



THE
AMERICAN
CHESTNUT
FOUNDATION

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

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The American Chestnut Foundation announces the planting of an American chestnut tree during Arbor Day celebration at Hildene

Manchester, VT – The American Chestnut Foundation is proud to announce that on Friday, April 25, Arbor Day, at 1 p.m., there will be a celebration of the national holiday by planting an American chestnut tree at the Lincoln Family Home at Hildene. This event honors both the efforts of The American Chestnut Foundation to save the tree and the bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth. The Foundation's recently published book entitled "Mighty Giants: An American Chestnut Anthology" notes that, "Abraham Lincoln, known as a rail splitter, often entered rail splitting contests." Chestnut was the wood of choice for the early split rail fences farmers came to rely on to keep roaming livestock out of crops and gardens.

The event will include a welcome, complete with a short history of the American chestnut tree, a poetry reading, the introduction of TACF President and CEO, Marshal T. Case, and the planting of Hildene's tree with assistance from local school children. The ceremony will conclude with the distribution of sugar maple saplings for the first 100 children.

The American chestnut tree chosen for The Lincoln Family Home at Hildene is a two year old seedling that has been growing in Meadowview, VA at TACF's Research Farms. TACF Staff Pathologist Fred Hebard, has indicated just how special this particular tree is, saying, "We have harvested very few nuts of this generation. It is a third backcross chestnut; the final generation of our breeding program and should be highly blight resistant."

The American Chestnut Foundation's goal is to: "restore the American chestnut tree to its native range within the woodlands of the eastern United States, using scientific research and a breeding

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program developed by its founders." They harvested the first blight-resistant nuts in 2005, and hope to begin reforestation trials with blight-resistant American-type trees before the end of this decade using sound ecological principles. The return of the American chestnut to its former niche in the Appalachian hardwood forest ecosystem is a major restoration project requiring a

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

multi-faceted effort and involves more than 6,000 members, volunteers, research, sustained funding and most importantly, a "sense of the past and a hope for the future." TACF is headquartered in Bennington, Vermont.

For more information on TACF and its national breeding program, visit www.acf.org.

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