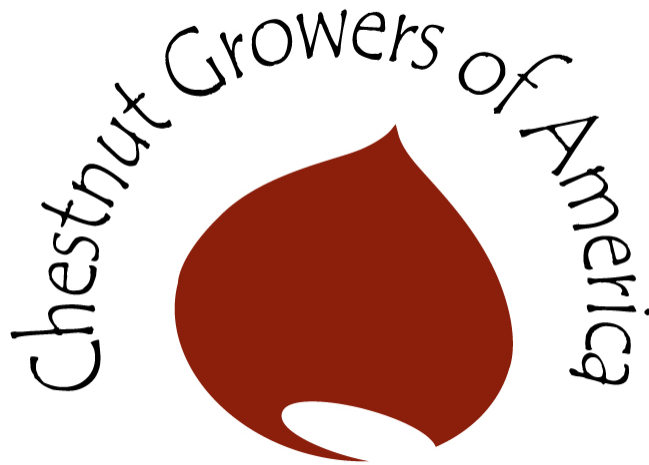


# Chestnut Growers of America, Inc.



## 2018 Membership Directory

### Board of Directors

President	Roger Blackwell
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Visit the CGA website at  
[chestnutgrowers.org](http://chestnutgrowers.org)

Chestnut Growers of America, Inc. is a 501(c)(5) organization.

**Corey Allen & Karen Kleiner**  
*Benona Chestnuts*

PO Box 409  
Pentwater, MI 49449

*Phone:* 231.881.8889  
*Email:* cra627@gmail.com

**Serafim & Maria Amaral**  
*Pomar das Castanhas*

1009 Tim Bell Road  
Waterford, CA 95386

*Phone:* 209.874.3237  
*Email:* amaral6@sbcglobal.net  
*Website:* pomasdascastanhas.com

**Sandra Anagnostakis**

1239 Trapelo Road  
Waltham, MA 02451

*Phone:* 203.988.2073  
*Email:* sandy.anagnostakis@gmail.com

**Randy Augustine**

PO Box 44  
Wever, IA 52658

*Phone:* 319.759.9198

**Barbara Bailey**  
*Blue Moon Stead LLC*

1381 Snowden Road  
White Salmon, WA 98672

*Phone:* 509.493.0469  
*Email:* bvbailey2017@gmail.com

**Omroa & Annie Bhagwandin**  
*Shady Grove*

183 Shady Grove Road  
Onalaska, WA 98570

*Phone:* 360.701.9932  
*Email:* omroa1@gmail.com

**Dale Black**  
*Chestnut Ridge of Pike County*

18483 US Highway 54  
Rockport, IL 62370

*Phone:* 217.437.4281  
*Email:* lindablack20@gmail.com  
*Website:* chestnutridgeofpikecounty.com

**Roger Blackwell**  
*New Era Chestnuts LLC*

4555 Windswept Drive  
Milford, MI 48380

*Phone:* 810.923.2954  
*Email:* rblackwel@comcast.net

**Daniel & Jonell Blatt**  
*2 Forks Ranch*

3713 Goldcrest Heights NW  
Olympia, WA 98502

*Phone:* 360.866.3545  
*Email:* ochiging@aol.com

**Sandy & Ben Bole**  
*Ladd Hill Orchards*

15500 SW Roberts Road  
Sherwood, OR 97140

*Phone:* 503.625.1298  
*Email:* laddhill1@aol.com  
*Website:* laddhillchestnuts.com

**William & Carol Ann Bramon***Bramon Farms Nut Growers*

413 East Promenade Street  
Mexico, MO 65265

*Phone:* 573.253.8261*Email:* carolbramon@hotmail.com**Bill & Connie Brookhiser***W. H. Brookhiser & Sons LLC*

3463 169th Street  
Wever, IA 52658

*Phone:* 319.371.6498*Email:* whchestnut92@hotmail.com**Tom & Lisa Carden***TLC Farms*

3011 Trail Dairy Circle  
North Fort Myers, FL 33917

*Phone:* 239.567.2188*Email:* tlcfarms200@gmail.com**Larry & Linda Coleman***Catstairs*

950 Wright Bend Road  
Smithville, TN 37166

*Phone:* 615.597.5402*Email:* lpattonc@hughes.net**Randy & Irene Coleman***RC Farms Inc.*

10480 S Highway 99 W  
McMinnville, OR 97128

*Phone:* 503.472.7897*Email:* clmnrandy@gmail.com*Website:* oregonchestnuts.com**Harvey & Linda Correia***Correia Chestnut Farm*

16779 State Highway 160  
Isleton, CA 95641

*Phone:* 209.481.5900*Email:* harvey@chestnuts.us*Website:* chestnuts.us**Sharen Curtis***Twinsholler Chestnut Orchards*

1506 190th Avenue  
Cameron, IL 61423

*Phone:* 309.563.9448*Email:* twinsholler@gallatinriver.net**Greg Dabel***Green Valley Chestnut Ranch*

11150 Green Valley Road  
Sebastopol, CA 95472

*Phone:* 707.829.5504*Email:* gregdabel@hotmail.com*Website:* chestnutranch.com**Jim & Marti Dallmeyer***Thistle Creek Orchard*

35 Shady Lane  
Avon, IL 61415

*Phone:* 309.678.7216*Email:* jim@thistle-creek.net**Arthur DeKleine***DeKleine Orchards*

