President and CEO Marshal T. Case

As we build momentum and look ahead to our 25th anniversary year there are several items of great significance that made 2007 an outstanding year for The American Chestnut Foundation. The consistently strong effort and commitment from board members, staff, chapter members and volunteers are at the top of the list of the many things that I am grateful for when I reflect on all we have accomplished together in 2007.

Our anthology, *Mighty Giants: An American Chestnut Anthology* was published just in time for our annual meeting and will be the keystone of our 25th anniversary year. It is attractive, scholarly, visually very pleasing, and loaded with writings and visuals that will inspire not only our own membership but capture the attention of a broad new audience. It should lead to new wide coverage by the media and that draws new financial support for our science program. A big thank you to Mary Belle Price for allowing us to borrow funds from the special Price Fund in order to commit to carrying out this project.

TACF has continued to take part in events that helped heighten awareness of our mission and increase both the quality and quantity of publicity we receive. Plantings at the Abraham Lincoln Historic Birthsite, the North Carolina Governor’s Western Residence in Asheville, the U.S. Department of Interior, and Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello all provided opportunities to educate the public about restoring the American chestnut.

We have received excellent coverage from National Geographic magazine, Christian Science Monitor, Washington Post, and Associated Press as well as regular publicity in media outlets in our chapter states.

One of the most exciting moments of my ten plus years with TACF happened in December. I received a message that I was to call the Carter Center. I was patched through to Lauren at the Carter Center and the next voice I heard was President Carter who then shared that I should call the Turner Foundation as there was interest in helping us out. We chatted about “Mighty Giants” and I thanked him for signing 24 copies for us to sell as part of the 25th anniversary drive. Then, I immediately called Mike Finley at the Turner Foundation and we discussed some potential support for science and funding. This is very exciting for us as Mike said that Ted Turner has a personal interest in our unprecedented success in moving our science forward to probably achieve “the impossible”.

The sustained and increased support of several of TACF’s longtime partners has resulted in a 2008 budget of $1.8 million. We remain a line item in the Forest Service budget and continue to receive bipartisan support from legislators who recognize that our mission transcends political party lines. We are financially sound but challenged to sustain the cash flow. Our staff work hard to keep costs down while looking for new funding opportunities.

Our growth as an organization over the past year has been steady with membership levels increasing to reach a total of 5,848 in 2007. The Farm Campaign raised $138,000 and both membership and financial growth can be attributed to sound financial management and unwavering support from our members. In recognition of our sound fiscal practices and management, I’m proud to say that once again, TACF received the coveted four star rating from Charity Navigator, America’s premier judge of charitable organizations.

We have only a single staffing change this year with the hiring of Lou Bedor III as Publications Director.

At our annual meeting in Burlington this year, we officially established the Vermont/New Hampshire chapter bringing our total to 15 chapters in 17 states. The VT/NH is a growing
TACF and the Department of Interior Office of Surface Mining planted young American chestnuts as part of a partnership that recognizes the role of the American chestnut in mined land reclamation.

Membership increased to 5,848.

TACF planted five chestnut trees at Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello.

In partnership with the National Park Service and the Kentucky of Surveyors, TACF planted American chestnuts in honor of the bicentennial of Lincoln’s birth.

TACF was accepted as an environmental organization by One Percent for the Planet, a coalition of businesses that could bring us a new stream of revenue.

The Farm Campaign raised $138,000 for farm improvements.

Charity Navigator awarded TACF its highest rating for fiscal responsibility -- four stars.


TACF co-hosted the first ever conference on mined land reforestation efforts in Abingdon, Virginia. The conference was also hosted by Virginia Tech’s Powell River Project and by Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy.

The Blue Ridge Parkway in North Carolina installed a large permanent exhibit on the American chestnut as part of its new visitors center.

The 2007 annual meeting was held in Burlington, Vermont and featured opening remarks by Vermont Governor Jim Douglas, a keynote address from environmentalist and author Bill McKibben, and a grand tour of the chestnut orchards of Paul and Eileen Growald.

TACF officially established the Vermont/New Hampshire state chapter at the annual meeting.

A redesign of TACF’s marketing materials as well as TACF’s website resulted in a newer, more modern, up-to-date look.

President and CEO, Marshal T. Case continued from page 1

chapter with strong leadership and it has generated quite a bit of publicity since October. Our annual meeting was one of our largest ever and featured musician Paul Winter, environmentalist and author Bill McKibben and Paul and Eileen Growald who so graciously opened their farm to us.

The field and farm staff at the Meadowview Research Farm worked hard and the result was a very large yield. We purchased a fourth farm this year which helped increase our ability to move our science program forward. A very generous donor has committed to funding the purchase of our fourth farm.

