

TACF Ohio Chapter Annual Meeting Minutes 2006
Saturday, 23-September-2006

Present included: Greg Miller (Pres.), Carolyn Keiffer (V.P.), Brian McCarthy (Sec.), Richard Cappell, Jenise Bauman, Sara Fitzsimmons (ACF National), Ben Williams, Tim Williams, Dan Williams, Marcia Coddington, Dave Simpson, Joe Reardon, Dave Dicks, Dick Stoffer, Dick Potts, Kirstin Lehtoma, Bruce Willis, Steve Rogstad, Carlen Emanuel, Ray Gargano.

The meeting began at 13:00 at the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (Bldg.-I), Fountain Square, Columbus, Ohio. Greg Miller began with a general welcome, followed by roundtable introductions.

Brian reviewed the minutes from 2005 briefly, asked for suggestions or changes, no additions were suggested. Joe Reardon moved to accept as reported. Ben Williams seconded. Minutes were approved.

In the absence of the Treasurer, Carolyn Keiffer, provided a brief overview of the budget. We did start receiving member money from the national chapter starting in the 3rd quarter of 2005. Four checks have been received to date. Our income to date has been \$4270, less expenses for posters, newsletter, and annual web fees. Our current balance is \$3400 based largely on income from 325 members.

To date, we do not yet have a board. In addition to the four chapter officers, six additional members are needed to sit on the board of directors. Carolyn indicated that Bob Evans, Sr. was willing to be an honorary BOD member, but was unable to participate in a substantive fashion. A number of members at the meeting generously volunteered to serve as BOD members: Bruce Willis (2-yr term), Dave Simpson (2-yr), Ben Williams (1-yr), Joe Reardon (1-yr), Ray Gargano (2-yr), and Rich Cappell (1-yr). Thus, three new members will need to be elected next year. Those currently serving may be re-appointed in the future.

Greg moved that we accept these candidates and their terms. Carlen seconded. A vote was called. The vote was unanimous.

Sara Fitzsimmons introduced herself and provided a brief overview of what her duties were as breeding orchard coordinator in the northern region (out of PSU). She said she would be happy to provide any on the ground assistance we needed with the installation of new orchards. She also outlined what the Bennington office was capable of doing for the chapter.

Rich and Carlen reported on their efforts to identify chestnuts in Ohio and record where they are and what their status is. Rich indicated that there are ca. 25 trees in his database. Carlen indicated that she had only about 6 confirmed Americans, with most of what was being recorded as Japanese or European (Chinese reports were going down). Very few

large trees were being discovered at all. Greg reminded us that if American we discovered were sufficiently isolated, we need not worry about bagging and that contamination would likely be minimal.

Greg passed out an Ohio Tree Locator form. It was suggested that this be posted onto the website. Anyone finding a chestnut should fill out one of these forms. We discussed trying to get a statement into the annual hunting regulations (similar to ginseng). Rich said he thought this might have been done partially, but didn't think it made it into print. He said he would follow up on this. It was also suggested that we get in contact with Land Trust Associations, as they will be able to note chestnuts on land they deal with.

Sara Fitzsimmons then provided a nice PPT talk reviewing methods of orchard construction and seed/seedling planting. Brian will upload materials to the chapter website soon and provide web links to Sarah's websites.

Carolyn discussed the issue of public relations and that we all need to take a positive role in promoting chestnut. We have website materials available, a PPT show we can do, traveling posters that can be used at meetings. Also we discussed the need for educational and demonstration plantings. This followed by a discussion of the various festivals in Ohio and how we could advertise. Brian pointed out that we are in no short supply of festivals; we need volunteers to man the booths of the displays at the festivals.

Carlen and Dave suggested that a VISTA be used and dedicated to the chestnut foundation. This person could be used 10-20 hour per week and handle many of the things that need to be done. Carlen will contact Jane and Dennis and follow up with what might need to be done.

Discussion also followed about meetings. The issue was brought up that we need to continue to have our annual major state meeting in September, prior to the national meeting each year in October. It was the general consensus that we have 1-2 additional regional meetings each year in the spring, with an emphasis on hands-on activities and/or other programs.

Meeting adjourned at 16:45

Minutes submitted and summarized by
Brian C. McCarthy, Chapter Secretary
24-September-2006