



# Maryland Chapter

## Newsletter – September 2009

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You are invited to:

### Maryland Chapter Annual Meeting:

**Saturday, October 3, 2009**

**11:00 am – 2:00 pm**

**Izaak Walton League of America  
Gaithersburg, MD**

### *The Promise of Hypovirulence*

**Mark Double, Plant Pathologist at West Virginia University**, will explain the potential importance of hypovirulence as a boost in restoring the American chestnut. His field work in West Salem, WI is showing the way.

**And**

### *Scientific Cooperation and Exchange with China -- What can TACF learn from chestnuts in the forests of China?*

**Sara Fitzsimmons, Northern Appalachian Regional Science Coordinator**, will present highlights of the TACF trip to China in 2008 and describe the follow-up research.

A brief business meeting and **picnic**, compliments of the Chapter, will follow the talks. The public is welcome – please bring your friends.

#### **Directions:**

**From North on I 270:** Take exit **11** for **MD-124/Quince Orchard Rd/Mont. Village Ave** (0.3 mi); Slight **right** at **MD-124/Quince Orchard Rd** (0.4 mi); Turn **left** at **Clopper Rd/MD-117**; Continue to follow MD-117 (0.9 mi); Turn **right** at **Muddy Branch Rd** (1.5 mi); Turn **right** at **Conservation Ln** - Pass pond and shelter on left then turn left to access headquarters parking area.

**From South on I 270:** Take exit **10** for **MD-117/W Diamond Ave** toward **MD-124/Quince Orchard Rd/Clopper Rd** (0.2 mi); Keep **left** at the fork, follow signs for **Gaithersburg** (226 ft); Turn **left** at **W Diamond Ave/MD-117** (0.3 mi); Turn **right** at **Muddy Branch Rd** (1.5 mi); Turn **right** at **Conservation Ln** - Pass pond and shelter on left then turn left to access headquarters parking area.

#### Chapter Officers:

Ms. Essie Burnworth, President  
Dr. Gary P. Carver, Vice-President  
Ms. Barbara B. Knapp, Secretary  
Ms. Emilie Crown, Treasurer

#### Directors:

Mr. Byron James Benton  
Mr. Vince Berg  
Mr. Dennis G. Bittinger  
Dr. Douglas H. Boucher  
Mr. Harold F. Burnworth  
Dr. James S. Coleman  
Mr. John Cordts  
Dr. Katia Engelhardt  
Mr. Paul Eriksson  
Ms. Betty Garrand  
Mr. James Hill  
Mr. David Jacobson  
Mr. Ron Kuipers  
Dr. Laura Lewis  
Ms. Kathy Marmet  
Mr. Robert Strasser  
Mr. Jamie Weaver

Maryland Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation  
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The Maryland Chapter supports the efforts of The American Chestnut Foundation to restore the American chestnut tree, identifies and preserves American chestnut survivors in Maryland and promotes educational and scientific research efforts directed at restoring American chestnut trees in Maryland.

### **Harvest is Coming Soon**

Chestnuts will be ready to harvest between mid-September and early October. If anyone wants to help collect and process them for winter storage, please call Essie Burnworth at (301) 762-6715 or Ron Kuipers at (301) 942-6543.

## Maryland Patron Campaign a Success

The Maryland Chapter is delighted to report that through August, we have gotten a **10%** response to our recent Maryland Patron campaign. This is the first time a TACF chapter has reached out to its members for operating funds directly related to technical support and to the chestnut breeding and restoration projects in the state. Even though these are difficult financial times for everyone, we are so proud that the members listed below have donated funds specifically for Maryland. It is never too late to become a Patron – send your special Maryland gift to Barbara Knapp, 21900 Davis Mill Road, Germantown, MD 20876, and mark it “Patron.” Thank you.

**John Akerley**  
**William P. and Sue S. Anderson**  
**James Biasco**  
**John Bradfield**  
**John Brandhorst**  
**Essie and Burnie Burnworth**  
**Gary Carver**  
**John Cordts**  
**Harriett Crosby**  
**Emilie Crown**  
**Vicki Dodson**  
**Katia Engelhardt**  
**Steve Haggblade**  
**Stanley Fisher**  
**Barbara Knapp**  
**Ron Kuipers**  
**G. A. Lock**  
**Kathy Marmet**  
**Morris Monesson**  
**Susan L. Odell**  
**Kurt Oelmann**  
**Harold Ours**  
**Ray Price**  
**Johna Ruffo**  
**Philip B. Schnering**  
**Gordon Shelton**  
**Samuel Tucker**

## MD TACF Nominations for 2009-2010

Jim Hill, Chair of the Nominating Committee, has submitted the following slate for officers and Board members. Elections will be held at the Annual Meeting on October 3 at which time additional nominations may be made from the floor.

