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Newsletter of the New York State Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation, Inc.

Volume 15, No. 2

Fall/Winter 2010

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### August 2010

Another major step on the route to producing a highly blight resistant American Chestnut tree has taken place. On June 15, 2010, the first 50 transgenic plantlets have been put in federally permitted Lasdon test orchard in TACF-NY District 3, Westchester County, NY, overseen by Frank Munzer, Director and Craig Hibben, Lasdon Manager. Two days later, June 17, 2010, the second federally permitted test planting was accomplished at the William W. White Plantation in Zoar Valley, Western New York, District 9, where 80 plantlets were planted. Both plantations will be monitored by Dr. Charles Maynard, Dr. William Powell, and Andy Newhouse, all of ESF Syracuse. Next spring there will be a third permitted plantation in the Watertown, NY area at Belleville, NY. This site was chosen for cold country testing of American Chestnut. It will be under the leadership of Tom Walker, District 6 Director of TACF-NY.

The plantation will be at the Belleville/Henderson Central School where up to six acres are available for a plantation to be furnished by the coordinator of agriculture of Jefferson County. The Belleville agricultural students will do the hands on caring for the plantlets. What a good setup for everybody concerned for our third test orchard.

At the fall annual meeting in Syracuse, NY, this year we will all anxiously await the test reports from ESF Syracuse on the previously planted plantlets at ESF Syracuse orchards. This report will indicate blight resistance achieved by our program up to date. Please, all members make an effort to attend this year's annual meeting at ESF Syracuse on October 30, 2010, to share these test results.

Long Live the American Chestnut,  
Herbert F. Darling  
President, TACF-NY

## DISTRICT DIRECTORS & THE AREASTHATTHEY SERVE

### DISTRICT 1

Mr. Enrico Nardone Phone: (631) 581-6908 E-mail: [EGNardone@Seatuck.org](mailto:EGNardone@Seatuck.org)

Nassau and Suffolk Counties

### DISTRICT 2

Mr. Dale L. Travis Phone: (212) 243-8373 E-mail: [Dale@DaleTravis.Com](mailto:Dale@DaleTravis.Com)  
New York City District \*See News Release

### DISTRICT 3

Mr. Frank Munzer Home: (845) 266-5138 E-mail: [fwmunz@optonline.net](mailto:fwmunz@optonline.net)  
Sullivan, Ulster, Westchester, Dutchess, Orange, Putnam and Rockland Counties

### DISTRICT 4

Mr. & Mrs. Allen Nichols Phone: (607) 263-5105

E-mail: [fajknichols.75@frontiernet.net](mailto:fajknichols.75@frontiernet.net)

Otsego, Rensselaer, Schenectady, Schoharie, Albany, Columbia, Delaware, Greene and Montgomery Counties

### DISTRICT 5

Mr. Adrien Gaudreau Phone: (518) 882-9424

Hamilton, Saratoga, Warren, Washington, Clinton, Essex, Franklin and Fulton Counties

### DISTRICT 6

Mr. T. Urling Walker Phone: (315) 782-3153

Oneida, St. Lawrence, Jefferson, Herkimer, and Lewis Counties

### DISTRICT 7

Mr. Chris Lyons Phone: (607) 656-9996 E-mail: [c.c.lvons@att.net](mailto:c.c.lvons@att.net)

Onondaga, Oswego, Tioga, Tompkins, Broome, Cayuga, Chenango, Cortland, and Madison Counties

### DISTRICT 8

Mr. Chip Leavy Phone: (585) 453-5179 Office: (585) 453-5179

E-mail: [jleavy@Rochester.rr.com](mailto:jleavy@Rochester.rr.com)

Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne, Yates, Chemung, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, and Orleans Counties

### DISTRICT 9

Mr. William Snyder Phone: (716) 839-5456

Erie, Niagara, Wyoming, Allegany, Cattaraugus, and Chautauqua Counties

## TACFNY 2009 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS OFFICERS 2009

H. F. Darling, Jr., President

Frank Munzer, Vice President

Richard Radel, Treasurer and Secretary

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Herbert F. Darling, Jr., Jack Mansfield, Chairman, Frank Munser, Stanley Wirsig, Arlene Wirsig

