MEDIA ALERT******CALENDAR EVENT *******MEDIA ALERT *******

Historic American chestnut trees return to Jamestown May 7 in a ceremony at Grisez Arboretum

Jamestown, NY—Spring is here and The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF) is planting two of its potentially blight-resistant American chestnut trees at the Grisez Arboretum located at the Jamestown Audubon Society. The planting takes place on Friday, May 7 at 11:00 a.m. The event is open to the public.

The planting of these trees honors Ted Grisez, after whom the Arboretum is named, and Don Dorn who came up with the idea to recognize Ted. The men are life-long friends and both Ted and Don had highly successful careers in the US Forest Service. Ted Grisez was a scientist at the Northern Research Station in Pennsylvania. Dorn was a geneticist in the National Forest system, with many years at the Allegheny National Forest in Warren, PA. After retirement, each man gave very generously of himself to any natural science related community organization, including the local outdoor club, the Jamestown Audubon Society and TACF. Both were also wonderful mentors to young professionals in the natural resources field.

The New York Chapter was the first of TACF’s chapters. For nearly 20 years chapter members have been working with Environmental Science and Forestry School at SUNY Syracuse to restore the American chestnut through a specialized Gene Transfer Program. By taking genes for blight resistance from native plants including wheat, and then inserting them into American chestnut material, the partnership of TACF-NY and ESF SUNY Syracuse hopes to produce a blight-resistant American chestnut tree. For more information on joining the New York chapter, please contact District 9 representative Bill Snyder at 716-839-5456 or visit the chapter website at www.acf.org/Chapters_ny.php.

Media should contact Meghan Jordan, Director of Communications for TACF at (828) 713-9547 if they need additional information about the trees or background on TACF.

When: Friday, May 7, 2010
11:00 a.m.

Where: The Grisez Arboretum at the Jamestown Audubon Society
1600 Riverside Road * Jamestown, NY

Directions: Call (716) 569-2345 for directions
About the American chestnut
With its wide trunks and heights that stretched to 100 feet in the Eastern forests, wildlife and rural families alike favored the American chestnut throughout the 1800s and early 1900s for its nutritious nuts, an important cash crop for many Appalachian communities. As a straight hardwood lighter than oak and virtually rot resistant, chestnut timber was used for everything from railroad ties to musical instruments. A foreign fungus imported in 1904 devastated the tree, and by 1950, the king of the forest was nearly destroyed by the chestnut blight.

About TACF
The American Chestnut Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization headquartered in Asheville, NC. It has nearly 6,000 members and chapters in 17 states, including New York. TACF was established in 1983 with the sole purpose of restoring this majestic tree to its native forests in the eastern United States, and the Foundation has supported the efforts of scientists who are working to develop a blight-resistant American chestnut. For more information about the Foundation, please visit our website at www.acf.org.