As we close out 2007, I can’t help but be impressed with the dedication and commitment from all corners of TACF -- staff, volunteers, state chapter leadership, and our many partners. We are well-positioned for a memorable 25th anniversary. As Bill McKibben said in his introduction to “Mighty Giants”, we are part of this “noble band who has carefully nurtured the dream of a resurgent chestnut forest, and done the endlessly patient work to make it happen.”

I’m proud to be a member of this noble band.
Priorities for the future

- Continue to gain more major donors, corporate and foundation support as part of 25th (2008) initiatives
- Coal surface mined lands and American chestnut plantings will be considered as a high priority field test project
- Breeding of Meadowview lines based on the Clapper, Mahogany, and Nanking sources of resistance will continue
- Begin initial testing of the Graves-derived offspring in 2008
- Chapter breeding programs will continue with the first testing of Pennsylvania Chapter Clapper-derived offspring in 2008, with other chapters to follow as seed are available
- TACF’s external grant program will focus on restoration questions. TACF and partners will sponsor symposia on restoration and reforestation. The regional adaptability program will proceed and planting sites for initial B3F3 releases will be chosen
- Strive for balance of science, business, corporate, volunteer, academic, and fiduciary talent on Board of Directors
- Develop with USDA Forest Service and National Wild Turkey Federation preliminary early trial planting plan on specified units on Forest Service land

Five young American chestnuts were planted at Abraham Lincoln Birthsite in Hodgenville, Kentucky. Shown (l to r): National Park Service Director Sandy Brue, Marshal Case, Rex Mann, and Hill Craddock.

TACF and the Virginia Chapter planted several young American chestnuts on the grounds of Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello this year.

Displaying an American chestnut in Connecticut.

Marshall Case presents a copy of TACF’s anthology to Vermont Governor Jim Douglas. VT Chapter member Terry Gulick stands at the podium.
Fast growing American chestnuts offer hope to land previously used for coal surface mining.

### Major Donors

#### $250,000+
- Brad Stanback and Shelli Lodge-Stanback
- USDA Forest Service
- The Pew Charitable Trusts

#### $50,000-$249,999
- Richard S. Will
  - The National Forest Foundation
  - National Science Foundation

#### $20,000-$49,999
- Black Beauty Coal Company
- Wolf Creek Charitable Foundation
- Mr. & Mrs. E.L. Nicholson
- Judy Kern

#### $10,000-$19,999
- Lyndhurst Foundation
- Mr. & Mrs. Fred Stanback, Jr.
- Robert H. Dunlap
- Barbara B. Knapp
- Paul and Eileen Growald

#### $5,000-$9,999
- David D. Cox, CFA

#### $2,000-$4,999
- Donald J. Trufant
- Knox Family Foundation
- Jack McKee
- David Wilson and Melody Wilder
- Benson Woodworking
- Stephen Barilovits III and Jane Laurents
- Dr. William L. MacDonald
- John P. Murtaugh
- Eva Greger Morse
- MeadWestvaco Forestry Division
- Appalachian Antique Hardwoods LLC
- Mark J. Ohrstrom Jr.
- Clyde E. Perdue

#### $1,000-$1,999
- AEP - Land Management Dept.
- Betty Johnson
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- Carlos Lopez
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- Dr. A. Mitchell Burford Jr.
- George A. Mathews
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- George F. Varsam
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- James L. Johnson
- George Thompson
- Carl Mayfield
- Bailey Nurseries, Inc
- James Underwood Crockett, A.T.G. Fund
- Sandy Lerner
- Mason Dixon Energy
The American Chestnut Foundation
Summary of Expenses For the Year Ended
June 30, 2007

$223,296.00  13%
$49,985.00   3%
$1,483,892.00  84%

- Program Service
- Management and General
- Fundraising
“From my earliest recollections, chestnuts have embodied some of the most profound lessons that nature – including human nature – can offer.”

President Jimmy Carter

“Mighty Giants: An American Chestnut Anthology”

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The American Chestnut Foundation
www.acf.org

Administrative Office
469 Main Street, Suite One, P.O. Box 4044
Bennington, Vermont 05201
(802) 447-0110

Meadowview Research Farms
14005 Glenbrook Avenue
Meadowview, Virginia 24361
(276) 944-4631

Southern Appalachian Regional Office
One Oak Plaza, Suite 308
Asheville, North Carolina 28801
(828) 281-0047

Pennsylvania State University
Breeding Program Partnership
School of Forest Resources
206 Forest Resources Lab
Penn State University,
University Park, PA 16802
(814) 863-7192

New England Regional Office
Yale University
Greeley Lab ~ 370 Prospect Street
New Haven, CT 06511
(203) 598-5808 (cell)