**NOMINATIONS**

Any member may submit suggestions for nominations to the Board of Directors to be voted on at the next Annual Meeting. If you know of someone who might be interested in our mission, send his/her name by October 10 to the Nominating Committee Chairman, Jack Mansfield, 349 Roycroft Blvd. Buffalo NY 14226 or by e-mail to sonjack@Roadrunner.com

*Photos of previous harvests*

**DIRECTORS, CLASS OF 2010**

Douglas Campbell; Herbert Darling, Jr John Gordon; Jack Mansfield Richard Radel; John Spagnoli Arlene Wirsig; Stanley Wirsig

**DIRECTORS, CLASS OF 2011**

Jim Donawick; Adrien Gaudreau; Craig Hibben; Ted Kozowski; Leonard Lampel; Robert Nowack; Dr. John Potente

**DIRECTORS, CLASS OF 2012**

Frank Munzer; Margaret Collins Allen Nichols; Chris Lyons Chip Leavy; William Snyder Wayne Cooper; Thomas Deacon John Neuman; Bethany Ruane Dr. Richard Zander

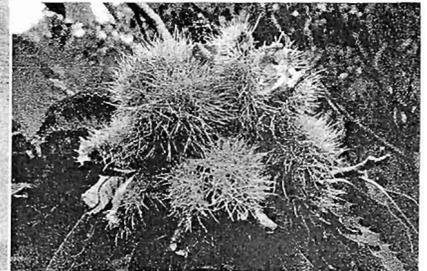
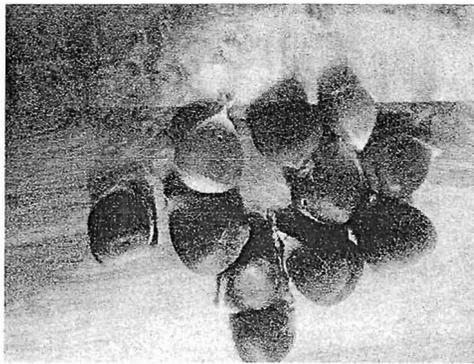
**Keynote Speaker for Annual Meeting, October 30, 2010**  
*Key Autumn Chores in Your Lawn, Landscape & Garden*

Terry L. Ettinger,  
Greenhouse Manager

Department of Environmental and Forest Biology

SUNY-College of Environmental Science & Forestry

Syracuse, New York



District 2 News Release, Daie Travis, New Director for District 2  
District 3 News Release, Go to *The Journal News, White Plains, NY*, Greg Clary, July 12, 2010  
District 9 News Release, Go to *The Buffalo News*, Search American Chestnut 2010

**District 9 Zoar Valley Nut Picking  
William W. White Plantation  
October 9, 2010, 10 a.m.  
Come help us harvest the nuts  
and view the plantation and the new  
plantlets**



Where:  
DoubleTree Hotel Syracuse & SUNY ESF  
6301 State Route 298  
East Syracuse, NY 13057

When:  
October 29, & 30, 2010  
Friday 6 pm – Saturday 10 pm

Tel: 1-315-432-0200 (Hotel) or 1-800-222-TREE (National Reservation Office)

Visit the Hotel's web site [www.syracuse.doubletree.com](http://www.syracuse.doubletree.com) to make your online reservations, and reference Group/convention Code YCC. Reservations must be made prior to October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010 to be at the rate of \$129 per (single or double) room per night. Ask for "American Chestnut Room Block" code YCC. Meetings and facilities touring will be at SUNY School of Environmental Science and Forestry. Check out the website <http://www.esf.edu/outreach/chestnut> for more detailed information.

## Registration Form

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

### Brief Meeting Agenda,

Friday reception and Harvest Exchange at Double Tree Hotel Syracuse, Adams Basin room 7 pm to **10:30** pm. Saturday Continental Breakfast at SUNY-ESF, with meetings and tours of facilities, lunch to be a picnic at the Experiment Station, all included in the registration fee. Saturday night dinner at Double Tree Hotel Syracuse Champlain Room with speaker and entertainment:

### Fees prior to October 8, 2010

Registration Fee @ \$70 each # \_\_\_\_\_ each @ \$70 per person Totals \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Dinner Reservation # \_\_\_\_\_ each @ \$35 per person Totals \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Please circle #\_\_ (Prime Rib) #\_\_ (roasted salmon) #\_\_ (chicken princess)  
Total Registration \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Student

