

# Groups team up in American chestnut restoration effort

Warsaw, N.Y. — The New York State Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF) has teamed up with Cornell University and the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) to help restore the American chestnut tree to part of its original range.

The Wyoming County Gobblers NWTF Chapter's American chestnut tree-planting ceremony took place last month at the Carlton Hill Wildlife Management Area and was part of a series of similar plantings across the state. The long-term goal of the tree-planting projects is to conduct at least one tree planting in each of the 53 counties in New York that were once home to the American chestnut.

The event was the result of the collaboration to plant American chestnuts within their natural range. Officials said the planting helps raise awareness of several efforts to restore the American chestnut and teach new audiences about chestnut growth and culture.

American chestnuts were at one time an important food source for deer, wild turkeys and other wildlife, especially during fall. The American chestnut once flourished from Georgia to Maine, but was virtually eliminated by a fungal disease called blight.

The NWTF's New York State Chapter has supported American chestnut research to breed a blight-resistant strain of the tree since 2001, having donated \$10,500 of state Hunting Heritage Superfund dollars to the American Chestnut Foundation's New York State Chapter.

"Planting trees is our way to help gain attention for the American Chestnut Foundation's research," said Larry Becker, president of the NWTF's New York State Chapter. "Everyone — especially wildlife — will benefit from reintroducing the chestnut to its original range, and we're proud to play a part in this project."

The seedlings planted were pure American chestnut and have been grown at either DEC's Saratoga Nursery or C&C Nursery in Churchville, N.Y. The seedlings are blight-susceptible and will eventually succumb to the blight. Despite that, the trees can often grow to 30 feet or more before succumbing and, usually, produce fruit before dying.

Officials said the goal is to plant between two and 10 seedlings at any given site. At least two chestnuts are necessary for future nut production.

Nearly four billion American chestnuts were destroyed by blight during the first half of the 20th century. Entire species of wildlife that depended on the tree as a major food source were lost, and families that used the chestnut as a cash crop were devastated when the blight struck from Maine down to Georgia and west across to the Ohio River Valley.

"Right now, though TACF is very close to achieving a blight-resistant American chestnut, it has not quite been realized. Outreach needs to continue and more people, especially those in younger generations who have never heard the story, can learn about the tree. As more people know how to plant and grow these trees, we will have more people ready to plant resistant stock once it is available," said Sara Fitzsimmons, TACF's Northern Appalachian Regional Science Coordinator.

The tree planting is part of an ongoing NWTF conservation



Members of the Wyoming County Gobblers NWTF chapter work to plant chestnut trees at the Carlton Hill WMA.

Photo courtesy of New York NWTF

effort at the Carlton Hill WMA that started in 2003. Since that time the NWTF Wyoming County Chapter has utilized over \$10,000 from the NYS Chapter's Superfund (money raised through local NWTF banquets throughout the state). In addition to the direct dollars spent they annually plant NWTF corn seed and crabapple trees as well as spent countless volunteer labor hours helping to establish and maintain wildlife openings, food plots, and conducting grass lands

management work.

"I'm very proud of what our volunteer members have done and continue to do for all wildlife at the Carlton Hill WMA as well as our other local volunteer efforts," said Wally Urf, the Wyoming County Gobblers chapter president. "We have also formed a good working relationship with the local Pheasants Forever Chapter, which means both chapters can leverage our resources and efforts on behalf of

wildlife. Many people think that the NWTF only works for the wild turkey, but the work we do here and across North America benefits most, if not all wildlife".

For more information about the NWTF visit [www.nwtf.org](http://www.nwtf.org) or call (800) THE-NWTF.

The American Chestnut Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization based in Asheville, N.C., with chapters in 17 states and more than 6,000 members. TACF was established in 1983

with the sole purpose of restoring the majestic tree to its native forests in the eastern United States, and the Foundation has supported the efforts of scientists who are working to develop a blight-resistant American chestnut.

