



THE  
AMERICAN  
CHESTNUT  
FOUNDATION

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**For Immediate Release**  
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**American Chestnut Tree to be Planted at Monticello in Honor of  
Thomas Jefferson's 265<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Sunday, April 13**

Charlottesville, VA – 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 Sunday, April 13 at 9:30 a.m. an American chestnut tree donated by The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF) will be planted on the grounds of Thomas Jefferson's Monticello near the east walk. The trees are products 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 a tree to this special place where history comes alive for the millions who visit Thomas Jefferson's home each year. The chestnut story is one that brings back memories for the elderly and inspires hope in the young, and we're so pleased that Monticello is featuring the American chestnut in its landscaping and is helping to educate the public about chestnut restoration."

The planting is part of a day long celebration of Thomas Jefferson's 265<sup>th</sup> birthday.

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](http://www.acf.org).

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