

SEE **CU** YOU
CU.outdoortimes.com



Outdoor Times[®]

Pennsylvania



Article Search

4/1/108 4/1/108

- Home
- Outdoor News
- Events
- Advertising
- Outdoor Links
- Submit News
- Subscribe
- Contact Us



Poll Question

We will be taking a short break to update our new website. Our opinion polls will have space for more of your input. Keep watching and take advantage of the new photo section under CU Outdoor Times. Thanks



The American Chestnut Foundation works to restore an important tree to the forests of Pennsylvania

Sara Fitzsimmons

The demise of the American chestnut (*Castanea dentata*) is likely one of the great ecological disasters of current time. Through the first half of the twentieth century, the species was virtually eliminated from the landscape by an Asiatic blight fungus (*Cryphonectria parasitica*) introduced on exotic plant materials imported by plant explorers in the late 1800s.

The chestnut was very densely populated with a range from Maine to Georgia (Figure 1). In Pennsylvania, the Blight Commission estimated that more than 25 percent of the state's hardwoods were American chestnut trees. In virgin forests throughout their range, mature chestnuts are storied to have averaged up to five feet in diameter and up to one hundred feet tall (Figure 2). Many specimens of eight to ten feet in diameter were recorded, and there were rumors of trees bigger still.

Due to their abundance and enormous size,

Fun Escapes

7 springs

Current Results
Previous Polls

So far 0 people have taken
this poll

OUTDOOR POLL

the American chestnut once ranked as the most important wildlife plant in the eastern United States. A large American chestnut tree could produce 10 bushels or more of nuts. Chestnut mast supported many species indigenous to Pennsylvania including: squirrels, wild turkey, white-tailed deer, black bear, raccoon, and grouse, which once depended on chestnuts as a major food source.

Read the entire article in the April issue of The Pennsylvania Outdoor Times.



If you have any problems, questions, or comments regarding outdoortimes.com, please contact the **Webmaster** . For all other comments, please see our [Contact](#) section to send feedback to Pennsylvania Outdoor Times.
Copyright © 2005— Pennsylvania Outdoor Times