For more information about the American Chestnut Foundation and its New York State Chapter visit [www.acf.org](http://www.acf.org) or call (828) 281-0047.



Mike Sergi and McKenna Sergi, of Chenango Forks, caught and released this 31-inch northern white fishing the St. Lawrence River on June 13.

The great outdoors, now with more space.

**Kubota RTV1140CPX and RTV500**

Give yourself more space wherever you go. Take Kubota's RTV1140CPX utility vehicle. It converts from a go-anywhere, four-seat transport to a do-everything, two-seat cargo hauler in minutes—and the standard 18.4 cu. ft. hydraulic bed offers a mighty 1,102 lb. capacity. Or Kubota's RTV500. With its reliable 15.8 HP Kubota engine and 9.0 cu. ft. of cargo space, it will get you and your gear there and back again in quiet, efficient style. Hit the great outdoors in a Kubota RTV—the machine that will give you your space—and more!

<p><b>VISIT THE AUTHORIZED NEW YORK KUBOTA DEALER NEAREST YOU!</b></p>	<p><b>CANASTOTA</b> White's Farm Supply 4154 State Route 31 (315) 697-2214</p>	<p><b>GREENVILLE</b> Greenville Saw Service, Inc. 5040 State Route 81 West (518) 966-4346</p>	<p><b>PALMYRA</b> John S. Blazey, Inc. Main Street &amp; Holmes (315) 597-5121</p>	<p><b>SPRINGVILLE</b> Lamb &amp; Webster 601 West Main Street (716) 592-4924</p>
<p><b>ALBION</b> Bently Bros., Inc. 13936 Route 31 (585) 589-9610</p>	<p><b>CHARLTON/BALLSTON LAKE</b> Emerich Sales &amp; Service 187 Valentine Road (518) 399-8574</p>	<p><b>HOLMES</b> Pine Bush Equipment 24 Sybil Court (845) 878-4004</p>	<p><b>PINE BUSH</b> Pine Bush Equipment 97 Route 302 (845) 744-2006</p>	<p><b>SYRACUSE</b> Empire Tractor 2700 Eric Blvd East (315) 446-5656</p>
<p><b>ATLANTA</b> Empire Tractor Route 371 (585) 534-5935</p>	<p><b>CORTLAND</b> Empire Tractor 3865 US Route 11 (607) 753-9656</p>	<p><b>LOWVILLE</b> White's Farm Supply 8207 State Route 26 (315) 376-0300</p>	<p><b>ROCHESTER</b> Admar Supply Company 1950 Brighton-Henrietta TL Road (585) 272-9390</p>	<p><b>WATERLOO</b> Empire Tractor 1437 Route 318 (315) 539-7000</p>
<p><b>BINGHAMTON/VESTAL</b> Admar Supply Company 449 Commerce Road (607) 798-0333</p>	<p><b>EAST SYRACUSE</b> Admar Supply Company 6014 Drott Drive (315) 433-5000</p>	<p><b>MENDON</b> Saxby Implement Corp. Route 251 (585) 624-2938</p>	<p><b>ROCHESTER</b> Kubota of Rochester 3861 Buffalo Road (585) 594-1120</p>	<p><b>WATERVILLE</b> White's Farm Supply 962 State Route 12 (315) 841-4181</p>
<p><b>BUFFALO</b> Admar Supply Company 1394 Military Road (716) 873-8000</p>		<p><b>NORTH JAVA</b> Lamb &amp; Webster, Inc. 4397 SR-98 (585) 535-7671 / (800) 888-3403</p>		<p><small>Kubota Tractor Corporation Markets a Full Line of Tractors and Construction Equipment Through a Nationwide Network of Over 1,000 Authorized Dealers. Optional equipment may be shown.</small></p>

EVERYTHING YOU VALUE

[www.kubota.com](http://www.kubota.com)

©Kubota Tractor Corporation, 2009