



THE
AMERICAN
CHESTNUT
FOUNDATION

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The American Chestnut Foundation Names Bryan Burhans as New President and CEO

Asheville, NC – The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF), the leader in the movement to restore the American chestnut to its natural range, today announced the appointment of Bryan Burhans as President and CEO of the 25-year-old organization. Burhans replaces long-time President and CEO Marshal Case, who will now serve as President Emeritus of TACF and pursue his other passion for habitat conservation connected to Trust for Wildlife with a focus on neotropical migrant birds. In Burhans' new role, he has responsibility for TACF's 6,000 member organization which encompasses 15 chapters in 17 states and six regional offices including its newly relocated headquarters in Asheville, NC.

“TACF is more than a call to action. TACF's strong and passionate membership base will help maintain a clear focus on the organization's mission,” says Burhans. “I am so honored to become part of an organization that has such an admirable mission—that of restoring the American chestnut, and I look forward to the opportunity to work with TACF members and become part of the TACF team.”

Marshal Case, as President Emeritus, will serve as an advisor to TACF and will work with Burhans during the initial leadership transition.

Prior to becoming President and CEO of TACF, Burhans served as director of land management programs for the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf), working nationally on programs to help private landowners better manage their land for wildlife. During his tenure, Burhans developed the largest membership-based private landowner program in the nation, the Hunting Heritage Club. He also initiated numerous partnerships with state and federal agencies and private corporations that helped the NWTf deliver its mission.

“As I look back, the most rewarding aspect of my tenure with the NWTf was the people who I was privileged to work with: corporate, state and federal partners, and the NWTf volunteers,” says Burhans.

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“It’s the people who make conservation a reality. Whether you’re dealing with the restoration of wild turkeys or restoration of the American chestnut, if you empower people, including members, partners and volunteers to do great things, they will.”

Burhans received an Associate of Science degree in Wildlife Technology and a B.S. degree in Wildlife Science from The Pennsylvania State University. Bryan received his M.S. degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology from Frostburg State University working out of the University of Maryland’s Appalachian Environmental Laboratory in Frostburg, MD. He was selected by TACF’s board from among nearly 300 applicants from across the country. Burhans will work out of TACF’s new corporate headquarters office in Asheville, North Carolina.

About TACF

The American Chestnut Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization with chapters in 17 states based in Asheville, NC. TACF was established in 1983 with the sole purpose of restoring this 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 Foundation, please visit our website at www.acf.org.

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