

# The Canadian Sweet Chestnut

-Newsletter of the Canadian Chestnut Council-

Issue # 92

Summer / Fall 2024



<http://www.canadianchestnutcouncil.ca>

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**Council Mission** - to help restore the American Chestnut to the areas of Canada it once occupied.

## Current Priorities

- 1) Breeding resistance
- 2) Breaking Isolation / Establishing Gene pool Nodes
- 3) DNA Analysis
- 4) Survey of existing Chestnuts in the wild

## In this issue:

- New threats to the American Chestnut (Ron Casier)
- Inoculation / Pollination 2024 (Dragan Galic)
- Canadian Chestnut Council – revised website (Chuck Beach)
- Annual Meeting – (Chuck Beach)
- Reminder: Annual Membership Fees - CCC introduces online banking

## New threats to the American Chestnut – Ron Casier

**Oak Wilt** - The effort to prevent **Oak Wilt's** entrance to Canada has been a major effort for the past few years.

**Oak wilt** is a fungal disease caused by the organism *Bretziella fagacearum* that threatens Oak trees. American Chestnut, which is in the same family as oaks, is now found to be susceptible to the Oak Wilt. The disease is decimating oak species in the United States. Infected chestnuts were identified in Ohio in 2019 and in Michigan in 2022 with United States agencies including chestnuts with oaks in their educational and control protocols. Recently, the **Invasive Species Centre** (ISC) here in Ontario has updated its profile on Oak Wilt to include the American Chestnut as vulnerable to the infection, which is fatal to the tree. Protocols for prevention and for the removal of infected trees are the same for all species of oak and chestnut. Avoid pruning or other injury to chestnut or oak trees from April to November. Exuding sap attracts sap beetles are the vectors that carry and introduce the Oak Wilt fungus to the other trees. Infected trees must be completely removed and destroyed. Root contact between trees will spread the infection to healthy neighbouring trees. Members are asked to visit the ISC website [Invasive Species Centre – Preventing the Spread of Invasive Species](#) to learn the signs and symptoms of Oak Wilt and for reporting suspected infections. Subscribing to the **Oak Wilt Wire** will provide you regular updates on the disease. If you observe any signs of tree collapse or wilting in Chestnut or Oak immediately report it so that samples can be taken to verify the problem and that prompt action is taken to eradicate the tree and prevent the spread of the disease.



*Pictures courtesy of the Invasive Species Centre*

**Asian Gall Wasp** - the second invasive species, the **Asian Chestnut Gall Wasp** (ACGP) arrived in Ontario in 2012 from New York State at St. Catharines and has gradually spread westward across the historical range of the American Chestnut. The tell-tale gall deforms the leaf and fruiting buds so that they prevent normal development or function. Over several seasons, a severe infestation prevents the formation of functional foliage and the tree will die outright. In mild infestations, members should physically remove and burn all galls early in the season to prevent the spread of (ACGP). Unfortunately, there are no sprays approved in Ontario to control the invasive species at this time. A severe infection at the Central Elgin Research Plot is threatening survival of the Chestnut trees. The MNR is collecting galls for study this summer. Their entomology department will determine if any of the parasitic wasps that Michigan State have released as a Biological Control for ACGP have managed to cross the border into Ontario. There is no biocontrol planned for Ontario. The Invasive Species Centre website has more information on their American Chestnut Profile and will soon produce a Profile for the Asian Chestnut Gall Wasp. Members are asked to monitor any Chestnut trees and report either infection to help prevent the spread of these invasives.



Infected Chestnut – *courtesy Ron Casier*



*Gyorgy Csoka, Hungary Forest Research Institute,  
Bugwood.org*



## **Inoculation 2024**

Dragan Galic notes - At Onondaga on June 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, we inoculated 475 trees. With help from Greig Garland, Vicki Kennedy, Elliott Groen on the 10<sup>th</sup> and Neil Dunning, Phil Regier and Chuck Beach on the 11<sup>th</sup>. At Ron Casier's Farm on June 12<sup>th</sup> we inoculated 284 trees. This year we used new inoculum Cp 2023-7, which was isolated at University of Guelph lab. This inoculum originated from our research fields at Onondaga Farms. Inoculated trees screening will be done late in August.



Elgin Plot  
Tom Beharrell Frank Lattanzio Dragan and Ron



Onondaga Farms  
Neil Dunning inserts inoculant

## **Pollination 2024**

Dragan Galic's notes - This pollination season we have attached about 800 bags and made 124 different crosses. We pollinated: 17 trees native origine, four trees for large nut and 7 trees in F2 generation for F3 generation. All parents of F3 generation are pollinated with use of a boom truck.



## **Updated Canadian Chestnut Council Website**

The Canadian Chestnut Council is testing a new website. Please have a look at:  
[www.canadianchestnutcouncil.ca](http://www.canadianchestnutcouncil.ca)

We invite you to have a look and explore.

## **Annual Meeting of the Canadian Chestnut Council**

The annual meeting of the Canadian Chestnut Council is coming up.

The meeting will take place both virtually. Please mark your calendars.

**Date:** Sunday, **Oct. 27th,**

**Time:** 1:00pm. **In person reception begins at noon.**

**Location:** Tim Hortons Foundation Camp – Onondaga Farms Eco- Centre  
264 Glen Morris Rd E, Brant, ON N0E 1N0

## **Annual Membership Fees**

Membership fees for the Canadian Chestnut Council are due as of the Annual Meeting in October. Only members in good standing have the ability to vote at the annual meeting, be apprised of events and receive the quarterly newsletter.

**2023/2024 Membership Fees** –effective October 2023 - \$35.00

**By Mail:** make cheque payable to “Canadian Chestnut Council” and send to

Secretary, Canadian Chestnut Council

c/o Jeff Leader, 18 Forbes St., Glen Morris, Ontario, N0B 1W0

or bring it to the next meeting or special event.

**By Internet:** Please **send your e-transfer to** [ccc.membership17@gmail.com](mailto:ccc.membership17@gmail.com).

More information.

<b>Contact</b> - Mr. Ron Casier Phone - 519-631-5279 Email - <a href="mailto:ronjcasier@gmail.com">ronjcasier@gmail.com</a>	<b>Membership Secretary</b> Jeff Leader Address – 18 Forbes St. Glen Morris, ON. N0B 1W0 Phone – 519-247-0267 Email – <a href="mailto:geosynergy@yahoo.com">geosynergy@yahoo.com</a>
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