



# The Kentucky Railsplitter

Newsletter of the Kentucky Chapter  
of the American Chestnut Foundation

## *Working to Restore the American Chestnut*

*Volume 4, Number 2 Fall 2005*

### **The President's Corner**

This has been a good year for TACF. At The national level, Marshal Case was present as the President and Secretary of Agriculture planted a chestnut tree at the White House. Federal funding, in the amount of \$350,000 passed both the House and Senate with bipartisan support.

In Kentucky, we had a successful pollinating season thanks to the effort of a number of members and cooperators. On August 17<sup>th</sup>, Marshal Case was present in Lexington as Governor Fletcher signed a Statement of Mutual Intent with the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative, a coalition of coal owners, state and federal enforcement agencies, universities and other interested in reforesting strip mines. The American Chestnut Foundation is also a signatory for this initiative and is currently working with ARRI to procure a research grant for investigating phytophthora problems in chestnut plantings.

In October, the Kentucky Chapter has another great challenge and opportunity to face – hosting the first national meeting in Kentucky. On October 28<sup>th</sup>, the chestnut enthusiasts from all over the U.S. will gather at the Marriott's Griffin Gate in Lexington, Ky.

Our goal is make this the best annual meeting ever. To make this happen, we need your help. First of all, we need you to attend. Support our chapter and TACF by coming to the meetings. Help us get the word out to non-members who might be interested in coming. Bring a friend.

Secondly, we need volunteers. We need workers to assist with registration, to sell chestnut related items, as guides on the tour buses, and possibly to staff a chestnut information booth. If you can help, please notify me, Rex Mann, either by e-mail ([rmann@fs.fed.us](mailto:rmann@fs.fed.us)) or by phone (859-745-3123). If the phone is busy, leave a voice mail with your name and number.

Thirdly, help us publicize the national meeting. If you can arrange to advertise our meeting, a paragraph (which we will provide) can be inserted in a newsletter or publication of any other organization, please notify me at the above listed number.

Let's make this meeting a memorable event. Meet me in Lexington on October 28<sup>th</sup>.

Rex B. Mann  
KY Chapter President

### **Annual TACF Meeting To Be Held in Lexington Oct. 28-30**

*By Dr. Ray Hornback  
TACF Vice Chairman*

Several years ago at a national board meeting of The American Chestnut Foundation, Rex Mann and I made an observation that Kentucky would be a grand place to hold the annual meeting. The next year I was named Vice Chairman of the Board and at an executive committee meeting they asked if we were serious.

When I replied, "Kentucky would love to have you come to our beautiful state," they accepted and now we're only a month or so away from having our good friends from throughout the country meet in Lexington on Oct. 28-30 at the Marriott Griffin Gate.

A great deal of work has already gone into planning the program and making the arrangements, but we still need volunteers to help during the convention. Please give Rex Mann a call at 859/745-3123 if you can be of help!

We sincerely hope that you will be able attend the meeting as it is extremely important that we have a good turnout of our Kentucky membership. This is the first time the national meeting has been held in Kentucky and it will be embarrassing if we do not have a good turnout as hosts.

But more importantly, the program is always a very interesting one and you will have the opportunity to meet some wonderful people who share a common interest and burning desire to bring back the American chestnut tree.

Governor Ernie Fletcher is scheduled to welcome the group on Friday evening and noted humorist Carl Hurley will follow him on the program.

The keynote address will be given the following evening at the annual banquet by TACF President Marshal Case. A field trip to Berea to see American chestnut plantings is another interesting feature along with an appearance by students from Kingdom Come Elementary School presenting a program on the American chestnut.

There are many other very interesting workshops, sessions and presentations which will be of interest to you as well as free time to spend talking about the American chestnut with new friends from all over the United States.

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# The American Chestnut Foundation Kentucky Chapter

## Board of Directors Officers

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## Newsletter

Marilyn Freidhof  
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## Annual TACF meeting continued

We sincerely look forward to seeing you in Lexington and if you have any questions, feel free to call Rex or me at 859/299-5616. You should already have received a mailing from national with the reservation form. If not, let us know and we will send you one.

Also, this is a wonderful opportunity for us to recruit new members for the Kentucky chapter in time for attendance at the annual meeting. Just think how meaningful it would be if each of us recruited just one new member!



## England Recognized with Plaque

KY Chapter President, Rex Mann, presents a plaque to Charles England, landowner of the Adair Co. state champion chestnut tree. Mr. England is being recognized for his cooperation in pollination efforts of this tree over the years.

The plaque is made of chestnut wood in the shape of the state of Kentucky with a clock in the center.

Standing with Mr. England is his daughter Beverly England. Behind them are KY Division of Forestry (DOF) employees Ricky Parnell, Kenny Pile, and retired DOF employee Billy Fudge who was instrumental in early pollination efforts with the Adair Co. tree.

## Pollination continued from pg. 4

good health, and can easily be accessed with a large bucket truck. A second Clinton County tree was found by Kevin Groce of Albany, KY. His tree is 60' tall, 14" in diameter, heavily blighted, but is producing abundant flowers. The tree can only be accessed using a large bucket truck, and then, only with some effort.

