



Media Advisory

News Embargo: September 23
10 a.m. Eastern

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MIGHTY GIANTS SURVIVE FIRST YEAR IN THE WOODS

ATLANTA (Sept. 16, 2009) Recent plantings of the nearly extinct American chestnut tree—once a beloved and key species in the eastern U.S.—have thrived during their first growing season in national forests. Journalists are invited to a September 23 radio bridge to hear first-hand details of this milestone, which has researchers and chestnut lovers buzzing.

Researchers say this is the first time hundreds of blight-resistant American chestnut trees are successfully growing in North Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia. The young trees are being monitored in real forest conditions by scientists at the U.S. Forest Service, the University of Tennessee and partners at The American Chestnut Foundation. Join the radio bridge to hear how today's test plantings are exceeding expectations and holding promise for future restoration of the species.

WHAT: A radio bridge for journalists:

- Access to scientists and key supporters who have championed the blight-resistant American chestnut plantings and research
- News about restoring the American chestnut to its historic range in the Southeast
- Unveiling of a public web site for restoring the famous American chestnut tree

SPEAKERS: **Bryan Burhans** – President, The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF)
Roger Williams – Director of Forest Management, U.S. Forest Service, Southern Region
Barbara Crane – Regional Geneticist, U.S. Forest Service, Southern Region
Stacy Clark – Research Forester, U.S. Forest Service, Southern Research Station
Scott Schlarbaum – Professor of Forest Genetics and Tree Improvement Program (TIP) Director, University of Tennessee

WHEN: Wednesday, September 23, at 10 a.m. Eastern

HOW: Credentialed reporters can access the live news feed by telephone, and participate in Q&A with spokespersons listed above. The public web site goes live during the news feed.

Dial: 888-995-9855

Passcode: 3514678

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Photo is courtesy of: Forest History Society, Durham NC