



THE
AMERICAN
CHESTNUT
FOUNDATION

Contacts:
Meghan Jordan
The American Chestnut Foundation
(828) 281-0047
meghan@acf.org

For immediate release
June 9, 2008

***Mighty Giants: An American Chestnut Anthology* wins prestigious Benjamin Franklin Award from the Independent Book Publishers Association**

Bennington, VT -- The American Chestnut Foundation is proud to announce that “*Mighty Giants: An American Chestnut Anthology*” edited by Chris Bolgiano and Glenn Novak has won a silver medal in the 2008 Benjamin Franklin Awards in the Regional/Northeast Non-Fiction category. The Benjamin Franklin Awards are sponsored by PMA, the Independent Book Publishers Association, and celebrate excellence in editorial and design for titles published in 2007. Judges for the Benjamin Franklin Awards come from all areas of the industry: major newspaper and trade media reviewers, bookstore and library buyers and reviewers, non-competing publishers, artists and writers who serve the industry.

Mighty Giants: An American Chestnut Anthology, published by The American Chestnut Foundation in partnership with Images from the Past in 2007, focuses on the history of the iconic American chestnut tree and the hope for its restoration in Eastern forests.

As Tom Slayton of Vermont Public Radio recently said about the handsomely illustrated anthology, “It’s a fascinating book about a heroic and little-known struggle.”

The anthology, more than two years in the making, is the inspiring story of an American symbol and the struggle to save it from the brink of extinction, the saga of a unique and exceptional tree that supported a way of life, that fed and sheltered our ancestors, and “touched almost every phase of our existence.” From Indians and early explorers, to colonists, naturalists, loggers, industrialists, and beyond, from presidents, poets, and artists, including Jefferson, Lincoln, Carter, Thoreau, Frost, Homer, Andrew Wyeth, and many more, the story of our once mighty, towering native chestnut tree is a lesson for our times.

The book tells, in images and words, the story of the once mighty monarch of the eastern forests and the scientists who engaged in the struggle against “one of the greatest natural disasters in the history of forest biology”—perhaps the deadliest plant blight ever encountered. It is the story of the dedicated few who refused to give up: the fearless plant explorer who tracked down the

www.acf.org ● chestnut@acf.org

National Administrative Offices ● 469 Main Street, PO Box 4044, Bennington VT 05201-4044 ● 802.447.0110
Southern Appalachian Regional Office ● One Oak Plaza, Suite 308, Asheville, North Carolina 28801 ● 828.281.0047
Meadowview Research Farms ● 14004 Glenbrook Avenue, Meadowview, Virginia 24361-3349 ● 276.944.4631

blight in war-torn China, the plant pathologists and geneticists who labored long and valiantly to understand the blight and find a way to thwart it. It is also a story of hope, of small but vital triumphs, as the secrets of the American chestnut and its deadly nemesis are gradually revealed.

Awards were presented on Thursday, May 29, 2008 on the eve of BookExpo America 2008 in Los Angeles, California at which time the winners were recognized for setting the standards and the pace for the publishing industry.

To request a review copy of *Mighty Giants: An American Chestnut Anthology*, or for more information on The American Chestnut Foundation, please visit www.acf.org or call (828) 281-0047.

###

www.acf.org ● chestnut@acf.org

National Administrative Offices ● 469 Main Street, PO Box 4044, Bennington VT 05201-4044 ● 802.447.0110
Southern Appalachian Regional Office ● One Oak Plaza, Suite 308, Asheville, North Carolina 28801 ● 828.281.0047
Meadowview Research Farms ● 14004 Glenbrook Avenue, Meadowview, Virginia 24361-3349 ● 276.944.4631