

Fall 2009 Orchard Tour and Much More

Louis Acker and Allie Funk will host the Carolinas Chapter-TACF Fall Orchard Tour and Picnic on November 7, 2009 at their farm in Ashe County, near Creston, NC. Registration will start at 11:00 AM and orientation to the days activities at 11:30 AM. Lunch will be served starting at 12:00 PM. Louis and Allie have arranged for local musicians Amy and Alfred Michaels to play Old Time Mountain Music on banjo and fiddle during lunch.

Activities after lunch include a tour of Louis and Allie's home which started as a one room cabin constructed about 1870 mostly of chestnut logs and which was expanded over the next 20 years in different stages, adding five bedrooms, a kitchen, a dining room, a parlor, and an attached spring house and root cellar. Tongue and groove, chestnut paneling was used to cover walls and ceilings in the additions. Allie and Louis acquired the house in 1988 and in 2001 expanded the kitchen and added a sunroom in back. Go to <http://www.carolinas-tacf.org/album.php?id=86> to view a picture album with text of their home.

Early afternoon, a tour of the backcross chestnut orchard that Louis and Allie tend on their farm will be led by Dr. Paul Sisco. In 2008, trees in the orchard were inoculated with chestnut blight fungus. The tour will include a discussion of the degree of resistance different trees in the orchard currently display. A picture album of the orchard being inoculated and initial results being evaluated can be viewed at <http://www.carolinas-tacf.org/album.php?id=85>

Confirm your attendance, number of guests, and plans to eat lunch by calling 704-542-0627 or by emailing dgillis001@carolina.rr.com no later than October 30. A seasonal Appalachian meal will be served for lunch for \$10 per person with children under the age of 12 eating free. Please advise if you have special dietary needs. Check the weather report for the northwestern mountains of NC the day before the event and wear appropriately warm clothing and footgear for walking in a grassy field. If inclement weather appears to be a factor, you can confirm that the event will be held by calling Doug Gillis on Friday afternoon at 704-604-0921, and if unable to reach him, by calling Louis Acker at 336-385-9031. A map showing the location of Louis and Allie's farm with driving directions accompanies this announcement. If you go to <http://www.mapblast.com>, put your address in as "Start" and Louis and Allie's address, 460 Ballou Rd., Creston, NC, 28615, as "End," you will get driving directions and a map you can print out. The map has a zoom feature you can use to see more detail.