1022 San Adriano  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93405

*Phone:* 805.801.9874*Email:* adeklein@calpoly.edu

**Carl DeKleine*****DeKleine Orchards***

1216 Ottawa Avenue  
Grand Haven, MI 49417

*Phone:* 616.842.8370

*Email:* cdekleine@hotmail.com

**Craig & Denise Doll**

6020 Old Horseman Trail  
Raleigh, NC 27613

*Phone:* 919.270.2552

*Email:* gottaearnit@gmail.com

**Roselyn & Weylin Eng*****Winters Chestnuts-Kats Ranch***

PO Box 928  
Winters, CA 95694

*Phone:* 925.352.5027

*Email:* winterschestnuts@gmail.com

**David Eucker**

7656 Oakbrook Drive  
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

*Phone:* 859.494.9265

*Email:* blindsquirrelfarm@gmail.com

**Brent Fadler*****Fadler Farm***

513 S Miles Ave  
Centralia, MO 65240

*Phone:* 573.682.4356

*Email:* bfadler@centurytel.net

*Website:* missourichestnuts.com

**Marina Ferguson & Paul Swensson*****Northwest Chestnuts***

9037 83rd Avenue SE  
Olympia, WA 98513

*Phone:* 206.427.1058

*Email:* marina@northwestchestnuts.com

**Sara Fitzsimmons*****The American Chestnut Foundation***

206 Forest Resources Lab  
University Park, PA 16803

*Phone:* 814.404.6013

*Email:* sff3@psu.edu

*Website:* acf.org

**Chris Foster*****Cascadia Chestnuts***

15400 NW McNamee Road  
Portland, OR 97231

*Email:* foster@europa.com

**Sam & Bob Frelinger*****Sam's Nuts***

4828 S. Granby Street  
Aurora, CO 80015

*Phone:* 303.960.0884

*Email:* sfrelinger@yahoo.com

**Hank & Jodi Fuller*****Beaver Avenue Chestnut Farm***

4775 Gifford Road  
Oconomowoc, WI 53066

*Phone:* 262.212.0169

*Email:* hj3fuller@yahoo.com

**Tony Giaconelli**

357 Gloria Place  
Franklin Square, NY 11010

*Phone:* 516.404.0775

*Email:* giaco714@aol.com

**Grant Glatt**

7162 Local Hillsboro Road  
Cedar Hill, MO 63016

*Phone:* 636.274.2010

*Email:* grant\_40@juno.com

**Michael Gold**

*University of Missouri Center for  
Agroforestry*

203 ABNR Building  
Columbia, MO 65211

*Phone:* 573.884.1448

*Email:* goldm@missouri.edu

*Website:* centerforagroforestry.org

**Tom Green**

*Green Glades Chestnuts*

10396 E 100th Street  
Macomb, IL 61455

*Phone:* 309.255.6189

*Email:* tl-green@wiu.edu

**Donald Guateri**

*Nature's Bounty*

4905 Ridge Lane  
Kewadin, MI 49648

*Phone:* 231.264.9998

*Email:* orchards@torchlake.com

**Ferris Jay & Ginny Hackleman**

*Hackleman's Rolling Hills Farm LLC*

14103 Waters Edge Circle  
Midlothian, VA 23112

*Phone:* 804.639.5452

*Email:* ginny-hackleman@comcast.net

**Jonathan & Jennes Hamilton**

*JJ & J Chestnut*

9315 NW 238 Street  
Alachua, FL 32615

*Phone:* 386.454.4335

*Email:* jjehamil@windstream.net

**Sandy Harrison & Flavio Alfaro**

*Harrison's California Chestnuts*

796 Keifer Avenue  
Gridley, CA 95948

*Phone:* 530.846.5707

*Email:* californiachestnuts@yahoo.com

*Website:* californiachestnuts.com

**Ronald & Melanie Heath**

*Heath Ranch*

4814 County Road 99 W  
Orland, CA 95963

*Phone:* 530.865.3472

*Email:* heathranchorganics@gmail.com

**Greg & Melinda Heindselman**

23502 Juniper Avenue  
Lewiston, MO 63452

*Phone:* 660.341.5692

*Email:* heielect@outlook.com

**Denis Henn**  
*Rocky Bar Chestnuts*

2478 Idle Court  
The Villages, FL 32163

*Phone:* 352.633.6185  
*Email:* dhenn@dantel.com  
*Website:* rockybarchestnuts.com

**Martin & Maurie Hobbs**  
*French Ranch Farms*

151 Etter Ranch Road  
Garberville, CA 95542

*Phone:* 707.932.0865  
*Email:* frenchranchfarms@gmail.com

**Matthew Jefferson**  
*East Rockingham Chestnuts*

13079 Model Road  
Elkton, VA 22827

*Phone:* 540.298.1349  
*Email:* mattnamyj@netscape.net

**Duane Kienzle**  
*Kienzle Farms*

36758 Perron Road SE  
Carrollton, OH 44615

*Phone:* 330.575.2095  
*Email:* kienzlefarms@gmail.com

**John Kirk & William Kirk**  
*Rocky Creek Chestnut Farm*

2300 Bryan Park Avenue  
Richmond, VA 23228

*Phone:* 804.357.1137  
*Email:* jackschestnuts@gmail.com

**Bernie & JoeAnne Hilgart**  
*Washington Chestnut Company*

6180 Everson Goshen Road  
Everson, WA 98247

*Phone:* 360.966.7158  
*Email:* chestnutswa@gmail.com  
*Website:* washingtonchestnut.com

**Michael & Kathy Hromanik**  
*HRoamon Farms*

27708 Waverly Road  
Murdock, NE 68407

*Phone:* 402.867.2081  
*Email:* wards1384@gmail.com

**Steve & Patty Jones**  
*Colossal Orchards Inc.*

655 Selah Heights Road  
Selah, WA 98942

*Phone:* 509.697.4160  
*Email:* colossal@nwinfo.net  
*Website:* chestnutsUSA.com

**Don & Sheryl Kines**  
*Mountain State Chestnuts*

PO Box 217  
Davis, WV 26260

*Phone:* 304.259.4821  
*Email:* dskines@gmail.com  
*Website:* mountainstatechestnuts.com

**Tyler Klingman**

24308 V Avenue  
Reinbeck, IA 50669

*Phone:* 319.269.3637  
*Email:* relyt460@yahoo.com

**Chris Kresa & Felicia Mueller**  
*Dungeness Chestnuts*

1911 Atterberry Road  
Sequim, WA 98382

*Phone:* 206.330.4157  
*Email:* ckresa@hotmail.com  
*Website:* dungenesschestnuts.com

