

Handshake Partnership Program Report - FY 2014 Recipients

1. Name of Corps Project/Lake: Carr Creek Lake

2. District / Division of Corps Project/Lake: Louisville District/Great Lakes & Ohio River

3. Handshake Project Name: American Chestnut backcross breeding orchard

4. What has been accomplished? Please provide photographs; before, during, and after!:

A one acre field was selected as a possible orchard site in 2012. That same year 12 pure american chestnut test trees were planted to determine site suitability. The trees did very well and the Kentucky Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation made a final selection for this site as a backcross breeding orchard location. A Handshake application was submitted in 2014 and was approved. In 2014 the initial site preparation was completed and the first spring planting occurred in April of that year. In the spring of 2015 a second spring planting was accomplished bringing the total to 260 trees planted and 159 trees surviving. The area is open for the public and has been utilized by several local schools for field trips and outdoor instruction.

	Total
Handshake Program Funding Amount	\$9,000.00
Local Corps Office Funds (total expended on labor, materials, contracts, etc.)?	\$6,500.00
Partner's Contributions (total value of funds, goods, services, volunteer hours, etc.)	
Partners Name	Total Value of Contributions
1 KY Fish and Wildlife Resources WJ093H	\$6,308.16
2 KY Chapter of The American Chesnut Foundation WLJGWR	\$7,565.00
3 KY Division of Forestry WQSXOL	\$6,382.05
4 Knott County Creeks & Streams Committee (PRIDE) WPH6L6	\$1,298.22
5	\$
6	\$

5. Handshake Program Recipient Feedback

Please take this opportunity to provide feedback on all aspects of the Handshake Program and the Challenge Partnership Agreement authority. Your productive comments are important to the ongoing improvement of the program. Make sure to let us know how the Handshake funds have benefited your efforts to initiate and/or strengthen your partnerships.

A. Comments About Handshake Program: Very good program and source for additional funding. However it is somewhat overburdened with paperwork which can be quite time consuming.

B. Comments About Challenge Partnership Agreement: N/A

C. Recommendations: Streamline reporting and paperwork requirements.

6. Handshake Summary:

Please also include a separate one-page newspaper type article describing the project and the benefit to the Corps of Engineers and to the public as a result of this partnership project. Examples can be found on the gateway under Handshake Success Stories.

Handshake Partnership Agreement

Carr Creek Lake

“American chestnut backcross breeding orchard”

The idea for an American chestnut tree orchard began when the US Army Corps of Engineers signed a national MOU with The American Chestnut Foundation in 2009. After many discussions and meetings with TACF members a location site was selected in 2013.

The process started in earnest in 2012 when 12 pure American chestnut trees were planted at the site. These trees were used as a gauge to determine overall soil and location suitability. The trees performed very well and in 2013 the site location was finalized by members of the Kentucky Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation.

A partnership was formed with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife, Kentucky Eastern Division of Forestry, Kentucky Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation and the Knott County PRIDE, Creeks and Streams Committee. An application for a Handshake Partnership Agreement was submitted and approved in FY2014.

Site preparation began in March of 2014 by KYFW personnel.



The first initial spring planting was completed on 21 April 2014. Members from KYTACH, KYDF, KYFW and the Knott County PRIDE participated along with 22 volunteers from Knott County Central High School FFA club. These volunteers donated a total of 71 hours for a value of \$1,601.05. A total of 162 trees were planted representing four different genetic sources consisting of 108 nuts, 26 seedlings and 17 stump sprouts. The orchard will be part of the American Chestnut Foundation’s backcross breeding program. This program is developing blight-resistant chestnut trees with regional adaptability by

utilizing offspring from native Kentucky trees. Although this orchard will have several specific genetic lines, the Kentucky Chapter hopes to one day have at least 20 different lines from across the state for future reintroduction efforts back into the forest.



During the months of May and June in 2014 work continued to include the installation of electric fencing



around the orchard, mulching all rows (1,741 cubic feet of pine mulch) and regular maintenance such as mowing, herbicide application and consultations by KY Forestry personnel on pest identification and control.



On 29 April 2015 the second spring planting at the orchard was completed. A total of 98 trees were planted, all from nuts. Again this year 34 students from the KCCHS FFA club participated. Scott Freidhof, KYFW Public Land Biologist supervised the planting and gave an informational presentation to the



students on the importance of reestablishing the American chestnut tree to its native range and the part that this orchard will play in that process. Keith Chasteen and Clifton Kilpatrick, Natural Resource Management, from the US Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District were on hand to support the project and offer insight to the students and other visitors as to the Corps involvement with The American Chestnut Foundation in this restoration effort and career opportunities within the USACE. Altogether a total of

41 volunteers participated donating a total of 120 hours for a value of \$2,768.40.



Through the efforts of all partners and volunteers involved an American chestnut backcross breeding orchard has been established at Carr Creek Lake. All partners involved have exceeded their obligated amounts per the Handshake agreement. Even so, they are all committed to working with the Corps to continue to monitor, perform routine maintenance, evaluations and assessments for years to come. This is a very long term project.

To date a total of 260 nuts, seedlings and stump sprouts have been planted with 159 surviving and doing very well. Each year in the spring new and replacement trees will be planted. The orchard contains a mixture of pure American, pure Chinese, half American-half Chinese and $\frac{3}{4}$ American- $\frac{1}{4}$ Chinese trees with 5 different genetic lines being represented. Once trees grow and have a diameter of at least 2 inches they will be plugged and inoculated with blight. Only the trees that show a strong resistance to the blight will continue on in the program.



This has been a very successful partnership and should continue to be for many years to come.

Kevin C. Wright

Park Ranger, Carr Creek Lake