



THE
AMERICAN
CHESTNUT
FOUNDATION®

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The American Chestnut Foundation Receives Prestigious Hope Award from Emory and Henry College

Meadowview, VA – The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF) received the Emory and Henry College Hope Award for its service work with the greater southwestern Virginia community. Dr. Fred Hebard, TACF's lead scientist accepted the award on behalf of the organization which has more than 600 members in Virginia and more than 50,000 trees in the ground at TACF's Meadowview Research Farm.

“We are thrilled to receive this award and are very grateful to Emory and Henry for supporting The American Chestnut Foundation and allowing us to become part of its community,” said Dr. Hebard.

Each year, Emory and Henry's Appalachian Center for Community Service recognizes individuals and groups that have an exemplary record of service and commitment to working for the common good of the people and places of the area. Awards are given to both individuals and groups and are collectively known as the Hope Awards. The American chestnut, also known as the “tree of hope” was once the dominant hardwood in area forests. TACF has been working for more than 25 years to breed a blight-resistant American chestnut that will be returned to the wild to grow and flourish.

“By making possible the planting of seed orchards of native chestnut on farms in southwest Virginia, the team of scientists and researchers at the Meadowview Farms is creating the possibilities that more people will understand how the culture and history of this place are so closely joined to this single species of native tree” said Gloria Suber, executive director of the Appalachian Center for Community Service.

Suber also said, “Fred has listened to the stories of old men and women as they have recounted the history of chestnut trees now only a shining glimmer of memory, and he has welcomed school children and college students, sharing with them his enthusiasm for the work of ecological hope.”

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About TACF

The American Chestnut Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization headquartered in Asheville, NC. It has nearly 6,000 members and chapters in 17 states. 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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