Student Registration Fee @ \$25 each # \_\_\_\_\_ each @ \$25 per person Totals \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Dinner Reservation # \_\_\_\_\_ each @ \$25 per person Totals \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Please circle #\_\_ (Prime Rib) #\_\_ (roasted salmon) #\_\_ (chicken princess)  
Total Registration \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Late Registration (after (October 8, 2010))

Registration Fee @ \$85 each # \_\_\_\_\_ each @ \$85 per person Totals \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Student Registration Fee @ \$45 each # \_\_\_\_\_ each @ \$45 per person Totals \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I expect to bring \_\_\_\_\_ nuts for the Harvest Exchange.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to have \_\_\_\_\_ nuts to plant.

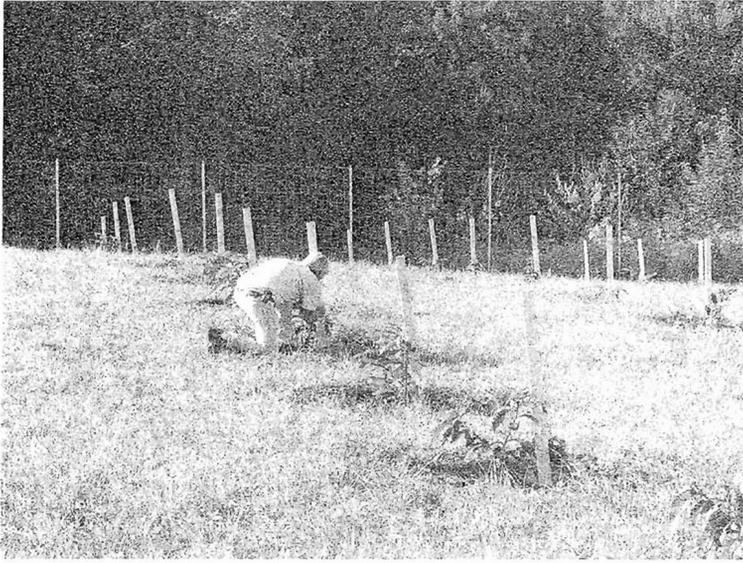
\_\_\_\_\_ Please arrange exhibit space for me.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would be glad to help at the Annual Meeting

\_\_\_\_\_ I would be interested in the following Member Sharing Topics \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: TACFNY  
Mail before October 1<sup>st</sup>, to Richard R. Radel Secretary/Treasurer  
23 Carriage Circle  
Williamsville, NY 14221

