



THE
AMERICAN
CHESTNUT
FOUNDATION

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The American Chestnut Foundation breaks ground for new scientific laboratory and research facility in Meadowview

Meadowview, VA – The American chestnut tree 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 Friday, November 21 at 11:00 a.m. The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF) will break ground for a state-of-the-art scientific laboratory and research facility at its Glenn C. Price Research Farm, one of four farms at TACF’s Meadowview Research Farms, to aid in its continuing efforts to restore that mighty giant, the American chestnut. This newest addition to an already successful research program will bring TACF much needed equipment and workspace to use in its work breeding a blight-resistant American chestnut tree, and it comes on the heels of TACF’s 25th anniversary celebration.

The new facility is the result of recommendations by an independent science audit conducted in 2006 by a group of research scientists. TACF asks for regular outside audits of its science program to ensure its continued success. With more than 50,000 trees in the ground and more than 160 acres covered with chestnut orchards, TACF’s Meadowview Research Farms are the cornerstone of a national breeding program that encompasses 17 states in the eastern half of the United States.

“We are obviously thrilled to break ground on a state-of-the-art facility that will carry us into the next quarter century of chestnut restoration,” said TACF President and CEO Marshal Case. “The benefits of this new facility to both our scientists at Meadowview and to our overall program cannot be expressed strongly enough – thanks to several gifts from our members, we are now in an even stronger position to continue our research.” TACF has also signed an agreement to purchase the Wagner Farm, another of its research farms in Meadowview which it had previously leased.

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

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