KELLEY X AMHERST: “Old Survivor” F2 American chestnuts for project-based science

The Kelley tree is a 100+ year-old American chestnut hybrid survivor located in Cumberland County, PA, and the Amherst tree is a 200+ year-old American chestnut located in Amherst County, VA.

Mr. David Armstrong received pollen from the Amherst tree in 2003 and hand pollinated the Kelley tree to produce nuts. These nuts, or seeds, were grown into seedlings (F1) and 130 were planted at Codorus State Park Campground, Codorus State Park, Hanover, PA. These trees are known as the Codorus F1 Old Survivors Trees.

There are over 60 F1 trees living in this orchard and they appear to be moderately resistant to the blight. Armstrong believes that the F2 nuts produced from these trees may be more resistant to the blight since both parents’ probably have resistant genes.

The nuts or seeds (F2) harvested in autumn 2014, for the Schoolyard American Chestnut Project in Carroll and Allegany Counties, Maryland, are from the F1 trees located at Codorus State Park, Hanover, PA. This project is funded by the Chesapeake Bay Trust.

Kelley Tree

Amherst Tree