A tree discovered by Joe Shibig in Christian County flowered for the first time this year. It is approximately 55' tall, 10" in diameter, blight free, and is easily accessed with a large bucket truck. Two small sprouts in close proximity in Metcalfe County were pollinated by Joe Shibig this year. The offspring of both will be considered one line since the trees are very likely closely related and may have even originated from the same root system.

A tree in Pike County was pollinated this year, but later we learned that it was given to the landowner and probably an American chestnut Cooperator's Foundation tree, and is likely not a pure Kentucky genotype. The offspring of this pollination will likely be used for research purposes, rather than incorporated into our breeding efforts.

We are looking forward now to another bountiful harvest, and The Kentucky Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation would like to express our gratitude to our members and to everyone who helped us in our efforts. We could not have done it without you.



*The American Chestnut Foundation 2005 Annual Meeting  
Program Schedule  
A celebration of “Challenges and Opportunities”  
Marriott’s Griffon Gate Hotel, Lexington KY*

**Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2005**

6:00 pm-8:00 pm	Reception/Registration in Salons A, B and C;
7:30 pm	Performance by Kingdom Come Elementary School,
8:00 pm-8:30 pm	Welcome by Kentucky Governor Ernie Fletcher and Secretary of Natural Resources, Commissioner Susan C. Bush in Salons A, B and C
8:30 pm-9:30 pm	Professor Carl Hurley speaking in Salons A, B and C

**Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2005**

8:00 am-9:25 am	General Session and Welcome from the Kentucky Chapter
9:25 am-9:40 am	Coffee Break
9:40 am-10:30 am	5 Concurrent Workshops: Session 1 *
10:40 am-11:30 am	5 Concurrent Workshops: Session 2 *
12:00 pm	Box lunch on the bus
12:00 pm-4:00pm	Tour of Berea College area chestnut plantings;
6:30pm -9:00 pm	Dinner and keynote address
7:15 pm	Awards
8:00 pm	Keynote Address Marshal Case, President and CEO of TACF

\*Workshop speakers include: Dr. Dennis Fulbright, Sunshine Brosi, Sara Fitzsimmons, Dr. Albert Ellingboe, and Mark Depoy from Mammoth Cave National Park.

**Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2005**

8:00 am-8:45 am	General Session in Salons C and D
8:45 am-9:00 am	Coffee Break
9:00 am-11:00 am	Meadowview Report, Technical Presentations in Salons C and D
11:00 am-12:00 pm	Member Sharing in Salons C and D
1:00 pm	Post Conference Tours Shaker Village, Woodford Reserve, or Kentucky Horse Park

Fee and Registration information available on-line at [www.acf.org/AnnualMeeting2005.htm](http://www.acf.org/AnnualMeeting2005.htm)

## **Summer Pollination Report**

*by Mike French  
KY Chapter Intern*

The Kentucky Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation managed to pollinate ten mother trees this year, five of which had not been pollinated previously. This is four more trees than we pollinated in 2004. We achieved this with help from Fred Hebard and his employees at Meadowview (TACF Research Farm in VA), the Kentucky Division of Forestry, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, Brandon Tree Service, and numerous volunteers.

Last year, South Kentucky RECC loaned us their bucket truck to pollinate the first Clinton County tree, so this year we enlisted the assistance of several electric cooperatives who graciously loaned us their bucket trucks. These included East Kentucky Electric Cooperative, Inter-county Electric Cooperative, and Warren Rural

Electric. Gary Conley and Tony Gregory from East Kentucky Electric Cooperative were especially helpful.

Five trees that we pollinated this year were those which had been pollinated in previous years, but for one reason or another had failed to produce a complete line. One exception is the state champion tree in Adair County. We have completed a line from this tree, but we will continue to pollinate it with pure American and Chinese pollens. The offspring of these crosses will be used for research purposes. Once again we managed to place more than 1,000 pollination bags on the Adair County tree.

We pollinated the first Clinton County and first Wayne County trees with the same pollen types used last year, and expect to complete lines from these trees this year. This year, we applied different pollen types to Rob Watts' tree in Letcher County and to the tree in Webster County, due to last year's poor harvests from those trees. Both trees are difficult

to access, and we may use pollen harvested from those pure American trees to pollinate their hybrid counterparts in Meadowview to complete their lines.

The tree in Webster County is approximately 95' tall and has only been accessed by Terry Stamper and Terry Hartigan, who are experienced arborists. We were unable to pollinate the tree in Marshall County this year. Last year it produced no viable nuts due to a severe case of the blight. This year it appeared to be in even worse health, and we felt that our time could be better spent working on other trees. We did treat this tree and several other blighted trees with a systemic fungicide, which may aid in their recovery.

We pollinated five new mother trees this year. The first is located in Butler County. It is approximately 60' tall, 14" in diameter, blighted, but is in fairly

*see pollination on pg. 2*

Kentucky  
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of the  
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