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Chestnut foundation gets largest gift ever

February 11, 2008

BENNINGTON — The American Chestnut Foundation has received a gift of \$1 million from a North Carolina family, the largest single gift the Bennington-based foundation has ever received.

The gift from the Stanback family was given as a challenge grant for the foundation's \$2.5 million capital campaign. The highest previous single donations have been around \$300,000.

"This is an historical moment not only for our foundation, but also for our state chapter network and our volunteers, especially when we know the American chestnut tree will be the beneficiary," Marshal Case, president and CEO of the foundation, said in a statement.

With this gift, the foundation will be able expand its national science program, put more trees in the ground and secure its own future.

The foundation's work over the last 25 years has been focused on developing a blight-resistant American chestnut and returning the American chestnut into the ecosystem.

— Staff reports

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