



THE
AMERICAN
CHESTNUT
FOUNDATION

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**American Chestnut Tree to be Planted at Turnure Park in honor of the Bicentennial of
Ezra Cornell's Birthday, April 24**

White Plains, NY – It once graced eastern forests from Maine to Georgia and its beauty and strength were legendary. Its nuts fed forest wildlife and became a cash crop for many of the families living in the Appalachian Mountains. But that was before the blight – a blight that wiped out billions of trees throughout the tree's original range in the span of just 50 years.







On April 24 an American chestnut tree donated by The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF) was planted on the grounds of Turnure Park. The tree is a product of TACF's national breeding program – a program that expects to produce a blight-resistant American chestnut tree in the next several years.

TACF President and CEO Marshal Case said, "TACF is proud to be providing an American chestnut tree in honor of Ezra Cornell, founder of my alma mater. The chestnut story is one that brings back memories for the elderly and inspires hope in the young, and we're so pleased that a true American icon will be part of the landscape of this park. We are also pleased that students in the area will be able to learn more about the American chestnut and the importance of restoring it to its native range."

In honor of the 200th birthday anniversary of Ezra Cornell, Cornell alumni Elisabeth Radow of Larchmont and Marshal Case of Vermont, president of The American Chestnut Foundation, fostered a collaboration between the Foundation and Cornell University Cooperative Extension of Westchester to plant native American chestnut trees in Westchester County for Arbor Day,

The tree planting marks the beginning of an ongoing important science experiment in Westchester. Since the blight is still likely to exist in our regional environment, Cornell Cooperative Extension's trained arboriculture staff will observe and care for the tree, determine the presence of the blight and employ special mud packing techniques, if necessary. Local school students can likewise study the history of the American chestnut tree through TACF's

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Charlie Chestnut Environmental Program and enjoy the rare opportunity to visit the tree and observe its progress, firsthand.

Until a blight-resistant American chestnut tree is developed, the presence of these native trees will serve to beautify our parks and provide a real world laboratory in our community to educate and bring attention to the restoration effort of this American icon.

The American Chestnut Foundation is a nonprofit 501-(c)-3 organization with more than 6,000 members nationwide and 15 chapters representing 17 states. It is headquartered in Bennington, VT and has research facilities in Meadowview, VA and a regional office in Asheville, NC. For more information, please visit www.acf.org.

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