**Richard Lane**  
*Valley Tree Farm*

18910 Irish Ridge Road  
Sperry, IA 52650

*Phone:* 319.985.2218  
*Email:* richardlane1945@gmail.com

**Ben & Elisa Lauritzen**

928 Chatham Drive  
North Salt Lake, UT 84054

*Phone:* 801.850.1605  
*Email:* lauritzenbe@gmail.com

**Bryan & Stephanie Lay**

0 CH 227  
Camden, OH 45311

*Phone:* 808.286.1589  
*Email:* bryan.paul.lay@gmail.com

**Trygve & Hal Loken**  
*Breidablik Farm*

2500 Dark Hollow Road  
Roseland, VA 22967

*Phone:* 804.683.0301  
*Email:* halloken@mac.com  
*Website:* breodablikfarm.us

**David & Susan Lowe**  
*Hamilton Orchards*

40606 Calle Leonora  
Indio, CA 92203

*Phone:* 760.574.2471  
*Email:* lowe3863@aol.com

**Todd Lowe**

127 Naomi Place  
Rotonda West, FL 33947

*Phone:* 941.661.0167  
*Email:* tlowe@usga.org

**Karen Lowery**  
*Twinsholler Chestnut Orchards*

1514 190th Avenue  
Cameron, IL 61423

*Phone:* 319.221.2955  
*Email:* karenl51@yahoo.com

**Steve & Jean Lucas**  
*An Oklahoma Chestnut*

PO Box 576  
Chandler, OK 74834

*Phone:* 405.328.0186  
*Email:* sflranchok@yahoo.com

**Sam & Linda Marsh**  
*Marsh Tree Farm*

21012 Natalie Lane  
Little Rock, AR 72206

*Phone:* 501.590.6921  
*Email:* lindasmarch@gmail.com

**Richard McCarty**

*Richard B. McCarty Inc.*

1813 Capital Drive, Suite 400  
Tyler, TX 75701

*Phone:* 903.571.0477

*Email:* richardbmccarty@hotmail.com

**Chris McInnis**

801 Lone Tree Street  
Las Vegas, NV 89145

*Phone:* 702.682.0650

*Email:* mcinnis.chris@icloud.com

**Greg Miller**

*Empire Chestnut Company*

3276 Empire Road SW  
Carrollton, OH 44615

*Phone:* 330.627.3181

*Email:* empirechestnut@gmail.com

*Website:* empirechestnut.com

**Howard Miller**

*Mill Creek Farms*

1212 State Street  
Bellevue, IA 52031

*Phone:* 213.399.5586

*Email:* hpmillerinia@gmail.com

**Devon & Stephanie Milligan**

*Rockin M Farms*

2763 Caniehead Road  
Campbellton, FL 32426

*Phone:* 706.681.1542

*Email:* milligan\_devon@yahoo.com

*Website:* chestnutsrus.com

**Jerome Mueller**

2145 Jacob Road  
Caro, MI 48723

*Phone:* 989.673.8469

*Email:* 3456jmueller@centurytel.net

**Louis & Joe Naegar**

*Chestnut Ridge Farms of Ste. Genevieve*

14221 Highway 32  
Sainte Genevieve, MO 63670

*Phone:* 314.724.9267

*Email:* lou@cfhcpa.com

**Bill Nash**

*Nash Nurseries*

4975 W Grand River Road  
Owosso, MI 48867

*Phone:* 517.719.7216

*Email:* bill@nashnurseries.com

*Website:* nashnurseries.com

**James & Emalyn Nave**

8421 Rivergreen Drive  
Elverta, CA 95626

*Phone:* 916.992.9206

*Email:* michaelnave@comcast.net

**Charles NovoGradac & Deborah Milks**

*Chestnut Charlie's*

PO Box 1166  
Lawrence, KS 66044

*Phone:* 785.841.8505

*Email:* chestnutcharlie@gmail.com



**Walter & Joy Oates*****Tyger River Farm***

555 Palmetto Street  
Spartanburg, SC 29302

*Phone:* 864.590.5738

*Email:* oatescon@aol.com

**Brad Owen*****Clove County Farm***

694 Odell Owen Road  
Lexington, NC 27295

*Phone:* 336.249.8327

*Email:* clovecounty@lexcominc.net

**James & Peggy Paul*****Western Idaho Chestnut Growers***

16429 McDermott Road  
Nampa, ID 83687

*Phone:* 208.466.2953

*Email:* plcnstrctn@cs.com

**Lee Peck**

9912 6 1/2 Mile Road  
Ceresco, MI 49033

*Phone:* 269.979.5668

**Michelle Pederson**

4980 Bebe Road  
Tyrone, PA 16686

*Phone:* 814.684.0784

*Email:* pedersencs@yahoo.com

**Zach & Bonnie Petersen*****Rock County Chestnuts***

245 Buckhorn Trail  
Reidsville, NC 27320

*Phone:* 336.253.8519

*Email:* zp2001us1@gmail.com

**Trey Pippin*****Pippin Farms***

PO Box 3330  
Albany, GA 31706

*Phone:* 229.436.8898

*Email:* treypippin@pippinfarms.com

**Mike & Rose Powell**

5561 Ogden Highway  
Palmyra, MI 49268

*Phone:* 517.263.2523

*Email:* unclemike@tc3net.com

**Michael Pridgen*****Suwannee Valley Chestnuts***

422 NW Charter Oaks Glen  
Lake City, FL 32055

*Phone:* 386.623.6625

*Email:* michaelpridgen@hotmail.com

**Darryl & Leasa Primo*****Primo Chestnut Farm***

PO Box 1508  
Longview, TX 75606

*Phone:* 903.757.7466

*Email:* votefordp@aol.com

**Daniel Rah**  
*Happy Family Farm*

