



THE
AMERICAN
CHESTNUT
FOUNDATION

Contact:
Meghan Jordan
The American Chestnut Foundation
(828) 281-0047
meghan@acf.org

August 24, 2006
For Immediate Release

The American Chestnut Foundation's Virginia Initiative Gains \$4000 in Gifts and 35 New Members

Meadowview, VA – The newest initiative to form a state chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF), the Virginia initiative, has reached its initial goal of gaining 35 new members and has raised \$4,000 from several chapter initiators at the Gold Leaf level with a challenge of gaining another \$6,000 from six other individuals.

Neel Rich, convener of the chapter start-up said, "It is wonderful to have such tremendous support for an organization that is working hard to restore this American treasure. I was really pleased at how well all geographic areas in the state were represented at the meeting." Prior to this Rich was a long-time county extension agent in the southern Virginia area.

The Virginia initiative is part of TACF's national network of state organizations whose purpose is to restore the American chestnut to its native forests. These state organizations serve as a regional support base for science program of TACF and they work collectively to achieve the goal of repopulating the tree within its natural range along the eastern United States. Individual state chapters also work to capture the genetics of the American chestnut to ensure that the trees will have regional adaptability that can be incorporated into TACF's national breeding program.

The meeting, which took place at TACF's Meadowview Research Farms, drew nearly 40 people from various parts of the state. The research farms include more than 26,000 American chestnut trees spread across approximately 130 acres of land and the trees from this site provide pollen to state chapter-run orchards.

Meadowview Research Farms will also serve as the site for TACF's 23rd Annual Meeting which is expected to draw more than 200 scientists, state chapter leaders, and volunteers from all over the country. The meeting is scheduled for October 21-22.

www.acf.org ● chestnut@acf.org

National Administrative Offices ● 469 Main Street, PO Box 4044, Bennington VT 05201-4044 ● 802.447.0110
Southern Appalachian Regional Office ● One Oak Plaza, Suite 308, Asheville, North Carolina 28801 ● 828.281.0047
Meadowview Research Farms ● 14004 Glenbrook Avenue, Meadowview, Virginia 24361-3349 ● 276.944.4631