



THE
AMERICAN
CHESTNUT
FOUNDATION

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Hike a Mile for the American Chestnut on the Appalachian Trail— Saturday, March 1 at Amicalola Falls State Park

Amicalola Falls, Georgia – The American Chestnut Foundation kicks off its 25th anniversary year March 1-2 with a hike for members, community groups and others who want to take part in the Foundation’s “Hike a Mile for the Chestnut” event along the Appalachian Trail.

TACF’s Georgia chapter will have a booth near the visitor’s center and sign up hikers to count American chestnut sprouts along the way through the 75 miles of the Appalachian Trail in Georgia. Identification cards will be given to all interested parties. Copies of *Mighty Giants: An American Chestnut Anthology* will also be sold. Dr Hill Craddock, a professor at the University of Tennessee and chestnut enthusiast will help instruct hikers on chestnut identification and Mary Belle Price, local longtime supporter of chestnut restoration, will pass the chapter’s baton on to the first hikers Tom and Pat Pachinger at 1 PM on Saturday.

Since the TACF volunteers hiking the trail will be traveling through the heart of chestnut country, the 25th anniversary organizers decided to include a page on TACF’s website www.acf.org/apptrail that allows hikers or groups of hikers to register their miles traveled and the number of American chestnut trees seen from the A.T. Although not a scientific count at all, attention will be drawn to the overall health of the Trail and the American chestnut.

This event gives TACF and TACF’s Georgia Chapter the perfect opportunity to publicize the plight of the American chestnut and the restoration of it to its natural range as well as teach hikers how to identify American chestnut out in the wild.

www.acf.org ● chestnut@acf.org

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The Appalachian Trail Conservancy is sponsoring a *Backpacking Clinic and AT Celebration* at Amicalola Falls State Park to help prepare through hikers and casual walkers for the journey (706-265-1969). There will be demonstrations and workshops by professionals and retailers on an assortment of backpacking gear as well as group discussions on trip preparation.

Thousands of hikers, TACF members and community groups are expected to take part in the A.T. journey during 2008 and other Trail events have been planned in Damascus, Virginia, Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, Rutland, Vermont and near Portland, Maine.

The American Chestnut Foundation is a nonprofit 501-c-3 organization with more than 6,000 members nationally and internationally and chapters in 17 states. It is headquartered in Bennington, VT, and has research facilities in Meadowview, VA as well as regional offices in Asheville, NC, Penn State University and Yale University. To learn more about TACF, please visit www.acf.org.

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