



THE
AMERICAN
CHESTNUT
FOUNDATION

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Elderhostel teams up with The American Chestnut Foundation and 4-H for June 15 event

Meadowview, VA – Elderhostel, America's first and the world's largest educational travel organization for adults 55 and over is teaming up with the Southwest Virginia 4-H Center and The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF) to help restore the once-dominant chestnut to its native eastern forests.

On June 15, a small group of Elderhostel members will learn about the American chestnut tree and the research being done to restore this classic. Once one of the most important trees in eastern hardwood forests, the American chestnut was destroyed by blight. The American Chestnut Foundation advocates a multiple attack on the fungus, encouraging research in biological control and actively breeding trees for disease resistance.

Members of the Elderhostel group will assist in this process by performing disease inoculations of existing trees located at TACF's Meadowview Research Farms. They will work with TACF scientists Dr. Fred Hebard and Dr. Bob Paris and the group expects to inoculate hundreds of trees during the four-day trip. Some controlled pollination of the trees may be conducted during the week and the hostellers may assist with this as well.

“Members of Elderhostel are an important part of this process and we look forward to the enthusiasm and excitement they bring to our research farms each year,” said Dr. Hebard.

Approximately 17 people from all over the United States are participating this year in the inoculation process and Elderhostel members will stay at the 4-H Center in Meadowview under the direction of Ms. Sam Fisher.

The American Chestnut Foundation is a non-profit organization with more than 5,500 members nationwide and chapters in 13 states. For more information about the Foundation or the American chestnut tree please visit our website at www.acf.org

www.acf.org ● chestnut@acf.org

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