



THE
AMERICAN
CHESTNUT
FOUNDATION®

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Looking Back to Move Forward: Founding Leader and New Leader of The American Chestnut Foundation Share Visions at Area Events May 15-17

Marshall, VA--The Maryland and Virginia chapters of the American Chestnut Foundation will sponsor a weekend program May 15 and 16 for volunteers interested in joining the Foundation's efforts to re-establish this valuable hardwood to Virginia woodlands. The theme of the weekend is *Looking Back to Move Forward*.

Friday evening May 15, a 7 p.m. dinner reception at Graves Mountain Lodge in Syria will introduce members and guests to new CEO and President Bryan Burhans and Founding President Philip Rutter. The \$40 cost will go to support the re-establishment of locally adapted chestnut in central Virginia. Reservations can be sent to VATACF, PO Box 158, Marshall, VA by May 8.

The next day in Charlottesville, Saturday, May 16, the Virginia Department of Forestry will host a free public forum in their Training Room at Department of Forestry headquarters, 900 Natural Resources Drive from 1-3 p.m. The Virginia Department of Forestry will host Saturday events, with Virginia State Forester Carl E. Garrison III introducing speakers, and Dr. John Scrivani, Director of Resource Information for the Virginia Department of Forestry sharing insights from analysis of both current and historic forestry data. It will follow a meeting of the Virginia Board of Directors from 9 a.m. to 12 noon which is open to members.

"This is really an exciting event for the Maryland Chapter," says Chapter President and TACF Secretary Essie Burnworth. "We chose Bryan Burhans to lead TACF after an extensive search process. His enthusiasm, experience and vision so fit our organization's needs at this time of growth and of beginning the restoration

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process. I hope many of our members will take advantage of this special opportunity. I think they will be inspired by meeting him."

"And with Phil Rutter appearing at the same event, no American chestnut lover should miss it. Phil traveled the country in the early days of TACF and inspired the volunteers and contributors who got the backcross breeding effort and our organization going. The TACF Annual Meeting last fall in Chattanooga ended on a high point with Phil's thought provoking observations based on growing chestnut for many years. His ideas continue to inspire and inform our conversations about science and strategy."

About Phil Rutter and Bryan Burhans

Phil Rutter, who led TACF from 1983 to 1990, will discuss "Some of What We Still Don't Know & How To Find Out". Since retiring from TACF, Rutter has pursued the intensive domestication of woody perennial plants for agriculture. His Badgersett Research Corporation (<http://www.badgersett.com>) promotes and conducts research on woody agriculture, and grows and sells hybrid chestnut and hazelnut plants and nuts.

Bryan Burhans, who has lived in both Maryland and Virginia, brings fresh perspective from his experience as director of land management programs with the National Wild Turkey Federation to TACF. TACF is an organization whose challenges are shaped by a growing membership and remarkable accomplishments toward its mission of restoring a keystone tree that was reduced to struggling stump shoots by a blight fungus pandemic in the first half of the Twentieth Century. Burhans will address: "Our Foundation's Growth -- Where Do We Go From Here?"

About TACF and the Virginia Chapter

TACF is a 501(c)3 organization with 6,000 members in the United States and overseas. After twenty-five years of scientific work—a successful collaboration between professional scientists and state chapter citizen scientists, TACF is on the threshold of accomplishing its backcross breeding objectives. While the backcross effort will continue for many years, the organization is now looking ahead to the challenge of restoring the once giant American chestnut tree to its former range throughout the Appalachian region. Planned events in Maryland and Virginia offer residents of the mid-Atlantic region a remarkable opportunity to learn, and to participate in envisioning the future path to restoration of a tree that was once a mainstay of the Appalachian economy—an icon of the Eastern forest whose wood, nuts and beauty was cherished by humans and provided food for both wild and domesticated animals.

Visit www.acf.org to learn more about the American chestnut and plans to restore it to its natural range.

For more information about the Virginia Chapter of TACF, please visit www.vatacf.org. For information about the Maryland Chapter visit www.mdtacf.org.

Schedule of Events

MAY 15 - 16 VIRGINIA CHAPTER OF TACF

Friday May 15
7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Dinner Reception at Graves Mountain Lodge, Syria, VA
Cost \$40 per person - Proceeds benefit Virginia Chapter of TACF
Informal remarks by speakers

Saturday, May 16
9 a.m. - 12 noon

VATACF Board of Directors Meeting
(Members Welcome to Observe)

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Saturday, May 16
1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Looking Back, Moving Forward: Growing the Future of American Chestnut (Free and open to the public)
Virginia Department of Forestry Headquarters
900 Natural Resources Drive, Suite 800,
Charlottesville, VA 22903

Introduction and Welcome - State Forester Carl E. Garrison III, Virginia Department of Forestry

Our Foundation's Growth -- Where Do We Go From Here? - TACF President and CEO Bryan Burhans

Geography of Chestnut - Dr. John Scrivani, Director of Resource Information, Virginia Department of Forestry

Some of What We Still Don't Know & How To Find Out - Phil Rutter, Founding President of TACF and Founder of Badgersett Research Corporation

MAY 17 MARYLAND CHAPTER OF TACF

Sunday, May 17
1:30 p.m.

Looking Back, Moving Forward: Growing The Future Of American Chestnut (Free and open to the public)

Izaak Walton League National Headquarters
707 Conservation Lane
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

Our Foundation's Growth -- Where Do We Go From Here? - TACF President and CEO Bryan Burhans

Some of What We Still Don't Know & How To Find Out - Phil Rutter, Founding President of TACF and Founder of Badgersett Research Corporation

A wine and cheese reception will follow the presentations

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