**New York State Chapter of the  
American Chestnut Foundation, Inc.  
William H. White Orchard, Zoar Valley, NY**



Ron Karaszewski ties up transgenic trees



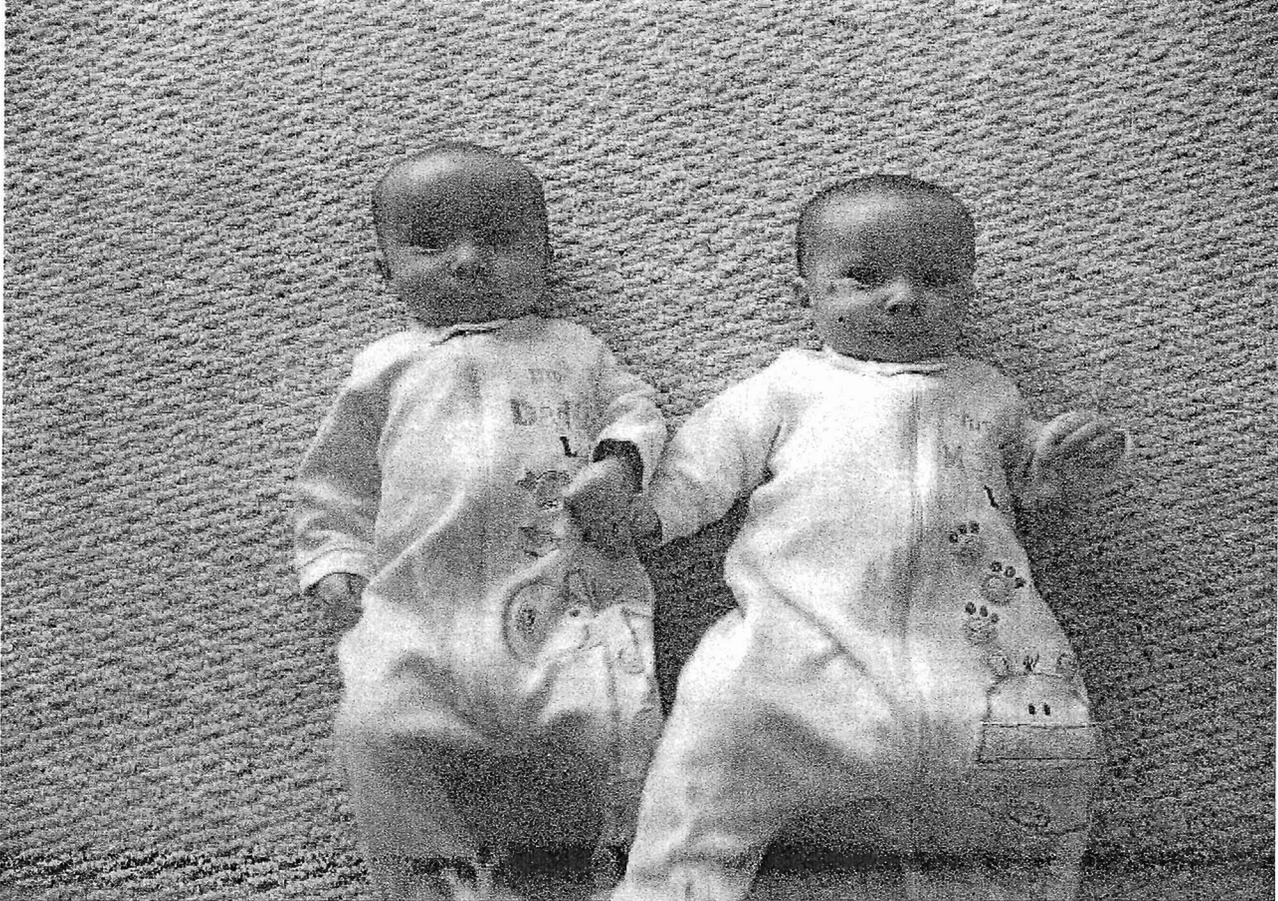
Herb Darling waters transgenic trees



Yes this tree will be blight resistant

## AN INTERESTING NEWS BRIEF

The girls (Anna and Leah) were born December 3 @ 7:49 & 7:50 am. They weighed 6 lbs 5 oz & 6 lbs 6 oz. They're both healthy and doing great. Linda McGuigan, ESF Syracuse



Fall 2010 article for the Bur, The newsletter for New York State Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation

### **Come to Syracuse!**

For the fall meeting of the New York State Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation

By:

Charles Maynard & William Powell

Co-directors of the American Chestnut Research and Restoration Projects

Those of you with sharp eyes will note that we changed our name from "Chestnut Project" to "Chestnut Projects". This was done to reflect the dramatically expanded chestnut research activities we have going on in Syracuse.

On behalf of the dozen or so people in Syracuse who are working hard on the Chestnut Projects, we would love to see you at the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting. We're looking forward to showing all of you what we've accomplished after many years of research, and how the project is expanding across New York State. We've assembled a wonderful team including graduate students, undergraduate students, technicians, visiting scientists, and now we have on board no fewer than five ESF professors. This is probably the most diverse, dedicated, and talented group of people we've ever assembled on the Chestnut project(s). You will get to meet many of them and hear about their research.

### **Highlights**

In the spring of 2009, with the help of TACF members, we planted over 200 transgenic American chestnut trees in central New York, which you will tour during the annual meeting. This year we planted 80 transgenic chestnut trees, along with many control trees for comparison, on two new locations on opposite ends of New York State. These are located in the Lasdon Arboretum near New York City, and in the Zoar Valley Multiple-Use Area near Buffalo. This was the first year we planted transgenic trees on Chestnut Foundation-controlled properties. This was a big step for the program, for the regulatory process, and most of all for the managers of each of the two new planting sites. We're looking forward to hearing presentations from the key players of each of these new test sites.

We were also plenty busy in the laboratory! Because the pipeline from the laboratory to the field is approximately a year and a half long, and it's another two or three years before the trees in the field plots are big enough to inoculate and test for blight resistance, we think it's vitally important to continue the process of adding new genes to the chestnut. We, with the help of the Forest Health Initiative and collaborators at other universities, have been busily searching for more genes to test. Some of these genes even come from the Chinese chestnut.

