



CHESTNUT CHAT SERIES: CHAT ROOM
CHAT 28: WOOD ID & DIFFERENTIAL WOOD PROPERTIES
DATE: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2021

ORIGINATOR	QUESTION / COMMENT
Mihaly Czako, University of South Carolina:	I agree.
Doug Boucher:	Yes, it's UMass Amherst that has been promoting large wood buildings. They also have a beautiful one of campus that's the home of departments like Design, Architecture, and others -- quite impressive.
Don Stever:	If you want to see a beautiful American Chestnut paneled building, come to Sleepy Hollow NY and visit The Hudson Valley Writers' Center, housed in the former Philipse Manor Railroad Station on the Hudson Rail Line.
Mihaly Czako, University of South Carolina:	Can you see me? I am not sure if my video is activated. Mihaly
Mihaly Czako, University of South Carolina:	ok
cabell smith:	FYI Charlottesville building: check out Apex Energy building from William McDonough & Partners. Good luck...
Mihaly Czako, University of South Carolina:	Hi
Eric Jenkins:	Jerry Reed!
Sara Fern Fitzsimmons:	Eric knows!
Carl Cummins:	Will the recording of this talk be available for viewing at a later date?
Sara Fern Fitzsimmons:	Hi Carl - Yes. It should be posted w/in the next week.
	https://acf.org/resources/chestnut-chat-series/
John Chadwick:	Hi question for Sara Fern Fitzsimmons. Do you know of any sources for recycled chestnut lumber?
Bill Ragosta:	Hi everyone. I have a house full of Chestnut furniture and picture frames that were made from a native American chestnut that grew on my farm and recently died. Sara Fitzsimmons was here a number of years ago and saw the tree, it was around 20" DBH when it died. The lumber was/is lovely, for what it's worth. I'm an amateur woodworker and it's very nice to work with too.
Keith:	You are indeed a very fortunate man
Frank Velez:	Yea I wanted that chestnut taipan rocker more than anything
Bill Ragosta:	For sure. I wish there was a way for me to show photos here. I have a beautiful Hoosier that I had made for my wife, a beautiful 84" dining room table, a coffee table that I made, 2 blanket chests for my sons, a stool made from the "cookie" of the stump, a bunch of picture frames, etc. etc.. They're beautiful and I'd never part with any of them.



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Frank Velez:	tappan*
Clark:	What about Larch? Hard or soft? Deciduous conifer.
Bill Ragosta:	I'm also building a flintlock rifle from a Chestnut blank, but it's reclaimed wormy chestnut, not lumber from a recently living tree. If we can ever have it back again in large numbers, we'll all benefit greatly.
Cherin:	Hi Bill, If you want to send me some of the photos, I can put them on the chat webpage after today's session so that everyone can see them. I would love to see what you built!
Bill Ragosta:	Sure, I'm not very familiar with Zoom, but if you have access to my email, send me your contact info and I'll send them.
Jack Morris:	I have found used Chestnut boards (with nail holes) for sale at Woodcraft Stores. My store is located in Manchester CT.
Steve Johnstonbaugh:	The salvage world is pretty well informed about the value of reclaimed chestnut lumber. I would hope that every bank barn torn down east of the Mississippi is scrutinized for chestnut reclaim.
cabell smith:	Would you say that the variability of the juvenile wood, I e tree, is because the tree is more reactive to wind, sun, etc?
Cherin:	mine is cherin@acf.org
Bill Ragosta:	Got it, I'll send some photos very soon.
Cherin:	wonderful
John French:	From the perspective of a plant pathologist, the role of waste phenolics deposited into the lumen of xylem cells, i.e. heartwood, has always been of interest as naturally occurring fungicides. In the case of chestnut, probably such substances play some role to impart a fair degree of decay resistance, which is a recognized quality of <i>C. dentata</i> .
Keith:	Yes, but everything sold at Woodcraft has been slavishly milled down to a 'perfect' 3/4" thickness, which actually renders it of rather limited use.
Cherin:	Thank you Bill. I have shared your email with Jules Smith, our Director of Communications. She is very interested in speaking with you about your furniture.
David Morris:	Agree the wood salvagers and reclaimers are pretty astute and know chestnut. However, the antique dealers are not as aware. We've found and purchased several pieces that were billed as "oak" when they were chestnut. Older painted furniture (ice boxes, etc.) and veneered pieces (mantels, piano tops, etc.) are often really chestnut in the core pieces.
Bill Ragosta:	Cherin, you should have multiple emails with photos of the tree harvesting operation and the furniture. I think it's neater than hell, but who knows if I'm just odd....
Mihaly Czako, University of South Carolina:	It is hard to accept that those phenolics are 'waste'. They serve the tree by preserving its scaffold onto which the live growth ring layers added. They are genetically determined and synthesized when heartwood forms. And why one species would have totally different 'waste' than another species. Autotrophic organisms make what they need, and produce no waste, unlike animals.
Lynne Cunningham:	Very interesting. Thank you so much for sharing this information.
Keith:	Anyone who has ever spent much time working wood knows that boards can vary wildly in both color and pattern, even when cut from the same tree. This is especially evident when you work with veneers.



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	It seems to this woodworker that any attempt to identify tree species based solely on color, no matter how scientifically quantified, is pure madness.
Bill Ragosta:	My extremely limited experience with American chestnut wood is that there isn't much variability between the color of one board to the other (assuming you're discussing sapwood for instance), but your point is well taken.....
Brian S:	Basic science studies questions without necessarily having any functional goals. That's why it is called "basic".
Doug Gillis:	I use salvaged American chestnut wood for projects and find considerable difference in grain and color. To match up pieces so they are complementary, I rub isopropyl alcohol on the raw wood pieces to get an idea of what the final wood color of the project might look after a clear finish is applied.
John French:	The term "waste", as I used it, pertains to the unusable chemicals that have no structural properties, thus different from cellulose and the pectin that holds cells together. The waste products (in a physiological sense) deposited into xylem cell lumens impart no structural strength. They are generally not re-used by the plant (tree) for any other purpose, thus are "waste" from a physiological perspective. As weak fungicides, they do act in a positive sense, though, to impart decay resistance, as well as slight deterrence to insect incursion, such as from termites and other wood consuming species. As for them being "genetically determined", probably yes, as their ultimate function as pertains to chestnut probably derives from evolutionary selection factors.
Michael:	Measure the same parameters on American vs American GMO, when available, to see if there are differences. Thanks to all for putting these talks on
Lisa Thomson:	I have to run to another call, y'all. Great CC and wonderful turn out. Great job, Chuck. I appreciate all of you! Lisa
Robbie Shaw:	thanks Lisa. have a great day.
Tetyana N Zhebentyayeva:	Very very interesting talk! Many thanks to organizers and speaker!
Bob Hobbes:	thank you
Dan Williams:	Wonder how CO2 concentration today (all Hybrids) affects growth rate/ring size vs 100 year old wood.
John Caruso:	great talk, thank you
Robbie Shaw:	great info Chuck....thanks Sara. LOVE the CC's.
Scott Merkle:	Very interesting presentation.
Don Stever:	important to preserve the original American Chestnut gene pool-protect the original species.
Thomas Harris:	great talk!
Derek Struble:	Thank you Chuck.
Dan Williams:	very much appreciate Chuck's presentation.