



THE
AMERICAN
CHESTNUT
FOUNDATION®

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For Immediate Release

Become a citizen-scientist for the day -- American chestnut project needs volunteers to help find surviving trees along the Appalachian Trail on May 30

Bryson City, NC –The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF) needs volunteers for a day-long training session to learn how to collect data on American chestnut trees along the Appalachian Trail. This project is part of a long-term citizen study that will help guide the efforts of TACF to return the American chestnut, once a giant of the Appalachian forest to its natural range throughout the Appalachian region.

If you enjoy hiking on the Appalachian Trail and learning to recognize plants along the trail, you may find participation in this project very rewarding. Learning to spot American chestnut is a skill that hikers with a strong interest in plants may acquire more readily than others. Once you catch on, there is a thrill of discovery when you spot a chestnut! It will be helpful if you appreciate science and are willing to take the time to apply the training and follow the data collection protocol as closely as possible. Working with a partner or partners is encouraged.

GPS units are not required to participate in the project this year but it will be helpful if you have a unit that you can use when you collect data.

Participant Commitment: You will select your initial data collection segment assignment at the training. Participants are asked to collect and submit data from at least one segment within two weeks of the training, while the training is fresh in your mind and the American chestnut trees are relatively easy to spot. Please plan to complete and return data for all segments selected at training by July 10, 2009.

www.acf.org • chestnut@acf.org

TACF Headquarters Office • 160 Zillicoa Street, Suite D, Asheville, North Carolina 28801 • 828.281.0047
Meadowview Research Farms • 14005 Glenbrook Avenue, Meadowview, Virginia 24361 • 276.944.4631
Northern Appalachian Regional Office • Pennsylvania State University, 206 Forest Resources Lab, University Park, PA 16802 • 814.863.7192
New England Regional Office • USFS Northern Research Station, 705 Spear Street, South Burlington, VT 05403 • 802.999.8706
ARRI Partnership Office • Mountain State University, 322 South Kanawaha Street, Beckley, WV 25801 • 276.614.4777
Vermont Office • Post Office Box 4044, 469 Main Street, Suite 1, Bennington, VT • 802.447.0110

Training will be held rain or shine. Please prepare as you would for a day hike. You will be responsible for your own lunch. A data collection kit, including report forms to record data in the field will be provided at training.

More information about the A.T. MEGA-Transect Chestnut Project at

<http://chestnut.cas.psu.edu/mega-transect.html>

Directions to Nantahala Outdoor Center at

<http://www.noc.com/index.php/to-nantahala-outpost.html>

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