The Chair of the Board, CEO/President, Chair of Science Cabinet, Chair of Development Cabinet, Manager/Research Director of Meadowview Farms, and four members selected at large by the Chair of the Distribution Committee.
2. The Chair of the Distribution Committee will be appointed by the Chair of the Board of Directors for a term of one (1) year and may be re-appointed for only one year.
3. Members of the Distribution Committee selected by the Chair of the committee should be representatives of the state chapters.

Materials to be covered by this policy:

1. This distribution Policy applies to all BC3F3 chestnut seeds produced by TACF and the state chapters of TACF prior to release to the general public.
2. All BC3F3 seeds are the property of TACF. Material is subject to a signed germplasm agreement, MOU or other similar agreement.
3. The BC3F3 American chestnut seeds will carry the trademark TACF. This trademark will be registered.

Distribution:

1. Priorities will be ranked as follows:
 - Internal TACF research purposes
 - Contractual commitments to outside partners and cooperators
 - CEO/President for a) discretionary and strategic use and b) for general membership distribution.
2. The Distribution Committee must approve the BC3F3 distribution plans of the state chapters for BC3F3 nuts generated by their breeding programs.
3. Distribution should be consistent with the following guidelines.
 - a) Any recipient of BC3F3 seeds must be a member or cooperator of TACF.
 - b) Seniority (longevity of membership) should be one of the factors in the determination of who receives seeds.
 - c) Recipients of BC3F3 seeds must agree to keep records concerning the growth (height and diameter breast height) and survival, and report to TACF after the first year, the third year and every fifth year thereafter.
 - d) The distribution of seeds from TACF should be used to increase the awareness of the mission of TACF.

October 24, 2007

Distribution of BC3-F3 seeds for TACF

In this issue (page 6, opposite) you will find a copy of the Distribution Plan that was approved at the annual meeting of TACF in Burlington, VT in Oct. 2007

Here are a few background notes. Two years ago at the spring Board meeting in Chattanooga in 2006 the chairman of the Board, Dick Will, asked Dr. Kim Steiner and me to develop a distribution plan to submit to the full Board. That fall at the annual meeting at Meadowview I made the first presentation, which was accepted with minor changes. At the spring Board meeting in 2007 I was asked to be the chairman of this new Distribution Committee and was reappointed for a second and final one-year term at the latest meeting in Pittsburgh in April 2008.

Some highlights: (1). To receive seeds/seedlings the recipient must be a member of TACF or a cooperator. Length of membership (seniority) will be one of the factors to determine who gets the seeds. (2). BC3-F3 seeds from the orchards managed by the state chapters are the property of TACF and a distribution plan from each state must be submitted to the Distribution Committee for approval with final approval coming from the full Board of TACF. This spring the PA chapter had about 100 BC3-F3 seeds but decided to use these seeds for further research since 2 of the 3 trees producing the seeds were from the same parent. From the research farm at Meadowview there were approximately 1900 BC3-F3 seeds available. After going through the distribution priorities list there were about 800 seeds remaining. The Distribution Committee decided to plant these seeds and distribute them as seedlings next spring. The 800 seedlings will probably be distributed equally between the north and south, and seedling sales will probably be handled by outside contractors. Meadowview does not want to be in the business of growing seedlings for distribution, but will concentrate on seeds. (3). The Distribution Committee has nine members and four of these will be from the state chapters. Current state chapters represented: Ohio (Greg Miller), Indiana (Bruce Wakeland), Pennsylvania (Chandis Klinger), and Maine (Glen Rea). (4). TACF will not seek to patent the genes that provide resistance but will use a TACF trademark.

Glen Rea

Do YOU want to be eligible to receive blight-resistant American Chestnut seeds or seedlings? They will be available to members only, so if you haven't already done so, JOIN the Maine Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation TODAY!

Publicity, Education, Membership (PEM)

To date this year we have received two very nice printed articles about the Maine chapter's activities. Welles Thurber wrote the first of several articles for the Small Woodlot Owners Association of Maine (SWOAM) magazine where he presented the background information of the mission and progress of the backcross breeding program of the American chestnut. We have received a considerable number of orders for seeds from this piece. On Sunday, March 16, a slide show and lecture was presented at the Univ. of Maine – Orono and in attendance was Reser Manley who writes for the Bangor Daily News. In his story on Sat. March 22 he wrote about our activities. You can read the article by going to www.acf.org (TACF home page), go to NEWSROOM, then select TACF in the News 2008 and then scroll down to March 22, Bangor Daily News. In this article you will see a picture of the beautiful chestnut tree near Dexter, and it has also been incorporated into our breeding program.

In observance of the 25th anniversary of founding of The American Chestnut Foundation, the national organization is sponsoring a walk along the Appalachian Trail (A.T.). Six sites have been selected to conduct

special observances and one of these is Mt. Kathadin. Our chapter is supporting this event and we are planning a hike up the trail at Mt. Katahdin on Sat. Sept 6. We encourage people to walk along any part of the A.T. and report their mileage to us, which we will forward to the national organization. You can read more about this adventure by going www.acf.org and the Maine web site www.me-acf.org. We have two chestnut batons which were given to this chapter for this event and we will hand them off to fellow hikers as we complete the hike. It is not a linear event, so if anyone hikes a few miles they should complete a form and also look for American chestnut trees along the way and report them also.