We currently have about 50 transgenic chestnut "events" at various stages in the pipeline. This pipeline includes newly transformed somatic embryos, regenerated shoots, rooted plants in the growth chamber, and rooted plants in the greenhouse. All of this material is on its way towards the end of the pipeline! And we will soon need to put it in the ground. I (Chuck) took on the task of preparing the field sites for the next two or three years. This preparation included the addition of almost a quarter-mile of new fence, and repairs on another quarter-mile of old fence so that we have the room to test all these trees.

#### **What you'll see on the SUNY-ESF campus if you come to Syracuse for the fall meeting:**

The original GFP microscope showing transgenic American chestnut tissue fluorescing green. This is the instrument that has allowed us to select all of the transformation events now in the field. This instrument was purchased largely with Chestnut Foundation funds and has been instrumental to the success of the project starting about eight years ago.

- The Acclimatization Laboratory. This facility was also funded in part by the Chestnut Foundation and was absolutely key to learning how to get the chestnut plants ready for field trials.
- The renovated greenhouse. When we were granted access to this old greenhouse sometime in the 1980s it was a shell. Many of the windows were broken. There was an empty 2-foot high cement, "wading pool" in the middle of the floor! The benches contained large amounts of asbestos material. The roof vents were terribly unreliable and made a horrendous racket when opened or closed. And finally, the lighting was totally inadequate. The renovated greenhouse has a new cement floor, four self-watering benches, no asbestos, brand-new, whisper-quiet roof vents, and enough lighting to ensure good growth throughout the year. This facility is critically important for growing seedlings that are bigger and acclimatized before they go into the field.
- Two 4-year-old transgenic elm trees 15 to 20 feet tall.

#### **What you'll see on the field tour of the Lafayette Road Experiment Station.**

Our environmental impact study. This is our largest field trial to date and was put in four locations in 2009. Because this was our largest planting, we were very careful to get it done correctly! We also wanted to involve many different people in the initial planting so we invited all of the people in our college as well as local members of the American Chestnut Foundation. Two of these locations are on open field sites where the main competitors are grasses and other short vegetation. The other two plots are our first attempt to establish chestnut trees "out in the woods". They are planted in what foresters call "shelterwood plots." These thinnings in the forest allow a great deal of sunlight to penetrate the forest floor, but also supply some shade, and in most cases would be considerably more aesthetically appealing than a full clear-cut. After two growing seasons, many of these trees are growing vigorously and will undoubtedly survive for many years.

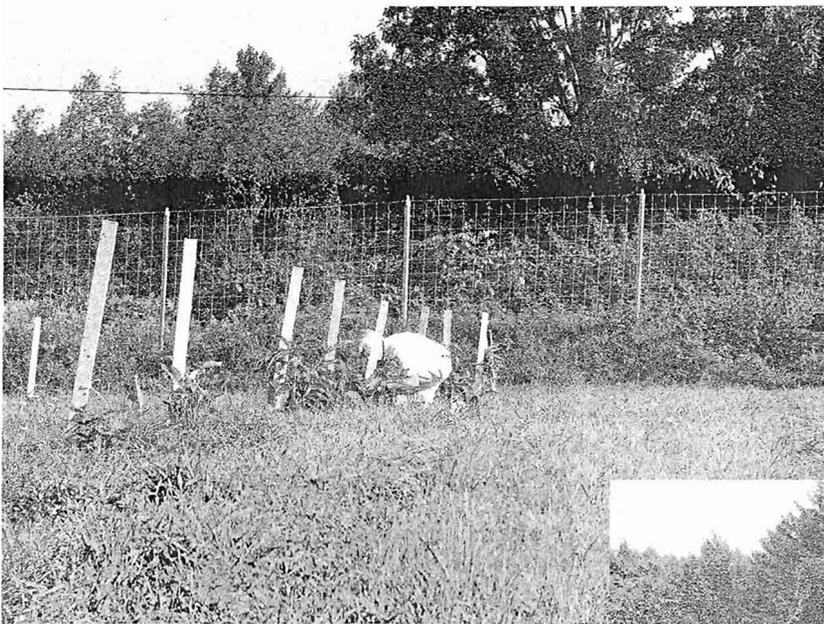
- The American Chestnut Blight Resistance Testing Area (a.k.a. "the big fenced area"). Once again financed by the American Chestnut Foundation, this area, approximately 5 acre's in size, is devoted to chestnut field tests.
  - The inoculation trial plot. This is the big test that everyone is waiting for. All of the different transgenic chestnut trees we have produced to-date are planted here. We plan to inoculate half of this trial next summer. If all goes well, we should have our first reliable blight-resistance reading next fall.
  - The "Darling" chestnut tree. This was the second transgenic variety we assigned a name. It was planted in 2009. It has grown very well.
  - A greenhouse-to-field time study along with a tree shelter study. We wanted to test the effects of several different planting-time treatments on early survival and growth rate. We also wanted to test if protecting the trees from deer was a viable option. The results are most interesting!
  - A field test showing several different grafting techniques. The Northern Nut-Growers Association sponsored this research.
  - A fertilizer treatment study done in the greenhouse that has now been in the field for three years. It pays great dividends to fertilize chestnut trees in the greenhouse so that they are very vigorous when planted in the field.
  - A field trial of transgenic elm trees being tested for elm yellows resistance.
- Another fenced area (a.k.a. the "lower fenced area") Because we share this plot with a number of other projects, there are several interesting things to see:
  - An ESF colleague's Sweetgrass experiment