921 Sherman Ave  
Evanston, IL 60202

*Phone:* 574.210.4860

*Email:* danielhrah@gmail.com

**Ryan & Lauren Rich**  
*River View Chestnuts*

46920 East 241st Street South  
Porter, OK 74454

*Phone:* 405.780.0389

*Email:* ryanrich01@gmail.com

**Tim Rittgers & Jeannette Riley**  
*Big Thumb Enterprises Inc.*

5753 Hwy 85 North #4599  
Crestview, FL 32536

*Phone:* 530.400.3225

*Email:* b737tim@yahoo.com

**Bob & Kathryn Rowell**  
*Utilization & Management LLC*

PO Box 278  
Moore, SC 29369

*Phone:* 864.909.1035

*Email:* rowellbk@gmail.com

**Clement Ruef**  
*Marisa, Inc.*

20946 Hubbard Cutoff Rd NE  
Aurora, OR 97002

*Email:* l\_ruef@msn.com

**Michael Schwerin**  
*Atlas Nuts*

18521 US Highway 54  
Rockport, IL 62370

*Phone:* 516.641.4513

*Email:* mschwerin@atlas-nuts.com

**Rick Shealy**  
*Shealy Company LLC*

2862 Skippers Lodge Road  
Cross Hill, SC 29332

*Phone:* 803.260.6502

*Email:* ocean1225@yahoo.com

**Steve Shifley**  
*Shifley's Nut Farm*

8780 N Reams Road  
Centralia, MO 65240

*Phone:* 573.990.9204

*Email:* steveshifley@gmail.com

**Todd & Allison Sluis**  
*Baleout Ranch*

100 N Moorland Road  
Ravenna, MI 49451

*Phone:* 616.928.4722

*Email:* todd@baleoutranch.com

*Website:* baleoutranch.com

**Chad Smith**

742 Lynnwood Farms Drive  
Fort Mill, SC 29715

*Phone:* 803.802.0511

*Email:* chadsmith@comporium.net

**Roger Smith*****Prairie Grove Chestnut Growers***

19417 120th Street  
Columbus Junction, IA 52738

*Phone:* 515.554.7818

*Email:* gsons3@aol.com

**Ethan Soloviev*****High Fall Farms***

PO Box 3  
High Falls, NY 12440

*Phone:* 518.610.1375

*Email:* eroland@gmail.com

*Website:* appleseedpermaculture.com

**Thearl & Jane Speck**

811 Thompson Drive  
Chillicothe, MO 64601

*Phone:* 660.770.0005

*Email:* thearl@sbcglobal.net

**Robert & Marie Stehli*****Wintergreen Tree Farm***

3898 Winchell Road  
Mantua, OH 44255

*Phone:* 330.221.3835

*Email:* wintergreenbob@gmail.com

*Website:* wintergreentreefarmohio.com

**Heath & Tiffany Stolee*****Nutty Farmer Chestnuts***

27242 E Avenue  
Radcliffe, IA 50230

*Phone:* 515.460.6002

*Email:* stoleemetalart@gmail.com

**Tom & Deb Stolee**

604 E Newago Street  
Radcliffe, IA 50230

*Email:* tstolee@netins.net

**Bill & Sue Ellen Stouffer*****Cedar Hill Farms***

31229 Mount Olive Road  
Napton, MO 65340

*Phone:* 660.886.3185

*Email:* stoufferbill@gmail.com

**Chad Sutherland**

2221 130th Street  
Winterset, IA 50273

*Phone:* 515.306.6773

*Email:* thebckhntr1@gmail.com

**Michael Svendsen**

2125 W Clark Road  
Dewitt, MI 48820

*Phone:* 517.669.3523

*Email:* msvendsen@frontier.com

**Richard Teague*****High Rock Farm***

960 High Rock Road  
Gibsonville, NC 27249

*Phone:* 336.634.0874

*Email:* richard\_hrf@bellsouth.net

**John Teate*****Teate Farms***

2091 Teate Road  
Vienna, GA 31092

*Phone:* 229.938.5479

*Email:* johntteate@yahoo.com

**Kozo Todo*****Cohchan Chestnut Farm***

5-12-41 Hagoromo  
Takaishi, Osaka, Japan 592-0002

*Phone:* 81.90.2707.7555

*Email:* nature@ktb.biglobe.ne.jp

*Website:* kohchan-farm.shop-pro.jp

**Aaron Troyer**

11499N 1000W  
Nappanee, IN 46550

*Phone:* 574.907.4234

*Email:* aarontroyer70@gmail.com

**Tom Wahl & Kathy Dice*****Red Fern Farm***

13882 I Avenue  
Wapello, IA 52653

*Phone:* 319.729.5905

*Email:* tom@redfernfarm.com

*Website:* redfernfarm.com

**Robert Wallace*****Chestnut Hill Nursery***

15105 NW 94th Avenue  
Alachua, FL 32615

*Phone:* 386.462.2820

*Email:* chestnuthilltreefarm@gmail.com

*Website:* chestnuthilltreefarm.com

**Russell Wallack*****Apple Seed Permaculture***

220 N Pleasant St Ste 10  
Amherst, MA 1002

*Phone:* 413.348.2457

*Email:* wallack.russell@gmail.com

*Website:* appleseedpermaculture.com

**Derek Waltchack*****Alpine Farms***

2445 Chestnut Road  
Birmingham, AL 35216

*Phone:* 205.223.2607

*Email:* dw@shanwalt.com

*Website:* alpinechestnuts.com

**Joseph Welborn**

3855 Tutwiler Avenue  
Memphis, TN 38122

*Phone:* 901.828.7957

*Email:* joew1936@gmail.com

