

The Nutty News

September 2007

The Newsletter of the Ohio Chapter of The American Chestnut Association

Mineland Reclamation Research

Submitted by Brian McCarthy

A total of 1200 chestnuts went into the ground during the spring of 2007 at the Tri-Valley Wildlife Management Area (near Zanesville) with the help of over eighteen dedicated chapter members. This early spring day was a bit bleak and drizzly, but all recognized the importance of the activity. This was one of the largest planting of American chestnut on mineland habitats using different technologies, and improve wildlife habitat and mast availability in the future.

The project was funded primarily by the USDI Office of Surface Mining (OSM) and involved partnerships with the Appalachian regional Reforestation Initiative (ARRI) and the ODNR Division of Wildlife (DOW). Dr. Brian McCarthy and project manager Corie McCament of Ohio University, as well as, Dr. Carolyn Keiffer and graduate student Jenise Baumann of Miami University, will be using the site as an experimental plantation to assess the survival and growth of American chestnut seedling on mineland sites that have had the soil properties altered prior to planting.

These mineland sites are often quite difficult from a management perspective. Secondary succession, the natural change in species composition over time, is virtually arrested on these sites. Managers rely on succession to take place following a disturbance to return the vegetation to a similar form and species make-up. But, when mine soils are compacted by heavy earth moving equipment and then seeded with aggressive non-native grasses, the timely ability for native herbs, shrubs, and trees to recolonize this site is nil. The focus of this experiment was to rip the soils and/or plow-disk them prior to planting to ascertain which if any of these treatments was able to create conditions for optimal survival of planted seedlings. To date (late-summer), all of the treatments (any soil manipulation) result in greater survival and larger seedlings compared to undisturbed control conditions. The results are promising for mineland restoration efforts in the future and we think American chestnut can play an important part of those efforts.



Heavy Equipment was used to break up soil, increase aeration and drainage, and decrease competition from grasses prior to chestnut planting.



Nine of eighteen OH-ACF chapter members are shown planting American chestnut seedlings.

Thanks to all who participated!

Ohio Chapter Finds New Home

Ohio FFA Camp Muskingum is now the new home office of the Ohio Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation. Nestled in the hills of Carroll County, adjacent to Leesville Lake, FFA Camp Muskingum offers many unique outdoor experiences. The lake, hillsides and 200 acres of Hickory/Oak forest offer prime opportunities for everyone. Adjacent to main camp is a 60 acre farm and test plot for future planting of American Chestnut seedlings.

FFA Camp Muskingum serves nearly 12,000 individuals annually. This provides a unique partnership which will allow the education of the OH-TACF's mission to be heard through programs offered at camp.

Michelle Scott (Project Reach Director) and Todd Davis (Camp Director) will work together to publish chapter newsletters, organizing work projects and educational programs and overseeing daily tasks of the Ohio Chapter.



FFA Camp Muskingum
Carrollton, OH

President's Message



Brian and Dawn McCarthy putting a predator deterring cage around a planted chestnut seedling.



Greg Miller putting the finishing touches on a cage around a hybrid chestnut seedling planted atop a loose pile of soil.

An old nut grower was planting trees and a younger acquaintance queried him: "At your age it could be that you will never get to taste the nuts from your trees." The older nut grower wryly responded, "Well, what do you think will happen if I DON'T plant nut trees?" This story echoes the American Chestnut Foundation's mission: what do you think will happen if we don't do it? I've been a member of TACF since 1985. The most amazing thing about this organization is that the mission drives the members. It's not about thrilling entertainment or financial rewards. We don't always agree and/or get along with each other. Ultimately though, we all roll up our sleeves, get out our checkbooks, and do what needs to be done.

As a State Chapter, we are still finding our feet. We have plenty of competent people working for our organization, but none of them is able to dedicate full-time to the Ohio Chapter effort. Nevertheless, our collective part-time efforts are beginning to gel. We now have a main office located at FFA Camp Muskingum. Brian McCarthy and Carolyn Keiffer continue to make chestnut plantings with the help of Chapter members and their students. Ray Gargano and I again made a few pollinations this summer. Tom Berger and the Ohio Division of Forestry have increased their support: among other things we will soon have a deer fenced area at Mohican State Forest for American Chestnut planting. Kurt Waterstradt of U.S. Fish and Wildlife is working to make funding available for American Chestnut plantings. Sara Fitzsimmons and Fred Hebard are always there, providing pollen, information, and direction for our breeding program. Sometimes I'm a little frustrated and disappointed that I wasn't able to do half the things I had in mind, but it is gratifying to see others stepping up and making things happen.

