FALL 2016 ~ ISSUE 3 VOL. 30

Chestnut

THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN CHESTNUT FOUNDATION

A BENEFIT TO MEMBERS

THE AMERICAN CHESTNUT FOUNDATION®

Mined Land Reforestation ~ Deer Ticks & Lyme ~ Future Generations ~ OxO Blight Resistance

UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND

Dr. Thomas Klak is a Professor in the Department of Environmental Studies at the University of New England (UNE). He teaches an ecological restoration class and contributes to a capstone course which is a requirement for graduating seniors. This year four students in the capstone course chose to work with American chestnuts. One of the students, Sarah Fleischmann, explained her involvement this way: "We are trying to leave a legacy at UNE involving students, faculty and the campus community. This project is a true culmination of what I've learned on this campus -- the restoration of an important species, and working with important individuals from a variety of different fields and disciplines." Using the restoration questions identified by TACF, the students designed the field trials, selected the planting locations on campus, organized a media event for the planting on Earth Day and followed up with data collection and study documentation. The chestnut research plantings will be available for future cohorts of students to work with as they develop. The students also designed a beautiful sign that describes the history of the American chestnut, efforts to restore the species and the research effort at UNE.

1. Maine Chapter President Emeritus, Glen Rea, introduces the restoration effort to University of New England students on campus during Earth Day 2016 at Biddeford, ME.
2. University of New England students plant B_3F_3 seeds and seedlings on campus during Earth Day 2016 as part of their senior capstone project.
3. Six week old B_3F_3 seedlings at the University of New England greenhouse grown by UNE students as part of their senior capstone class. Photos: Thomas Klak

UNITY COLLEGE

Dr. Matthew Chatfield is an associate professor of conservation biology within the School of Biodiversity Conservation at Unity College in Unity, ME. He teaches two conservation biology classes which includes lab work. Chatfield has been engaging "...Unity students about reintroduction and restoration, showing them that what they learn in the classroom can be applied in the real world." In addition to a lecture about the chestnut restoration effort, the students participated in sowing chestnut seeds in the greenhouse at the McKay Farm and Research Station for a cold tolerance/blight resistance field experiment. The seeds came from across the native American chestnut range and included three levels of blight resistance (pure American, B3F2 and B3F3), across two provenances (southern vs. northern sources). Chinese seed was included as a control. These were outplanted in two field experiments; one on land owned by the New England Forestry Foundation in Knox, ME and the other on the Small Woodland Owners Association of Maine in Vienna, ME. Feedback from students was overwhelmingly positive, with many stating that "this was among their favorite parts of the course." The collaboration between METACF and Unity College was featured on a local news station, thus furthering the mission of TACF by garnering additional community support. Chatfield has plans to incorporate the field experiments