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Friday, February 8, 2008

\$1 million given to restore chestnut

Published: Friday, February 8, 2008
Free Press Staff Report

The Bennington-based American Chestnut Foundation has received the largest gift in its history, a \$1 million donation to help it restore the majestic tree to the Eastern landscape.

The Stanback family offered the gift as a challenge grant as the chestnut foundation crossed the halfway point in its \$2.5 million capital campaign.

Chestnuts once dominated the forest of Appalachia but were wiped out by a blight in the 20th century. The foundation has spent decades developing a blight-resistant tree by crossing the American tree with a chestnut from China, and has nearly achieved that goal.

The Chestnut Foundation will use the gift to expand its national science program and put more trees in the ground, the organization said.

To learn more about chestnut trees and the foundation, go to www.acf.org.

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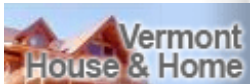
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