



# NC Wire: Local & State

Home / Local & State / NC Wire: Local & State

Counties: Wake | Durham | Orange | Johnston | Chatham Topics: Crime & Safety | Health & Science | Education | Growth | Q | Corrections

Columnists: John Drescher | Barry Saunders | Ruth Sheehan | Road Warrior

Comments (0) | Recommend (0)

## Effort to bring back chestnut takes root in Ohio

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS  
Published: Sun, May. 03, 2009 04:55PM Modified Sun, May. 03, 2009 04:55PM

AKRON, Ohio -- Forestry officials and volunteers in Ohio are working to revive the American chestnut tree, the woodland giants that once dominated forests across the eastern United States.

The effort is part of a larger one across the country to gradually change the chestnut's genetics, which volunteers hope will make the tree more resistant to the Asian fungus that wiped out the trees in Ohio in the 1920s and 1930s.

"It may be the biggest ecological restoration ever undertaken in the United States and maybe in the world," said Bryan Burhans, chief executive of the Asheville, N.C.-based American Chestnut Foundation.

American chestnuts that grew up to 120 feet once accounted for more than 20 percent of the forests in the eastern half of North America before the blight was discovered in New York City in 1904.

An estimated 3.5 billion American chestnuts were destroyed in the decades that followed. By 1950, few were left in the eastern United States.

Ohio Division of Forestry chief David Lytle is working with others to preserve the genetic stock of the region's native American chestnuts - a necessity since trees from Ohio might not do well in, say, North Carolina or Tennessee.

Last year, a small state-run nursery was started in the Mohican-Memorial State Forest in Ashland County with the goal of producing and harvesting enough nuts to ensure that the Ohio trees' genetic material remains alive.

The American Chestnut Foundation's Ohio chapter is also working with the state's Department of Natural Resources to use the trees to reclaim acidic strip-mined lands in Ohio.

"How often do you get to reintroduce a species that was all but lost?" asked Ohio University forest ecology professor Brian McCarthy, who is among those aiding the effort to bring the trees back.

Another approach has been to cross-pollinate the American chestnut with the squat Chinese chestnut, which can resist the blight. The resulting trees are then repeatedly rebred with pollen from American chestnut trees, making

each generation slightly more American.

Only the trees that are most resistant to the blight are used in the process, which is time-consuming because new trees must grow at least two years before flowering and producing nuts that can be replanted.

BOOKMARK E-MAIL PRINT TEXT SIZE: [icons]

Welcome BCOME A MEMBER | Sign In

Advertisements  
Ads by pulse360  
"Bennington Mom Makes \$5k/Month" Stay At Home Makes \$5397/Month with just \$1.97. Read Her Secret... SarasLifeBlog.com  
Acai Berry Side Effects Warning! Want To Try Acai Berry? Have You Considered Side Effects? www.AcaiBerryExam.com  
"Acai Berry Side Effects" (Read This) Warning! Want To Try Acai Berry? Have You Considered Side Effects? www.acaihealthtests.com  
Get listed here

Looking for travel deals for your Spring/Summer vacation? TRAVEL DEAL OF THE WEEK NEWSLETTER

Most Popular  
STORIES EMAILED  
Last 24 Hours  
Canes break through in Game 2  
This week in business  
Part of N.C. 540 to close for film  
Man dies trying to save dog from fire  
Liquor by the drink before voters  
Last 7 Days  
The lottery snatches back some prizes  
Furloughs, pay cuts ordered for state workers  
House looks into lawmaker's conduct  
State workers get unpaid time off  
Feds wrongly deport citizen living in N.C.

Print Ads View all ads from past 7 days >>  
Ads from Today's THE NEWS & OBSERVER  
ALLTEL  
ATLANTIC TOWERS  
AUCTION PROMOTIONS UNLIMITED  
AUCTION PROMOTIONS UNLIMITED  
AUCTION PROMOTIONS UNLIMITED  
BAILEY'S JEWELRY  
BAILEY'S JEWELRY  
BAILEY'S JEWELRY

### Related Content

- http://www.ohio.com

### More NC Wire: Local & State

- Chancellor at NC university cutting back ceremony
- Hero officer returning to work after NC shootings
- Inmates vying for coal mining jobs in Appalachia
- Hearing to resume into fishing boat accident
- Storms, possible tornadoes hit South; 1 killed
- N.C. Senate set to debate sex ed, anti-bullying laws

Advertisement

Trees that are 15/16 American chestnut and 1/16 Chinese chestnut are almost indistinguishable from the original, authorities said.

"All the different approaches are important because there's still a lot we don't know," said Greg Miller, a volunteer and nursery operator in Carroll County, east of Canton. "We have to keep our options open. I'm convinced that it's going to work, and there's a lot of scientific evidence that verifies that."

Information from: Akron Beacon Journal, <http://www.ohio.com>

Read The News & Observer print edition on your computer with the new e-edition!

## COMMENTS

You must be logged in to leave a comment. [Login](#) | [Register](#)

Comments: 0 Showing: Newest first

More comments on this story:

### [Chestnuts At Gurney's](#)

Shop For Chestnut Plants & More At Gurney's - Free \$25 Coupon.  
[www.Gurneys.com](http://www.Gurneys.com)

### [Chinese Chestnut Tree at Millers](#)

Chinese Chestnuts average larger than our native varieties.  
[millernurseries.com](http://millernurseries.com)

### [Ben Meadows Company®](#)

Full Line of Forestry Equipment & Supplies. Browse Web Catalog Now.  
[BenMeadows.com](http://BenMeadows.com)

Ads by Yahoo!

## Search All Triangle Network Ads

### Top Jobs

[View All >](#)

#### Care Improvement Specialist

The Carolinas Center for Medical Excellence

Medical Assistant/ LPN; Receptionist; Office Mgr

Allergy Partners

Director of Medical Staff Services

Maria

[Quick Job Search](#)

[Advanced Search >](#)

Keyword(s):



### Featured Homes

[View All >](#)



#### Raleigh, NC

4 Bedrooms, 3 Bathrooms  
2,873 Square Feet  
\$339,900



#### Raleigh, NC

5 Bedrooms, 3 Bathrooms  
2,230 Square Feet  
\$269,500



#### Raleigh, NC

3 Bedrooms, 3 Bathrooms  
2,022 Square Feet  
\$229,900

### Hot Deals

[View All >](#)



#### 2004 Nissan 350Z

\$19,980

Auto Park Chrysler/Jeep



#### 2006 Chrysler Sebring

\$18,980

Auto Park Chrysler/Jeep



#### 2005 Infiniti FX35

\$22,973

John Hiester Chevrolet

Powered by

© Copyright 2009, The News & Observer Publishing Company

A subsidiary of The McClatchy Company

[Help](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Parental Consent](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Terms of Use](#) | [RSS Feeds](#) | [N&O Store](#) | [Advertising](#)

Hosting Partners of  
[newsobserver.com](http://newsobserver.com)