

**Pennsylvania Chapter-The American Chestnut Foundation
Science Committee Meeting
December 19, 2005 1:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m.
Forest Resources Lab, Rm. 303, P.S.U. University Park, PA**

In attendance: Timothy R. Phelps, President; Bob Summersgill, Past President; Dave Armstrong, Vice President; Tim Eck, Treasurer; Sara Fitzsimmons, Breeding Program Coordinator; Kim Steiner, Professor of Forest Biology, Penn State University; Sue Oram, Chapter Administrator. Minutes were taken by Sue Oram.

The purpose of the meeting was to review the following:

1. Old business including review of past minutes, management practices, and the status of the grower's manual.
2. Orchard planting, pollination, and inoculation plans for 2006.
3. Chapter resource needs for 2006.

The Committee approved the minutes from Science Committee Meeting 3/16/2005 and April 2005 Report to TACF.

Review of management practices:

Seed storage, lack of orchard maintenance, and deer damage continue to be ongoing grower problems.

Poor site selection: The committee agreed that poor site selection can be reconciled, and made the following suggestions: Give new orchard growers soil maps or refer them to maps online; Distribute soil test kits to growers so they can adjust fertilizer mix as needed; If a grower knows it's a poor site, give him/her American nuts to at least test the site.

Lack of orchard maintenance: The group agreed to identify a key person in each of the 14 regions to recruit volunteers, and educate growers; and to meet with each key person to share information and provide catalyst for volunteer recruitment. Publish grower activities in local papers where applicable.

Deer Damage: The committee will identify orchards with deer damage and help growers procure tubes, fencing as needed.

Status of growers manual: The manual is 75% to completion, and the final document should be 20-25 pages. The final draft will be sent to Science Cabinet members for edits. Final print and link to website targeted for February 2006, and it will be distributed at the March grower's meeting.

Review of orchard plans for 2006

Sara Fitzsimmons reviewed the Chapter's planting inoculation, and pollination/harvest activities from 2005, and presented the Chapter's plans for 2006. (Full report attached)

The committee accepted Table 4-Orchards to be Inoculated, and Table 5 Scheduled Plantings for 2006 and moved to send them to the Board. Focus for 2006 should be on existing orchards.

The committee recommended to the Board that orchards that need replacements should be replanted, and that the Chapter concentrate on the central region of the state.

The committee wants to include the following in the spring Board meeting agenda: Disposition of selected BC3 trees that are not pollinating and grower wish list.

Chapter resource needs for 2006

Part-Time: Tim Phelps requested part time summer person, which will cost an additional \$1,000.

Intern needs: Sara Fitzsimmons requested an intern for 2007, and will pursue the Duke Stanback intern program again.

Chapter Scientist: The committee agreed that a chapter scientist is required to provide genetic evaluation and second opinions where necessary. The scientist should have a good working knowledge of the TACF tree breeding program.

Next meeting Date: Will be help prior to the spring Board meeting.