On Sat. June 14 we will have a booth at River Days in Augusta. This is a one-day event and if you attend, please stop by our booth.

In Sept. we will once again have a booth at the Common Ground Country Fair, and we look forward to this event every year.

Our membership continues to stay in the range of 150 – 160 members and we are looking at ways of increasing the membership. For every new membership or renewal the chapter receives \$15, which is an important part of our finances

Grower's Committee (Orchard Managers) Report

This past winter presented us with a lot of snow to shovel, however for our orchards this was a blessing. Not only does the deep snow provide good insulation from low temperatures, but it also adds a lot of nitrogen to the soil. At the Atkinson grove (a grove of natural American chestnuts) this past March I took a thermometer and measured the temperature at the soil surface under 3 feet of snow and it was +29 degrees F. Even a few inches of snow provides a nice level of insulation for trees.

We are now inspecting our orchards for winter damage from mouse/vole problems, deer browse, winterkill or dieback, and frost heave. If the trees have experienced three winters, the winterkill or dieback is greatly reduced according to our studies. Also orchards that we planted in forested areas seem to have a greater number of survivors than open field orchards, but they seem to experience more deer browse.

In the fall edition of the 2007 Tree Urchin you saw pictures of the inoculations we did at the Merryspring

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*Austin Jones, Bob Spear, and Eric Evans
Photo by Amy Campbell.*

Finance Committee Report

The Maine chapter continues to have a good cash flow and balance sheet. At the present time we have enough money to fund all the activities we have planned for this summer and fall. The sale of seeds continues at a brisk pace and funds from these sales should add to the chapter's income. Welles Thurber did an excellent job harvesting seeds last fall, and is now getting some sizeable orders. Also, the orders that we accepted at the Common Ground Fair and at our annual meeting should generate over \$800 in net revenues in addition to the income generated by Welles' orders.

The expenses for pollination will be lower this year than in the past because we will probably pollinate only 5 or 6 mother trees. On the other hand, mowing and maintenance expenses will increase since the price of fuel and labor is going up. The donation of a riding mower by Louis "Slim" Powell

will help to keep some of the labor costs down. We will also incur more costs as we "challenge" the trees at Clark Granger's upper orchard this summer. We hope to get volunteers to conduct much of this work, but we may need to pay some workers to help out.

Our membership level continues to stay in the 150-160 range. For each member that joins or renews their membership the chapter receives \$15 from the national office, so the \$2000-\$2200 we receive is important. Plans are being made to increase the membership. On the national level the membership of TACF crossed the 6,000 mark and the PA chapter alone now exceeds 1,000 members. Membership should increase as we get closer to having BC3-F3 seeds available because to obtain the blight resistant seeds a person or organization MUST be a member or cooperator of TACF.

Joni Decato, Treasurer, ME-TACF



*Eric and Ben Evans culling trees at Merryspring Orchard,
Photo by Amy Campbell.*

Grower's Committee (Continued from page 6)

and Groce orchards. We are lucky to have Dr. Fred Hebard, director of the Meadowview research farms, help us with the evaluation of the trees that have been inoculated and this spring we will remove those trees that did not meet the standards we had set for resistance.

The removal of the trees was done in late April. Dr. Hebard will be visiting the upper orchard of Clark Granger's farm in May and will determine whether we should inoculate those trees this June. Dr. Granger's first orchard was planted in 2002, so they have had 6 growing seasons. We will be looking for volunteers to help with the inoculations, so please visit our web site for details or contact a member of the METACF Board of Directors to find out how you can help.

For our new 2008 orchards of BC3-F1 trees we are planning to set up another orchard at Harold Mosher's place in the Camden area, and an orchard on land owned by Brooks Mills in the Brewer area. We are now looking for land where we can establish our first seed orchards and already have a few sites listed as possibilities.

Glen Rea, Grower's Committee

ME-TACF WISH LIST!

(Things we can really use, as a gift or on loan)

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Digital projector | Orchard ladders |
| Folding tables | Chipper, heavy-duty |
| Brush-cutter | Pick-up truck |
| Garden tractor-mower | |

Breeding Program Update by *Eric Evans, VP*

Last July Glen Rea, Jay Lindsey, Welles Thurber, Charlie Hudson, Austin Jones, and Eric Evans led third-backcross pollination efforts in Orono, Winthrop, Albion, South Bristol, and Camden. Squirrels beat us to the harvests in Orono (for the third attempt on this tree) and Winthrop—they were very hungry because of the scarcity of acorns last year. But we got usable harvests from the other three—64 seeds from the tree in Albion, 140 in South Bristol, and 39 in Camden. The Albion and South Bristol seeds will go into a new breeding orchard by member Brooks Mills on his property in Holden, and Harold Mosher will plant the Camden seeds in the new expansion of his orchard in Hope. With these three new lines we will be meeting our original goal of 40 lines of third-backcross hybrid chestnuts for our chapter’s share of TACF’s breeding program, and ensuring a high level of genetic diversity in the eventual blight-resistant trees that we produce in the coming decades.

