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May 21, 2002

Thomas A. Chamberland
Park Ranger
East Brimfield Lake
24 Riverview Avenue
Fiskdale (Sturbridge), MA 01518-1243

Dear Thomas:

This is a proposal for a planting to be located on land of the Army Corps of Engineers.

The American Chestnut Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to the development of a forest type, American chestnut based tree, which may be reintroduced to our forests. Several methods are being used to this end, one of which is the interbreeding of local trees both native and foreign origin, by the Massachusetts Chapter of said Foundation.

There are presently two American chestnut trees in Western Massachusetts that are growing successfully despite the blight, that normally curtails such trees before they reach flowering age. Two Chinese Chestnut trees in Wilbraham have an upright growth habit that is unusual for oriental trees. These trees and others have been bred; and trees are presently in pots, to be placed out this spring. Our plant geneticist, Paul Sesko, has spoken that creating offspring from such trees are a good way to verify favorable characteristics. We need land and many years to plant out our crosses, select out for the best trees, and recross until our goals are attained.

Presently intermediate crosses indicate that our approach will be successful. Plantings of such crosses are established in Conway, Massachusetts and Tower Hill Botanical Garden in Boylston, Massachusetts.

Many of the trees in such plantings will not be successful and will be culled in a three to four

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year procedure. Space is needed to plant out the many crosses of different types that will be used in our program.

My proposal to you is for an F1 and American cross American forest to find trees growing in this area as sources of resistance to the blight. These intermediate trees under favorable conditions, no competition, will be successful trees.

Our needs are for a parcel of land of two to four acres, with an open area 40' wide around the site. Individual trees will be staked, protected and mulched. Tentatively our spacing will be twenty feet between rows and ten feet between trees within a row, depending on your mowing needs. We request that you furnish mowing on the site.

A gently rolling location with average soil would be fine; and easy access from a road or improved access road is necessary.

We shall retain title to the trees until the breeding, with regard to said trees, is completed. Upon completion of the program, we will supply sufficient successful trees for you to have a grove for wildlife and general naturalist needs.

If these terms can fit within your framework, I would be pleased to place some trees this year within the next month. I know that the time frame is tight, but I will appreciate what you can do. I will have a set of documents drawn up embodying these terms if this proposal is favorable to you.

Very truly yours,



David J. Ugucioni