Back in August a forester friend showed up with three American chestnut logs in his pick-up. "Would I like to have them?" The response was quick, "Well, YES!" In the past, when I had American chestnut, I’d turned and donated bowls to PA-TACF. One time a PA-TACF member Clark Beebe from New Jersey had shared an old post from a cellar that became bowls. Another time, Sara Fitzsimmons had provided a well-rotted stump, and it became bowls. Here was another opportunity. These three logs cut over near Phillipsburg, Pennsylvania, had only recently died. The largest one had a butt diameter of about 13 inches. One had clear indications of the canker that caused its death. As a bowl turner, I saw lots of potential. I had enjoyed turning the previous chestnut; however, these new logs were special. The wood was still "green," and the tool cut long ribbons of fragrant wood and the shop took on a certain ambience as the shavings piled around the lathe. Over the next several days, I roughed out 41 pieces and set them aside for the first drying. When they stopped losing weight, I finished turning them. In the end, I lost one to a large crack, and I gave one to the “log-donor.”

While I’ve not been active with the PA-TACF, I’ve been aware of its work. For 42 years, I worked at Penn State as a professor of forest resources and extension forester and toward the end the Director of the Center for Private Forests. As well, I oversaw the PA Forest Stewards volunteer program and several of these folks were deeply involved with the foundation. During my tenure, I interacted with faculty working on American chestnut restoration. My passion for forests and trees and the people who work in the forests has been a big part of my life and I champion those who share a commitment to the health and vitality of forests. I’ve always enjoyed wood working and woodturning and I especially look for opportunities to use my avocation to help others.

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**TACF Annual Meeting Update October 18th and 19th, 2019**

We’re counting on PA/NJ members to attend in big numbers. **So mark your calendars to attend!**

**Attention Educators:** This meeting will be a great opportunity to engage young curious minds in our mission. Once again, there will be a poster session that will include a student poster competition and a session of student research flash talks during the meeting’s general session. Any researcher can participate in the poster session, and students (current or recent graduates presenting on student work) are eligible to participate in the poster competition and flash talks. Look for the RFP to posted in June.

**Following the lead of the Maine Chapter, we’re planning to organize some displays of Chapter spirit. Have ideas? We’d love to hear from you.**

If you would like to volunteer to help with planning our Chapter presence at this event, call the office (814) 863-7192.

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**Picking the Proper Container**

Continued from page 5.

the bottom to increase the chances of roots hitting the hole and air pruning. If the sides can be angled toward a center hole this will guide the roots to a common point for air pruning. Elevate the pots slightly to ensure good airflow under the bottom. Even with holes through the bottom a lack of airflow will permit roots to grow beyond the pot, either into other pots or become intertwined in the catch tray.

Regardless of the container used a good potting medium, adequate water, and vigilance have a large impact on the success of your seedlings. Remember: “There are 2 ways to kill a chestnut, too much water or too little water.” – Greg Miller Route 9 Chestnut Cooperative