- Another colleague's large willow breeding tests
- THE 'Wirsig' tree. The first transgenic American chestnut tree to be planted anywhere in the world
- The first tissue culture derived trees producing chestnuts!
- Our largest transgenic American elm planting, which is being tested for Dutch elm disease and elm yellows resistance
- A seedling vs. plantlet field test of American chestnut. This study is now approximately 6 years old and shows what vigorous growth can be achieved in American chestnut.
- A visit to the Old Barn. One of the oldest buildings on either the main or the extended campus is the Old Barn on the Lafayette Road Experiment Station. The college purchased the property in 1912, and the barn was standing at that time. We are in the process of renovating the lowest floor of this barn for the Chestnut project.

The formal meeting is going to be run on a slightly different schedule than in other years. The major difference will be in the number of scientific speakers at the meeting. Because we expect to have around 15 different presentations, we decided to have two science sessions. We realized no one could possibly sit through that many presentations in one big bunch, we decided to shorten each individual presentation and divide them into two shorter scientific presentation sessions, one before lunch and one after lunch.

At the dinner, we have a special ESF speaker, Terry Ettinger. Terry is our campus greenhouse manager, but you might know him from his radio show, "The Weeders Digest", the TV show "Garden Journeys", or the newspaper column "Let's Get Growing." Terry will give a short presentation and then answer your yard and gardening questions. So come prepared to ask your toughest gardening questions.

We are looking forward to seeing all the familiar faces as well as the new. We especially want to invite members that haven't been to the Annual meeting in a few years. You will be amazed at the changes. See you in October!



The BUR  
New York State Chapter of the  
American Chestnut Foundation Inc.  
Richard R. Radel  
13 Carriage Circle  
Williamsville, NY 14221

# THE BUR

Newsletter of the New York State Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation, Inc.

**IF YOU HAVE FRIENDS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN OUR  
GOAL OF RESTORING THE AMERICAN CHESTNUT,  
PLEASE GIVE THEM THIS APPLICATION.**

## Membership Application

Enclosed is my  
membership support of

- Gold leaf, \$1000
- Silver leaf, \$500
- Bronze leaf, \$250
- Green leaf, \$100
- Regular, \$40
- Student, \$15
- Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Special Gift to NY  
State Chapter \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is an additional contribution in the amount of  
\$\_\_\_\_\_ in support of the New York State Chapters' activities.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

This is a gift membership from: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership includes subscriptions to The Bark and Journal of the American Chestnut Foundation and enrollment in the New York State Chapter. The Chapter publishes the BUR, helps guide research at CESF, and includes nine Districts for local involvement in maintaining the American chestnut gene pool. Please make check payable to The American Chestnut Foundation, PO Box 4044, Bennington, VT 05201-4044. TACF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Except for the member services portion of your contribution (valued at \$15), your gift is tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

The American Chestnut Foundation, 469 Main Street, PO Box 4044, Bennington, Vermont 05201-4044