

Nominees for Board of Directors—CC-TACF

Election of six people to the Board of Directors of the Carolinas Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation is scheduled for the August 25, 2007 Annual Meeting at Gaither Hall, Montreat College, Montreat, NC. Nominees are:

New Nominees for two-year terms, 2007-2009:

Judy Coker—Judy is a joint owner and operator of Cataloochee Ranch, a guest ranch located above Maggie Valley, NC, on Fie Top Mountain. Judy is a Trustee and Member of the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy. Judy has a great interest in the restoration of the American chestnut and is the newest chestnut grower in North Carolina. She participated with Carolinas Chapter members in a planting at Cataloochee Ranch this past spring.

Lee Gragg—Lee, his wife, Kim, and their three beautiful children (ages 2,4,and 6) live on Lake James in Morganton, NC. Lee is a 1990 graduate of Clemson University with a BS degree in Civil Engineering. He is a Professional Land Surveyor, and often finds American chestnut sprouts and trees while conducting surveys. Lee learned as a youth about the American chestnut from his grandfather, who grew up in Avery County, NC. Lee is interested in helping restore the American chestnut so his children can have a sense of what his grandfather experienced in his youth. Lee also is interested in the restoration of the American chestnut as a future, sustainable source of lumber for decking, flooring, siding, and other building materials.

Running for re-election to two-year terms, 2007-2009:

Steve Barilovits, III—Steve is an electrical engineer with Talon Logic Corporation, an integrated circuit design firm that he co-founded. He became interested in chestnut trees during hikes in North Carolina and Massachusetts with his son, Steve, IV, who at age 10 became The American Chestnut Foundation's youngest full member. Steve, III, and Jane Laurent, his wife, live in Charlotte, N.C. Jane is on the history faculty of UNC-Charlotte.

Joe James—Joe, a retired orthopedic surgeon, graduated from Wake forest School of Medicine. Joe, a past President of the Carolinas Chapter, has been interested in wildlife since his college days at Wofford and has been involved with chestnut trees since 1983. He currently is involved with phytophthora experimentation (effect of the root rot disease on hybrid chestnuts) and with the rooting of chestnut cuttings collected from trees in the Carolinas. Joe and his wife, Sandy, have four daughter and six grandchildren. Joe and Sandy live on their farm, Chestnut Return, in Seneca, S.C.

Steve Motsinger—Steve is a real estate appraiser, specializing in agribusiness, lifestyle farming, and conservation properties with Carolina Farm Credit. He is past president of the NC Chapter of the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers, now serving as secretary-treasurer. He is an avid outdoorsman and conservationist enjoying trout fishing, hunting, and other activities. He is a life member of the AFA, The Nature Conservancy, and The Virginia Coast Reserve. Steve is interested in the American chestnut, having grown up in the NC Mountains and having heard chestnut stories since childhood. Steve and his wife Jane have two grown children, son Daniel and daughter Hanes, a senior at UNC Chapel Hill. The Motsingers live on a farm in State Road, NC where they care for a small chestnut orchard of four successive plantings.

Don Surette Don is retired from Agfa Corporation, a filmmaking plant in Transylvania County, where he worked as a Controls Technologist. At their home in Pisgah Forest, N.C., Don and his wife, Norma, are taking care of a BC3 orchard of chestnut trees. Don was co-founder of Carolina Mountains Credit Union, formerly DuPont Employees Credit Union. He enjoys working with wood and hiking.