**Rufus & Kathy Wilder*****Grebe Farms***

279 NW Grebe Loop  
Greenville, FL 32331

*Phone:* 850.929.9910

*Email:* rusty@cherokeeroose.farm

**Lee Williams*****Trails End Chestnuts***

5998 Rd M.5 SE  
Moses Lake, WA 98837

*Phone:* 509.765.3922

*Email:* techestnuts@sosmail.us

**Luke Wilson & Desta Bechtol**  
*Wilson Family Farm*

661 E Evans Reimer Road  
Gridley, CA 95948

*Phone:* 530.370.5533

*Email:* lucasmaxwellwilson@yahoo.com

*Website:* wilkersonranch.com

**Richard & Leslie Winkel**  
*Winkel Chestnut Farm & Nursery*

6485 Pierce Street  
Allendale, MI 49401

*Phone:* 616.895.1332

*Email:* richardcwinkel@gmail.com

*Website:* chestnutfarms.com

**Ryan Woodward**  
*Woodward Chestnuts*

8296 N 1800 Avenue  
Geneseo, IL 61254

*Phone:* 309.737.5708

*Email:* woodwardryan1234@gmail.com

*Website:* woodwardchestnuts.com

**Ken Worthington**

1780 Berwick Road  
Abingdon, IL 61410

*Phone:* 309.299.6659

*Email:* KW19621980@gmail.com

**Andrew & Felicitas Yoder**  
*Yoder Farm*

25865 Perry Road  
Leon, IA 50144

*Phone:* 641.414.9327

*Email:* redoyja@gmail.com

**Ray & Carolyn Young**

24007 NE 214th Ct.  
Battle Ground, WA 98604

*Phone:* 360.723.5469

*Email:* carolyn@chestnutsonline.com

## CGA Members by State

<b>AL</b>	<i>Birmingham</i>	Derek Waltchack
<b>AR</b>	<i>Little Rock</i>	Sam & Linda Marsh
<b>CA</b>	<i>Elverta</i>	James & Emalyn Nave
<b>CA</b>	<i>Garberville</i>	Martin & Maurie Hobbs
<b>CA</b>	<i>Gridley</i>	Sandy Harrison & Flavio Alfaro
<b>CA</b>	<i>Gridley</i>	Luke Wilson & Desta Bechtol
<b>CA</b>	<i>Indio</i>	David & Susan Lowe
<b>CA</b>	<i>Isleton</i>	Harvey & Linda Correia
<b>CA</b>	<i>Orland</i>	Ronald & Melanie Heath
<b>CA</b>	<i>San Luis Obispo</i>	Arthur DeKleine
<b>CA</b>	<i>Sebastopol</i>	Greg Dabel
<b>CA</b>	<i>Waterford</i>	Serafim & Maria Amaral
<b>CA</b>	<i>Winters</i>	Roselyn & Weylin Eng
<b>CO</b>	<i>Aurora</i>	Sam & Bob Frelinger
<b>FL</b>	<i>Alachua</i>	Jonathan & Jennes Hamilton
<b>FL</b>	<i>Alachua</i>	Robert Wallace
<b>FL</b>	<i>Campbellton</i>	Devon & Stephanie Milligan
<b>FL</b>	<i>Crestview</i>	Tim Rittgers & Jeannette Riley
<b>FL</b>	<i>Greenville</i>	Rufus & Kathy Wilder
<b>FL</b>	<i>Lake City</i>	Michael Pridgen
<b>FL</b>	<i>North Fort Myers</i>	Tom & Lisa Carden
<b>FL</b>	<i>Rotonda West</i>	Todd Lowe
<b>FL</b>	<i>The Villages</i>	Denis Henn
<b>GA</b>	<i>Albany</i>	Trey Pippin
<b>GA</b>	<i>Vienna</i>	John Teate
<b>IA</b>	<i>Bellevue</i>	Howard Miller
<b>IA</b>	<i>Columbus Junction</i>	Roger Smith
<b>IA</b>	<i>Leon</i>	Andrew & Felicitas Yoder
<b>IA</b>	<i>Radcliffe</i>	Heath & Tiffany Stolee
<b>IA</b>	<i>Radcliffe</i>	Tom & Deb Stolee
<b>IA</b>	<i>Reinbeck</i>	Tyler Klingman
<b>IA</b>	<i>Sperry</i>	Richard Lane

## CGA Members by State

<b>IA</b>	<i>Wapello</i>	Tom Wahl & Kathy Dice
<b>IA</b>	<i>Wever</i>	Randy Augustine
<b>IA</b>	<i>Wever</i>	Bill & Connie Brookhiser
<b>IA</b>	<i>Winterset</i>	Chad Sutherland
<b>ID</b>	<i>Nampa</i>	James & Peggy Paul
<b>IL</b>	<i>Abingdon</i>	Ken Worthington
<b>IL</b>	<i>Avon</i>	Jim & Marti Dallmeyer
<b>IL</b>	<i>Cameron</i>	Sharen Curtis
<b>IL</b>	<i>Cameron</i>	Karen Lowery
<b>IL</b>	<i>Evanston</i>	Daniel Rah
<b>IL</b>	<i>Geneseo</i>	Ryan Woodward
<b>IL</b>	<i>Macomb</i>	Tom Green
<b>IL</b>	<i>Rockport</i>	Dale Black
<b>IL</b>	<i>Rockport</i>	Michael Schwerin
<b>IN</b>	<i>Nappanee</i>	Aaron Troyer
<b>KS</b>	<i>Lawrence</i>	Charles NovoGradac & Deborah Milks
<b>MA</b>	<i>Amherst</i>	Russell Wallack
<b>MA</b>	<i>Waltham</i>	Sandra Anagnostakis
<b>MI</b>	<i>Allendale</i>	Richard & Leslie Winkel
<b>MI</b>	<i>Caro</i>	Jerome Mueller
<b>MI</b>	<i>Ceresco</i>	Lee Peck
<b>MI</b>	<i>Dewitt</i>	Michael Svendsen
<b>MI</b>	<i>Grand Haven</i>	Carl DeKleine
<b>MI</b>	<i>Kewadin</i>	Donald Guateri
<b>MI</b>	<i>Milford</i>	Roger Blackwell
<b>MI</b>	<i>Owosso</i>	Bill Nash
<b>MI</b>	<i>Palmyra</i>	Mike & Rose Powell
<b>MI</b>	<i>Pentwater</i>	Corey Allen & Karen Kleiner
<b>MI</b>	<i>Ravenna</i>	Todd & Allison Sluis
<b>MO</b>	<i>Cedar Hill</i>	Grant Glatt
<b>MO</b>	<i>Centralia</i>	Brent Fadler
<b>MO</b>	<i>Centralia</i>	Steve Shifley

