

The American Chestnut Foundation
Carolinas Chapter
Annual Meeting, August 16, 2008

The annual meeting was held at Hanging Rock State Park, Danbury, North Carolina on Saturday, August 16, 2008. Steve Barilovits III, president, welcomed members and guests. Steve recognized Eric Nygard, Acting Superintendent of the park, who had arranged the use of the Welcome Center for the meeting. Eric gave a brief overview of the park, which first served as a Civil Conservation Corps (CCC) facility, during the depression. Steve then introduced the guest speakers, Noah Reynolds and Eddie Barr. The presentation was titled "Devotion: A History of the Reynolds Estate in Surry County, NC."

Mr. Reynolds and Mr. Barr reviewed the history of the Devotion Estate, originally owned by the Reynolds family, and showed pictures of most of the buildings there. Mr. Reynolds also showed a black and white movie made in 1940 by R.J. "Dick" Reynolds, Jr. of things going on around the estate. He pointed out the rustic architecture motif, which was very different from the family mansions at Reynolda and Tanglewood in the Winston-Salem area. The relationship of Dick Reynolds with Franklin Roosevelt, including his service as Treasurer of the Democratic National Committee was discussed. Mr. Barr talked about Charles McKinney's efforts to restore the buildings on his portion of the estate. Mr. McKinney died last year just as everything was being completed.

A catered luncheon was served, and members were able to visit and learn more about each other during the meal. Paul Dunn, born Feb. 25, 1919, told how when he was a child he helped collect chestnuts from the forest floor, and as a teenager he worked at a sawmill harvesting sound wormy chestnut wood. He described how he ate American chestnuts, cracking the hull in his mouth, peeling it off, and then eating the nut raw. Bill Wood of Chapel Hill, NC presented a very moving story about his life growing up in the Mitchell River Valley near the Devotion Estate. He told how his father and others harvested a gigantic dead chestnut tree in the hope that the sale of the lumber would save the family farm during the depths of the Depression. Doug Gillis told of helping identify old American chestnut for David Terpening of Charlotte to turn on a lathe. He produced several lovely salvaged American chestnut bowls with walnut bases and rims.

The business meeting was called to order by the president at 1:00 p.m. Paul Sisco gave a treasurer's report, noting that the chapter has about \$8,000 in its checking account, \$10,000 in a CD, and over \$20,000 in the endowment fund. He noted that the accounts are audited each year by a CPA.

Jennifer Viets Catalano gave a talk about the endowment, which has had a name change due to a merger between two endowment funds, the Pulp and Paper Foundation and the NC Forestry Foundation, and is now named the NC State

Natural Resources Foundation, Inc. Any future gifts should be made in that name, with the notation that it is for the Carolinas Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation.

Doug Gillis distributed a short bio of the nominees for the Board of Directors. K.O. Summerville announced his decision to retire from the board this year. The following people were elected to the Board: Paul Sisco, Doug Gillis, Scott Pryor, Brian Joyce, Ron Myers, and Carol Namkoong. A certificate of appreciation was presented to K. O. Summerville on behalf of the Board. K. O. has been active in the chapter for a number of years, including service as President of the Chapter Board of Directors.

It was announced that there will be a picnic and orchard tour on Saturday, November 8 in the Sandy Mush (Leicester) area. Orchards to be toured are those owned by Susan Wilson, Brad Stanback, and the Long Brach Environmental Center.

Steve Barilovits and Joe James gave a report on their Phytophthora experiments. Paul Sisco gave an overview of the national and chapter breeding programs for blight resistance.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Carol Namkoong
Secretary

Attendees:

Bill and Ginny Wood
Frances Nixon Bovender
John Dainotto
Andrew Casey
Scott, Michael and Vonnie Pryor
Bob Lankford
Tom Smith
John and Phyllis Lund
Paul Sisco
Kenneth Summerville
Doug Gillis
Steve and Brother Minnich
Susan Wilson and Don Myers
Steve Barilovits III
Joe James
Paul Dunn
Noah Reynolds

Eddie Barr
Scott, Vicki and Hayden Lawrence
Eric and Elizabeth Indermaur
Ron Myers
Art and Ann Roede
Erik Nygard