



Maryland Chapter

Newsletter – September 2007

MD TACF Annual Meeting Saturday, October 13, 2007

Izaak Walton League Headquarters
707 Conservation Lane
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

Chapter Officers:

Ms. Kathleen Marmet, President
Mr. Robert Strasser, Vice-President
Ms. Barbara B. Knapp, Secretary
Ms. Emilie Crown, Treasurer

Directors:

Mr. Dennis G. Bittinger
Dr. Douglas H. Boucher
Ms. Essie Burnworth
Mr. Harold F. Burnworth
Dr. Gary P. Carver
Dr. James S. Coleman
Mr. Stephen Dodge
Mr. Paul Eriksson
Ms. Betty Garrand
Mr. James Hill
Mr. Ron Kuipers

Maryland Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation
c/o Barbara Knapp, Secretary
21900 Davis Mill Road
Germantown, MD 20876

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Chapter web site: www.mdtaf.org

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.

Helpers Needed for Second Annual American Chestnut Restoration Feast November 11th

Do you have a flair for creating elegant centerpieces? Are you experienced at coordinating a silent auction? Would you enjoy serving a gourmet meal—and getting to know the celebrity chefs while you taste the feast with them before serving?

If you'd like to help make this year's Feast as fabulous as the
More about Feast
on page 2



• 10:00 – Maryland Chapter Annual Meeting

See page 2 for directions and agenda and page 3 for report of Nominating Committee.

• 11:00 VIP Panel – The Role of TACF State Chapters, Now and in the Future

Marshal Case, TACF President and CEO - Invitation

Panelists:

- **Bruce Wakeland, TACF Development Cabinet Chair of Long Range Planning & Former Indiana Chapter President**
- **Essie Burnworth, TACF Secretary & Former MDTACF President**
- **Sara Fitzsimmons, TACF Northern Appalachian Regional Science Coordinator**

An opportunity to learn from the national leadership of TACF about the roles and relationships that connect the efforts of state chapter volunteers to the overall effort to restore the American chestnut tree to its native range. Bring your questions and your thoughts for the future.

• 12:00 Picnic Lunch and MDTACF Committee Networking – Picnic Shelter

MDTACF Committees will host lunch in the picnic shelter by the pond at IWLA's beautiful facility.

• 1:00 Envisioning the Future for TACF's State Chapters

An opportunity to contribute thoughts and ideas from the state chapter perspective to the TACF strategic planning process.

• 2:00 Adjourning Remarks – Marshal Case

Kathy Marmet Names Committees, Moves to VA

MDTACF President Kathy Marmet recently made the following committee appointments:

Membership Committee: Chair--Betty Garrand, Ron Kuipers, Gary Carver, Barbara Knapp

Publications Committee: Chair--Glenn Williams, Kathy Marmet

American Chestnut Locator Committee: Chair--Gary Carver, Jim Hill, Tom Scrivener, Ron Kuipers, Paul Eriksson

Research Committee: Chair--Burnie Burnworth, Robert Strasser, Doug Boucher, Gary Carver, Jim Hill

Marmet has recently moved to the Warrenton, VA, area, where her

husband is employed. She plans to be actively involved in the work of both the Maryland and Virginia Chapters of TACF, but will not seek another term as MDTACF President. Marmet's term ends November 1, 2007.

Committees help spread the work load, and are extremely important to carrying out the Maryland Chapter mission. Committee members will be hosting tables at the Annual Meeting picnic lunch to provide members an opportunity to learn about the work they do. Members interested in volunteering are encouraged to talk with committee members.

If you'd like to join a MDTACF committee, please tell a member of that committee, or send a message to the MDTACF president at mdchapter@acf.org.

Revised MDTACF Technical Master Plan Now Online

The MDTACF Technical Master Plan, covering all aspects of the Chapter breeding program, has been revised to incorporate comments on the previous draft and updated to reflect activity since the July, 2004 draft. The file is now available at www.mdtaf.org. Thanks to Essie Burnworth for her work to create the revised draft.

Members will be asked to formally adopt the Master Plan at the October 13 Annual Meeting and are encouraged to submit comments and suggestions to mdchapter@acf.org. The Technical Master Plan is intended to be a dynamic document and will be revised frequently to reflect new learnings and activity.

An Important Opportunity To Shape the Future of MDTACF

By Kathy Marmet, President

If you've ever thought about attending a TACF Annual Meeting, the Maryland Chapter meeting October 13th is a great opportunity to meet and interact with some of the national organization's top leaders—and to help them shape the future—right here in Gaithersburg, Maryland! The three national level meetings I've attended have left me inspired by the abilities and commitment of the people who are leading this organization at both state and national level. I consider it an honor to serve with them. This is your chance to meet and discuss the future of our organization with some of these outstanding people.

TACF President and CEO Marshal Case is threatening retirement after many years of successful leadership. He has presided over the development of the state chapter network, whose fifteen chapters now effectively cover the native range of the American chestnut. As the chapters and their regional adaptability backcross breeding efforts have grown, Marshal has struck a fine balance between the need for consistency in the overall restoration effort and the creativity and adaptability that has emerged as a result of state chapter initiative. In response to a comment about the amazing quality and diversity of scientific work and expertise that is brought together under the TACF umbrella, Marshal characterized it with pride as a "university without walls."

TACF Secretary Essie Burnworth has a leadership role in the daunting process of recruiting a successor to fill the work boots Marshal Case has worn so well. She views revisiting and updating TACF's 1994 Strategic Plan as a way to clarify the qualities TACF will need in its future leadership. Both the number of state chapters and magnitude of their programs have grown since 1994. Essie has had an active role as TACF has adapted to that growth. Our Maryland meeting's focus on the current and future role of the state chapters is an opportunity to contribute grass roots perspectives to the process of updating the Strategic Plan.

Bruce Wakeland leads the TACF Development Cabinet's Long Range Planning Committee. He has been an active participant throughout TACF's nearly 25 years of restoration effort, and has been a leader of Indiana's extensive and advanced breeding program. A professional forester with Wakeland Forestry Consultants, Bruce's contributions to TACF are both visionary and pragmatic.

Sara Fitzsimmons started her TACF career as an intern with the Pennsylvania Chapter. She gained extensive hands on experience with volunteer growers as the Pennsylvania breeding program grew to a size that, in some aspects, rivals that of the national research facility in Meadowview, VA. Some of the Pennsylvania effort spilled over into Maryland and helped our chapter get a fast start on its backcross breeding program. Sara has continued to play an important role in helping Maryland to maintain high standards in all aspects of its program. She has important perspectives from both the state and national level on the challenge of maintaining accurate and accessible breeding program records, and has played a key role in several aspects of information technology use as the organization and its communication needs have grown in complexity.

I invite you to come meet these special people and engage in this important conversation about the future of our organization.