## CGA Members by State

<b>MO</b>	<i>Chillicothe</i>	Thearl & Jane Speck
<b>MO</b>	<i>Columbia</i>	Michael Gold
<b>MO</b>	<i>Lewiston</i>	Greg & Melinda Heindselman
<b>MO</b>	<i>Mexico</i>	William & Carol Ann Bramon
<b>MO</b>	<i>Napton</i>	Bill & Sue Ellen Stouffer
<b>MO</b>	<i>Sainte Genevieve</i>	Louis & Joe Naegar
<b>NC</b>	<i>Gibsonville</i>	Richard Teague
<b>NC</b>	<i>Lexington</i>	Brad Owen
<b>NC</b>	<i>Raleigh</i>	Craig & Denise Doll
<b>NC</b>	<i>Reidsville</i>	Zach & Bonnie Petersen
<b>NE</b>	<i>Murdock</i>	Michael & Kathy Hromanik
<b>NV</b>	<i>Las Vegas</i>	Chris McInnis
<b>NY</b>	<i>Franklin Square</i>	Tony Giaconelli
<b>NY</b>	<i>High Falls</i>	Ethan Soloviev
<b>OH</b>	<i>Camden</i>	Bryan & Stephanie Lay
<b>OH</b>	<i>Carrollton</i>	Duane Kienzle
<b>OH</b>	<i>Carrollton</i>	Greg Miller
<b>OH</b>	<i>Mantua</i>	Robert & Marie Stehli
<b>OH</b>	<i>Reynoldsburg</i>	David Eucker
<b>OK</b>	<i>Chandler</i>	Steve & Jean Lucas
<b>OK</b>	<i>Porter</i>	Ryan & Lauren Rich
<b>OR</b>	<i>Aurora</i>	Clement Ruef
<b>OR</b>	<i>McMinnville</i>	Randy & Irene Coleman
<b>OR</b>	<i>Portland</i>	Chris Foster
<b>OR</b>	<i>Sherwood</i>	Sandy & Ben Bole
<b>PA</b>	<i>Tyrone</i>	Michelle Pederson
<b>PA</b>	<i>University Park</i>	Sara Fitzsimmons
<b>SC</b>	<i>Cross Hill</i>	Rick Shealy
<b>SC</b>	<i>Fort Mill</i>	Chad Smith
<b>SC</b>	<i>Moore</i>	Bob & Kathryn Rowell
<b>SC</b>	<i>Spartanburg</i>	Walter & Joy Oates
<b>TN</b>	<i>Memphis</i>	Joseph Welborn



## CGA Members by State

<b>TN</b>	<i>Smithville</i>	Larry & Linda Coleman
<b>TX</b>	<i>Longview</i>	Darryl & Leasa Primo
<b>TX</b>	<i>Tyler</i>	Richard McCarty
<b>UT</b>	<i>North Salt Lake</i>	Ben & Elisa Lauritzen
<b>VA</b>	<i>Elkton</i>	Matthew Jefferson
<b>VA</b>	<i>Midlothian</i>	Ferris Jay & Ginny Hackleman
<b>VA</b>	<i>Richmond</i>	John Kirk & William Kirk
<b>VA</b>	<i>Roseland</i>	Trygve & Hal Loken
<b>WA</b>	<i>Battle Ground</i>	Ray & Carolyn Young
<b>WA</b>	<i>Everson</i>	Bernie & JoeAnne Hilgart
<b>WA</b>	<i>Moses Lake</i>	Lee Williams
<b>WA</b>	<i>Olympia</i>	Daniel & Jonell Blatt
<b>WA</b>	<i>Olympia</i>	Marina Ferguson & Paul Swensson
<b>WA</b>	<i>Onalaska</i>	Omroa & Annie Bhagwandin
<b>WA</b>	<i>Selah</i>	Steve & Patty Jones
<b>WA</b>	<i>Sequim</i>	Chris Kresa & Felicia Mueller
<b>WA</b>	<i>White Salmon</i>	Barbara Bailey
<b>WI</b>	<i>Oconomowoc</i>	Hank & Jodi Fuller
<b>WV</b>	<i>Davis</i>	Don & Sheryl Kines

## **BYLAWS**

### **CHESTNUT GROWERS OF AMERICA, INC.**

(Revised Feb. 23, 2002, Jul. 16, 2004, Jul. 9, 2005, Jun. 27, 2009, Aug. 30, 2012)

#### **ARTICLE I - NAME**

This Association shall be known as Chestnut Growers of America.

#### **ARTICLE II - PURPOSES**

The purpose for which this Association is formed is to promote chestnuts, to disseminate information to growers of chestnuts, to improve communications between growers within the industry, to support research and breeding work and generally to further the interests and knowledge of Chestnut growers. The Association advocates the delivery of only high-quality chestnuts to the marketplace.

#### **ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP**

1. **ELIGIBILITY** – Any person(s) interested in the cultivation and use of the chestnut and who shall pay the annual dues. The membership of this association shall consist of the following classes: (a) Single, (b) Household, (c) Associate (d) Honorary, and (e) Complimentary.
  - (a) Single membership is any interested adult.
  - (b) Household membership includes any two adult persons living in the same household. Each person would have one vote in Association matters. A Household membership will receive only single copies of Association mailings.
  - (c) Associate membership includes cooperatives as well as other commercial or non-profit entities wishing to be supportive of the purposes of Chestnut Growers of America, Inc. An Associate Membership has no vote and will receive single copies of CGA mailings.
  - (d) Honorary members are those persons who, in the opinion of the Association, have made a significant contribution to the chestnut industry. They shall have all privileges of membership but will not be required to pay dues. Nominations of Honorary members will be made in the form of a letter outlining the potential nominee's contributions and must be submitted to the Secretary with the signatures of five members who are presenting the nomination. The letter will be read to all present at the next annual meeting and voted on by ballot. A two-thirds affirmative vote is required for approval.
  - (e) Complimentary members are those persons designated by the Board of Directors each year and will have all privileges of membership but will not be required to pay dues and shall not be entitled to vote on Association business. They will generally consist of extension agents or other non-growers helpful to the Association or interested in the industry.
2. **ELECTION TO MEMBERSHIP** - Each applicant for membership in the Association shall apply on a form as provided by the Secretary and submit the form along with the required dues payment for the current year.
3. **DUES** - The dues shall be set by the Board of Directors. Dues are payable on or before January 1, each year. No member may vote whose dues are not paid for the current year.

