



THE
AMERICAN
CHESTNUT
FOUNDATION

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President and CEO of The American Chestnut Foundation to Transition to New Role in Foundation's Restoration Mission

Marshal T. Case, President and CEO of The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF) will be stepping down at the end of this year, as the Foundation actively seeks a new leader. Case has been offered a transition position within the Foundation once his duties as President and CEO have concluded.







This thoughtfully planned transition for the continued success of the growing organization and its mission, seeks to sustain TACF's remarkable progress over the past decade and to allow Mr. Case time to devote to established Foundation programs, advise the new president and simultaneously consult on initiatives outside the Foundation.

Historically, the American chestnut, the hardwood tree that built our country, dominated the northeast forest from Maine to Georgia until a lethal blight from Asia destroyed 4 billion trees in the first part of the 20th century. Entire ecosystems, animal habitats and economies vanished in its path resulting in what many scientists consider America's worst ecological disaster.

Established in 1983 by a group of scientists, TACF committed to restore the American chestnut through development of a blight resistant tree. During his tenure at TACF, Mr. Case has propelled the Foundation's mission by orchestrating an impressive ever-growing network of scientists, programs and committed supporters to restore this "king of the forest" to its rightful place in the American landscape.

Mr. Case believes that restoration of American chestnut trees to our eastern forests will be the single most important environmental achievement of the 21st century. As a wildlife biologist and educator, he understands the significance of gaining broad-based participation to bring back a tree thought lost with results that will eventually produce a significant positive impact on forest and ecosystem health and a corresponding long term boost to the American economy. The

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Foundation seeks leadership from its new president to embrace and carry on this ambitious vision. [[Link to leadership document website](#)].

Since joining TACF in 1997, Mr. Case has overseen its expansion from 4 to 15 state chapters from Vermont to Georgia and west to the Ohio River Valley, membership growth from 2,000 to 6,000 and publication in 2007 of *Mighty GIANTS: An American Chestnut Anthology*, which earned two nationally recognized, silver medal, book awards. Fortified by fundraising efforts spearheaded by Mr. Case, the Foundation's coffers now sustain a \$2 million annual budget which has facilitated the expanded breadth and depth of its mission to restore the American chestnut tree to America's east.

Since 1964, Mr. Case has focused his career path on conservation, education, scientific research and more recently, on administration and network building. He is a great believer in a cost effective approach that combines multiple partners across a broad range of talent. From his first job on Cape Cod when he built, with two others, the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History and created multiple in-the-field natural history programs, Mr. Case has sustained a can-do approach to every conservation program with which he has been involved.







Through ongoing volunteer efforts spanning his professional career, Mr. Case's avid commitment to sustaining wildlife, biodiversity, and healthy ecosystems, has included the creation of innovative environmental education programs to get young people involved as future leaders. These efforts culminated in April 2008, when Mr. Case was honored by President George W. Bush and The Department of Interior as this year's recipient of the "The President's Call to Service Award." The award, presented by the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation, stated "Through service to others, you demonstrate the outstanding character of America and help strengthen our country."

In addition to being available to advise and consult with TACF's new president, Mr. Case will focus much of his future time on conservation, education, and research with Vermont based Trust for Wildlife, an organization he co-founded twenty-five years ago. Mr. Case's volunteer work with Trust for Wildlife has taken him into remote areas of the former Soviet Union, working with Russian Television and "World of Animals," and more recently into Ecuador where he focuses on neo-tropical migrant birds in the Americas and protection of habitat through education programs for youth.







Mr. Case considers his affiliation with his devoted colleagues at TACF and the progress made though unified efforts to achieve the Foundation's restoration mission to represent the hallmark of his professional career. Mr. Case looks forward to these next years of transition in his transition position as The American Chestnut Foundation continues to achieve new heights under new leadership.

TACF is a nonprofit 501-c-3 organization with more than 6,000 members nationally and internationally and chapters in 17 states. It is headquartered in Bennington, VT, and has research facilities in Meadowview, VA as well as regional offices in Asheville, NC, and at Penn State University and Yale University. To learn more about TACF, please www.acf.org

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