### Officers:

President	Gary Carver
Vice President	John Cordts
Secretary	Barbara Knapp
Treasurer	Emilie Crown

### Incumbent Board members for three-year terms:

B. James Benton  
Dennis Bittinger  
Essie Burnworth  
Harold F. Burnworth  
David Jacobson  
Laurajean Lewis

### New Board members for various terms.

Three years	Regina Staley
Two Years	Robb Newman
One Year	Stephen Peck
One Year	Carol Shomette

## Poolesville Global Ecology Student Begins Chestnut Research

Marlene Haggblade, (pictured with Mark Double in photo at right), a senior at Poolesville High School, is bringing more than her new textbooks to school this September. She is also bringing her curiosity and determination to unravel the secrets of surviving chestnuts in Maryland during a year of independent study. Marlene got encouragement and first-hand training in handling fungus from Dr. Bill MacDonald and his research assistant Mark Double at their West Virginia University Pathology Lab in July. Dr. Gary Carver has been showing her large survivors, and everyone is looking forward to her findings.



## Yough River Festival a Success

Paul Eriksson, Tom Scrivener, Barbara Knapp and Essie Burnworth took displays and information to the Yough River Festival in Friendsville on August 22 and found a lot of interest in chestnuts. From retired foresters to landowners wishing to grow chestnuts, people congregated around our table and shared ideas on promoting the chestnut.

## 2009 ARRI Conference By Barbara Knapp

The theme of the 2009 ARRI conference, held in eastern Kentucky during the first week of August, was Forestry Reclamation Approach (FRA) in Action. ARRI, the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative, is a coalition of Federal and State agencies, coal mining companies, universities, and others dedicated to the reforestation of coal mined lands in Appalachia. TACF, in partnership with ARRI, has already planted a number of chestnuts on land prepared using FRA, which offers an uncompacted growing medium to sustain tree growth.

On the first day, we traveled to a mined area where the University of Kentucky had a stream restoration project showing how erosion could be minimized by planting trees on non-compacted "spoil" from the mining operation. At the last stop, we saw the amazing results of the FRA at the Big Elk "Starfire" mine where there were thick, thriving forest plots where the University of Kentucky had planted several varieties of hardwoods and some white pine in 1997.

The second day was devoted to speeches and panels, all praising the FRA for increasing reforestation, providing future timber supply, aiding the local economies, reducing environmental degradation, sequestering carbon, and saving money.



Dr. Bob Paris on right in a 2008 chestnut planting

On the last day we finally saw chestnuts planted on these rocky areas. At the Bent Mountain Mine, Bob Paris from TACF described the plantings, started from nuts, with tubes to protect them from wildlife. Trees planted in 2008 were growing well, and lots of tubes from the 2009 planting stretched off into the distance. Chestnuts were praised as ideal because they grow so fast. Even though these early plantings are not blight resistant, they can demonstrate how well the tree grows, and provide useful information about planting techniques and site requirements for the resistant trees that will be available in the near future.



University of Kentucky research site visit – interior of 1997 planting shown below



A 2009 chestnut planting

I encourage everyone to see more pictures and read more on the Web site <http://arri.osmre.gov> .

View this newsletter in color at [www.mdtacf.org](http://www.mdtacf.org)



## **Carroll County Releases Chestnut Curriculum And Expands Orchards**

On August 21, Dr. Gary Carver and Essie Burnworth attended a forum at Century High School in Eldersburg introducing the new STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) curriculum for grades 6-12 in Carroll County. Chestnut history, breeding, and science play a big role in these lessons and activities. Through the tireless efforts of Brad Yohe, Science Supervisor for the Carroll County Public Schools, all school children will be exposed to the chestnut story: in classes; at Hashawha, the outdoor school having one of our breeding orchards; in the Chestnut Tree Classification Lab; and hands-on at what will be 16 chestnut orchards at schools throughout the County. In this coming year, 11 new school orchards will be fenced and planted, enabling students to participate directly in research and restoration efforts in Maryland.



These photos of Carroll County educators and students are from the planting of the first Carroll County School orchard at the Hashawha Outdoor School.



## **US Forest Service – TACF Meeting at Penn State**

**By Dr. Laura Lewis**

On August 11, scientists from the US Forest Service (USFS) met with members of TACF, local and regional silviculturists, and forest breeders at The Pennsylvania State University to discuss several important aspects of American chestnut management, restoration and reintroduction. TACF's science coordinators, Sara Fitzsimmons and Kendra Gurney, hosted the meeting, which covered planting and growing American chestnut trees, reintroduction strategies, the overall status of breeding programs across the chapters, and the USFS experience with chestnut plantings and research. Bryan Burhans, TACF President; and Dr. Fred Hebard, TACF Staff Pathologist, were in attendance as well as several other experts and volunteers invested in the American chestnut.

Sara discussed several important aspects of chestnut cultivation, from seeding methods to bare root planting. Pest management was also covered with specific plans for treating various different types of outbreaks, including blight cankers and many of the orchard pests that we face in Maryland.

Dr. Kim Steiner, Professor of Forest Science and Science Cabinet Chair for TACF, described a very ambitious reintroduction strategy implemented by chapter volunteers and USFS scientists. The USFS scientists were interested in having a specific protocol to follow for initiating, testing, and analyzing reintroduction activities. They also recommended that TACF develop a list of research questions to be investigated as part of the reintroduction strategy.

### **Phil Rutter Talk from May 17 Meeting Is Available**

For any of you who missed it, or who may like to hear it again, the Phil Rutter talk from our May 17 meeting is available to borrow on DVD. Please contact Essie (301) 762-6715 or [hburnworth@msn.com](mailto:hburnworth@msn.com) if you wish to borrow it.