#### **ARTICLE IV — MEETINGS**

1. THE FISCAL YEAR shall begin on the first day of January and end on the last day of December.
2. THE ASSOCIATION YEAR shall begin immediately at the conclusion of the annual meeting and shall continue through the next annual meeting.
3. ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP - The annual meeting of the members of the Association shall be held at such place and time of each year as set by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors may authorize the president to set the time, date, and location of the annual meeting. Ten (10) members of the Association shall constitute a quorum.
4. NOTICES OF MEETINGS - Notice of any meetings of members shall be given in writing by regular mail to the address of each member as shown on the records of the Association. Notice shall be mailed at least fourteen (14) days prior to the date of the meeting.
5. SPECIAL MEETINGS OF MEMBERS - A special meeting of members may be called at any time by the President or by a majority of the Board of Directors. No business shall be transacted at any special meeting other than that specified in the notice of such meeting.
6. REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS - A meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held whenever called by the President or by written request of any two (2) members of the board. Any and all business may be transacted at a meeting. Such meeting shall be held at the time and place stated in the call. Five days' notice of a meeting of the Board of Directors shall be given by fax, phone, voice mail, email, or regular mail.
7. VOTING - At any member meeting each member classified as a voting member shall be entitled to one vote. Proxy voting is not allowed at any meeting or election. All voting results will be based on the number of votes cast, excluding all blank ballot votes and abstentions. The election of officers and directors will be decided by plurality vote.
8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS - Eligible members may cast their ballots for Officers and Directors in person or by mail. Each individual ballot cast must be sealed in a blank envelope with no identifying marks on the envelope or the official ballot. If mailed, the blank, sealed envelope, shall then be inserted into a second envelope having the member's name and address clearly written on the outside, and addressed to the Secretary. Mailed ballots must be received by the Secretary at least 3 days prior to the member meeting or hand delivered to the Secretary at least thirty minutes prior to the scheduled meeting time to be counted. During the Annual Meeting a teller's committee will open each outer envelope after matching the names against the current list of paid up members. A list will be made of those members casting a mail ballot and the inner envelope removed unopened to maintain the secrecy of the ballot process. The teller's committee will open and count the mailed ballots along with attendee ballots. All raw ballots as well as the list of those who cast ballots by mail will be available for review for a period of thirty days following the election at the residence of the Secretary.

#### **ARTICLE V - BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

1. COMPOSITION - The governing body of this Association shall be a board of seven (7) Directors who shall exercise the powers of the Association and conduct and control its business and property. Such Board of Directors shall consist of three officers: President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, and four Directors at large. These officers shall perform the duties prescribed by these bylaws and by the parliamentary authority adopted by the Association. No member shall hold more than one office at a time. Board membership shall be open to any Single or Household member. The Directors shall serve for a term of one year or until their successors are elected and qualify, and their term of office shall begin at the close of the annual meeting at which they are elected.
2. QUORUM - Four (4) Directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

3. VACANCY - Vacancies on the Board of Directors, other than by expiration of term, shall be filled by vote of the remaining Directors.
4. COMPENSATION - No Director shall be compensated or receive a salary from the Association.
5. POWERS AND DUTIES
  - (a) The board of Directors shall set the dues, manage the business and conduct the affairs of the Association and shall carry out such policies and instructions as may be approved at any meeting of the members. The Board of Directors may establish committees for any of the objectives of the Association. All committees serve at the pleasure of the Board.
  - (b) The Board of Directors shall have the power to make and enter into any contract or agreement for the furtherance of any of the purposes of the Association.
  - (c) The Board of Directors shall have the power to represent the Association on the various boards or congresses of the horticultural industry.
  - (d) The Board of Directors may conduct its business by mail, internet, or Fax and such voting requires each board member's vote be recorded in the Board minutes.
  - (e) All rights to publication of "The Chestnut Grower" reside with the CGA and under the control of its Board of Directors.

#### **ARTICLE VI - DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

1. PRESIDENT - The President shall call and conduct meetings of the members and of the Board of Directors and shall serve as an ex-officio member of all committees except the nominating committee. The incoming President and Treasurer are authorized to develop a proposed budget for the upcoming year for Board approval within thirty (30) days of taking office. The approved budget will be available to any member upon written request. The President shall appoint members of committees as they are established and guide their progress.
2. VICE PRESIDENT - The Vice President shall assist the President with the duties of that office and assume the duties of President when the President is unable to attend a meeting or resigns the office.
3. SECRETARY/TREASURER - The Secretary/Treasurer shall be responsible for the following:
  - (a) Provide for publication of all notices required by the bylaws or ordered by the President.
  - (b) Keep regular books of account under the direction of the Board.
  - (c) To collect and deposit all monies due the Association and to deposit the same in a bank, credit union, or money market fund approved by the Board.
  - (d) To keep minutes of the meetings and to provide those minutes to the Board.
  - (e) To render a report of finances of the Association at each annual meeting and at such other times as the Board/President may request.
  - (f) To render a report to the President at the end of each year detailing receipts and expenditures of the Association.
  - (g) To cooperate with the Financial Oversight Committee each January.
  - (h) To update the corporation's records with the applicable Secretary of State and pay the annual fee(s).
  - (i) To maintain a database of the membership and provide a current mailing list to the newsletter editor and other data as requested by board member(s).

## **ARTICLE VII – COMMITTEES**

1. All positions outside the Board are considered to be committee level appointments.
2. The Board of Directors may establish committees for any of the objectives of the Association.
3. The President shall appoint members of committees as they are established, subject to Board confirmation, and guide their progress.
4. All committee appointments expire at the close of elections each year.