Goals for the near future are to get our main office serving more actively as our organizational hub, get more native Ohio American chestnut trees identified and inventoried, and get our members directly involved in nearby projects. I encourage you all to attend our annual meeting. The meeting will feature educational activities, brainstorming and planning future projects, and mostly a chance to get to know each other better. See you there.

Greg Miller

President, Ohio Chapter

Ohio Chapter Website

Once again a huge Thank You goes out to Brian McCarthy for developing a website for the Ohio Chapter. Please visit the site often for up to date info on The Ohio Chapter and all activities that will be going on.

<http://www.oh-acf.org>

Membership

You can apply online to become a new member or to renew your membership at WWW.ACF.ORG.

Or contact: The American Chestnut Foundation, 469 Main St., Suite 1, P.O.Box 4044, Bennington, VT 05201 (802) 447-0110

End-dumping as a Mineland Reclamation Tool Written by: Brian McCarthy

Using funding from the ODNR Division of Wildlife and the National Wild Turkey federation, Brian McCarthy from Ohio University, was able to get an additional 200 chestnut seedlings in the ground on a reclaimed strip-mine in east central Ohio near Cadiz. The site is located on the Jockey Hollow Wildlife Management Area. This was a small component of a much larger effort involving the planting of 30,000 hardwood seedlings onto a mineland site where end-dumping had been implemented on a reclaimed surface mine (see graphic).

This is a large cooperative project among several State, Federal, and non-profit agencies to establish a test site and demonstration area in Ohio for a new form of mineland reclamation being advocated by the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative (ARRI) known as "end-dumping". Dense compacted soils on reclaimed surface mines are the bane of vegetation establishment and succession. Using this form of restoration, loosely dropped end-dumped soils are placed on an otherwise compacted substrate and seedlings planted onto the loose soil piles.



Once again, almost a dozen dedicated volunteers of the Ohio Chapter turned out on a miserable day (34 F, sleeting, windy) to help plant. (Thanks to all who turned out!) But, with the help of all, the planting went smoothly and relatively quick. While seedlings are usually best planted on the shoulders of the piles (due to subsidence over time) we chose to plant these near the tops because chestnut does best on well drained soils and moderately high light environments. Time will help us tell whether this is the best approach for chestnut or not.

A doctoral student, Keith Gilland, working in Brian McCarthy's lab will monitor the growth and survival of the chestnut seedlings, along with a subset of the other species, as part of his future efforts.

Presentations on the American Chestnut by Joesph P. Reardon Greater Cleveland Area Fall and Winter 2007-2008

Date	Time	Venue	Title
October 8, 2007 (Monday)	7:30pm	Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland C/O Cleveland Museum of Natural History 10600 East Blvd. Cleveland, Oh	Saga of the Turkey and the Chestnut
October 13, 2007 (Saturday)	7:30pm	North Chagrin Nature Center North Chagrin Reservation Cleveland Metroparks 3037 SOM Center Rd Mayfield Village, OH	The American Chestnut, Natural and Economic Treasure of the Eastern Forests
November 20, 2007 (Tuesday)	7:00pm	Look About Lodge South Chagrin Reservation Cleveland Metroparks Miles Road, east of Rt. 91 Bentleyville, OH	The Mighty Chestnut, the Tree that Built Young America
Exact date T.B.D. Friday Nights w/ Nature series www.clevelandmetroparks.com	7:00 & 9:00pm	Rocky River Nature Center Rocky River Reservation Cleveland Metroparks 24000 Valley Parkway North Olmsetd, OH	The Towering American Chestnut, Prince of Our Eastern Forests



Ohio Chapter Fall Meeting

The Ohio Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation has scheduled its next state meeting to take place on September 15th, 2007 in Columbus, Ohio at the Ohio Department of Nature Resources complex. Please mark your calendar to attend this very informative meeting.

WHEN: Saturday September 15, 2007

TIME: 12:00pm – 3:00p

WHERE: Division of Forestry Office, Columbus, Ohio

Building H, Conference Room (2nd floor)

Directions: www.dnr.state.oh.us/foundationssquare.htm

RSVP: Ohiochestnuts@wildblue.net (please RSVP by Sept.7, 2007)

All are invited and encourages to attend the chapter meetings. Topics for the next meeting will include educational activities, brainstorming and planning future projects and a chance to get to know other members of the Ohio Chapter. A small lunch will be provided at a small cost, please let us know in your RSVP.

The Ohio Chapter's Mission.....

The mission of this Chapter shall be to assist in the work of The American Chestnut Foundation in bringing about a revival and a renewal of the American Chestnut tree as a prominent part of the forests of the United States of America by strengthening the organization's financial and membership base, education, public awareness and research activities.

The Newsletter of the Ohio Chapter American Chestnut Foundation

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.oh-acf.org

The Ohio Chapter of
The American Chestnut
Foundation