In June of last year TACF New England Regional Coordinator Leila Pinchot led 15 volunteers in our first “trial by blight”. We inoculated 200 nine-year-old chestnut trees representing four third-backcross lines in our Merryspring and Groce breeding orchards in Camden and Hope with live lab-grown fungus, to test their Asian chestnut blight resistance. In October TACF Pathologist Fred Hebard and Leila systematically ranked the blight infections and found an expected range of canker sizes. At Fred’s instruction, last month we cut down 71 of those trees that show no sign of blight resistance. After Fred evaluates the canker growths again at the end of this month, we will finish the culling, to leave about three trees in each of the four lines. These selected trees will probably outgrow their blight infections, and will be crossed with each other for several years. We will plant the seeds from those crosses—and similar crosses in the ten other breeding orchards in Maine—in new orchards, and some of those new trees will be fully blight-resistant. Preliminary results from Virginia and the Pennsylvania Chapter have verified this hypothesis. We expect to start harvesting fully blight-resistant American chestnuts in Maine in about 10 years.

Here is my best guess for a timetable of progress toward blight-resistant Maine-adapted American chestnuts:

- * Make third-backcross—1997-2007
- * Plant third-backcross trees in breeding orchards—1999-2008
- * Inoculate trees to test for blight-resistance—2007-2015
- * Select trees from test for blight-resistance—2008-2016
- * Cross selected trees for first-intercross generation—2008-2020
- * Plant first-intercross seeds in “seed orchards”—2009-2021
- * Inoculate intercross seedlings, select for full resistance-2011-2023
- * Select and cull—2012-2024
- * With open pollination, begin seed production from seed orchards, expected to breed true for full blight-resistance—2018-2020⇒
- * Formal testing, systematic forest planting –2019-2035
- * Limited distribution &/or sale to members—2019⇒

That’s Easy for Me to Say!....

In the 10-year history of the Maine Chapter we have been working primarily on the first two items of the time-line shown above. But as we move into the next and final phases of the breeding program, our work demands will increase several-fold. How will we manage and accomplish that? The obvious answer is that we need to double or triple our membership and our lists of committed and enthusiastic volunteers. So, we are asking everyone reading this TREE URCHIN to picture a future with thriving American chestnuts regaining their place in Maine’s forests. Then fill out and return the yellow volunteer-membership form so that we know how and when to call on you to help with this exciting work. If you are already on our volunteer list, please pass this on to a friend with whom you want to share this work.



Arnold Arboretum’s Michael Dossman, Curator of Living Collections, receiving Maine Chestnut seeds from TACF New England Regional Science Coordinator, Leila Pinchot.

For starters, here is a description of the major jobs for the coming year. There is a place on the volunteer form to indicate your interest in these items by entering their letter(s). (*Exact dates depend on Mother Nature.*)

- A. Cut and pile for burning 150 trees in Merryspring orchard in Camden (6 people in June).
- B. Inoculate 200+ trees in Deer Hill orchard in Weeks Mills, China (that's in Maine!) with live fungus to test for blight resistance (15 people one day in June).
- C. Routine tree care and measurements in 11 breeding orchards in Monmouth, Camden, Hope, Union, Unity, China, Lovell, Veazie, Morrill, and Bradley (4-6 people one day in June and October in each location).
- D. Manually pollinate five native American chestnut trees (five teams of 2-3 people one or two half-days in July in each location chosen).
- E. At the Common Ground Country Fair (MOFGA, Unity) at our booth, spread the word to fair-goers about the return of American chestnuts (18 people in 3-hour shifts, September 19-21).
- F. Publicity committee chair (one person to take responsibility for press releases, media articles, presentation coordination, etc.).
- G. Volunteer coordinator (one or two people to maintain volunteer lists and assist work team leaders in staffing work parties).
- H. Other publicity and education-related activities year-round (volunteer-coordination, chapter annual meeting production in October, regional meetings, presentations at fairs and club meetings, chestnut growing and demonstrations for school groups, upgrade slide shows and booth displays, etc.).

Photos by Amy Campbell



Grafted chestnut seedlings



Blight canker on Merryspring tree four months after inoculation



Merryspring orchard in 1999

Seeds and Trees For Sale!

We still have pure American chestnut (from native Maine trees, not part of breeding program) seeds, seedlings, and small trees available for sale. \$20 for 10 seeds, \$7 per seedling, and \$30-\$50 for 3-5-ft tall trees in 5-gallon root-bags. All prices discounted 30% for members. Also, three free seedlings go to each new membership.

ME-TACF
231 Buck Street
Bangor, ME 04401

U.S. Postage Paid
Non-Profit Organization Permit #76
Camden, ME 04843