## **ARTICLE VIII - NOMINATIONS**

1. A Nominating Committee of three (3) members, no more than one (1) of which may be a member of the board shall be appointed at least 90 days prior to the annual meeting each year to prepare a slate of officers with one candidate for each office. Nominees for officers/directors will be limited to those members in good standing who have been members as of July 1 of the year prior to their election. The Nominating Committee shall seek to reflect diversification of member geographic location, talents and objectives. The Nominating Committee's report and the proposed slate of officers will be made available to the newsletter editor in time for regular publication prior to the election. Ballots, if required, will be mailed at least ten (10) days prior to the annual meeting along with the newsletter or mailed separately by the Secretary.
2. Members may nominate their own candidate(s) by submitting a written petition to the Secretary at his regular address, prior to the election and including the following:
  - (a) A written acceptance by each nominee to serve the association for the next year.
  - (b) A request to place the proposed candidate(s) on the ballot with a clear description of the office being challenged, signed by at least 10 per cent of the eligible voting members listed in the most recent membership directory.
3. Nominations may not be made at the annual meeting or in any manner other than as provided in this Section.
4. If no valid written petitions are received by the Secretary prior to March 1st, the Nominating Committee's slate shall be considered to have been elected unanimously and no balloting shall be necessary.

## **ARTICLE IX – ASSOCIATION LOGO**

1. The logo and the name "Chestnut Growers of America, Inc." are owned by the CGA and are protected by U.S. copyright law. You must treat the copyrighted material just as you would any other copyrighted material, such as a book.
2. The original copy of the logo will be maintained by the secretary and will be available upon written request. Users do not have the right to grant use of the logo to another person. Users agree to cease all use of the logo upon cessation of their membership in CGA.
3. The user agrees to use of the logo as it is provided and to not modify or adapt it beyond that allowed in this Article.
  - (a) The logo may be enlarged or reduced to meet individual needs.
  - (b) The logo may only be duplicated in the colors provided in the original copy or in black and white format.
  - (c) The logo may be used to promote any member's chestnuts or chestnut products on labels, banners, stationery, clothing, etc.
  - (d) Use of the logo does not imply that the user is an official representative of the CGA.

- (e) The logo should always be reproduced in the highest possible resolution regardless of the application.

#### **ARTICLE X - CONDUCT OF BUSINESS**

The following order shall be observed as a guide to the transaction of business of the annual meeting of the members:

1. Call to order and reading of minutes of previous meeting.
2. Reports of Officers.
3. Reports of Committees.
4. Unfinished business.
5. New business.
6. Election of Officers
7. Papers, special reports, etc.

Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised, most current edition, shall govern the deliberations of the Association.

#### **ARTICLE XI - NON-PROFIT STATUS**

This Association shall not engage in any form of trade or commerce or carry on any activity for profit.

#### **ARTICLE XII - DISSOLUTION**

The Association may be dissolved at any time by the written consent of not less than 2/3 of the members in good standing. In the event of the dissolution of the Association other than for purposes of reorganization whether voluntary or involuntary or by operation of law, none of the property of the Association nor any proceeds thereof, nor any assets of the Association shall be distributed to any members of the Association but after payment of the debts of the Association its property and assets shall be given to a public or charitable organization selected by the Board of Directors.

#### **ARTICLE XIII - AMENDMENTS**

These Bylaws may be amended or repealed by a two-thirds vote at any regular or special membership meeting thereof, if notice of such purpose has been given in the notice of the meeting.

#### **ARTICLE XIV - STANDING RULES**

1. Standing Rules shall contain operational procedures, policies, and practices of the Association not otherwise specified in its Articles of Incorporation or bylaws and shall be binding upon its membership. In no case shall a Standing Rule conflict with the Articles of Incorporation, bylaws, or other Standing Rules of the Association.
2. Standing Rules may be proposed by any member in good standing at any regular meeting.
3. The Association's Secretary shall, each year, prepare a list of all policy matters instituted by the Board during the previous year for enacting, amending, or rescinding by the Association membership at its Annual Meeting. A current list of all Standing Rules shall be published along with the bylaws in the membership directory.

4. The Board shall cause to be circulated to the membership, along with the nominations for the annual meeting all Standing Rules it intends to submit for action at the annual meeting.
5. Standing Rules may be adopted by a majority vote of the membership present and voting at any regular business meeting of the Association, provided that prior notice has been given; in the absence of such notice, a two-thirds vote shall be required.
6. Any policies or rules adopted by the Board or the membership during the year cease to be operational at the close of the Annual Meeting unless adopted according to this Article.

#### **CERTIFICATION of ADOPTION**

We, the President and Secretary, respectively, of the Western Chestnut Growers Association, hereby certify that the foregoing draft constitutes a full and true copy of the Bylaws as amended of said Association and as adopted by members thereof in session at Portland, Oregon.

On \_\_\_\_\_, 1996

President \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary \_\_\_\_\_

#### **STANDING RULES OF THE CHESTNUT GROWERS OF AMERICA, INC.**

1. Annual dues are as follows: Single membership \$35.00, Household membership \$45.00, Associate membership \$50.00. Emailed newsletters are included. Mailed newsletters are an additional \$5.00 per year. A \$5.00 discount applies if payment is postmarked by Feb. 15. Foreign mailings may include a surcharge to cover the cost of additional postage.
2. The Association shall publish a quarterly newsletter to be mailed to all members.
3. The President shall appoint a Financial Oversight Committee no later than December 31<sup>st</sup> each year to review the financial condition of the Association and prepare a report to the Board by January 31<sup>st</sup>.
4. No disbursements of cash are to be made by the treasurer. Regular recurring expenses for newsletter, postage, required corporation report, refunds, meeting related items, banking expenses, resale clothing expenses, and Secretary/Treasurer expenses may be paid without board approval. Board approval is required for all other expenditures of \$200 or more. All voided checks will be retained in the Treasurer's records.
5. Association financial records are to be maintained on "Quicken" or an equivalent software program.
6. Candidates for all Director positions should have internet access.
7. New members joining after August 1 will have prepaid for the forthcoming association year.
8. The current Standing Committees are: Financial Oversight, Newsletter/Webmaster, Program and Nominations.