



THE
AMERICAN
CHESTNUT
FOUNDATION

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For Immediate Release

December 16, 2005

Meadowview, VA – The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF) announced today that it has hired Dr. Bob Paris as the newest addition to its staff of scientists working to develop a blight-resistant American chestnut tree. Dr. Paris is the Plant Breeder with TACF's three research farms, the Wagner Farm and the Glenn C. Price Research Farms.

Dr. Paris will focus his efforts on the genetics involved in breeding for blight-resistance and will develop plans for production seed orchards. His other duties include evaluating tree progeny for blight resistance, American type and regional adaptability, and coordinating investigation of methods, procedures and personnel needed for a large-scale planting of chestnut trees.

President and CEO Marshal Case said, "Bob brings a wealth of plant breeding experience to TACF. His talents in breeding as well as screening for and finding resistance to diseases will be invaluable to TACF as we move forward in our efforts to breed blight-resistant American chestnut trees and restore the tree to its native forests."

Dr. Paris earned his B.A. from Berea College in Kentucky, his M.S. in Plant Breeding and Genetics from the University of Tennessee and his PhD in Plant Breeding and Genetics from Virginia Tech in Blacksburg. He has spent the last five years as a research geneticist with the United States Department of Agriculture's Research Service (ARS) in Stoneville, MS where he was responsible for soybean varietal development. The focus of ARS is to develop improved varieties and to screen for, and find resistance to, diseases of economic importance.

"To be part of the effort to restore the American chestnut to the Eastern hardwood forest is very exciting, and I am impressed with the long-term vision, planning and commitment of TACF in striving to reach its goals. I'm looking forward to a long and productive relationship with the Foundation," said Dr. Paris.

Dr. Paris is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Paris of Floyds Knobs, IN.

The American Chestnut Foundation is a non-profit 501(c) 3 organization with nearly 5,500 members both nationwide and internationally. They have chapters in 13 states.

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