

# Chestnut Mast



Volume 7, Issue 1 Newsletter of the Carolinas Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation Pollination 2005

## 2005 Spring Plantings

The first Carolinas Chapter “spring planting event” took place March 26 at the Edneyville, NC, farm of Scott and Nancy Pryor. Scott has cleared nearly an acre on a hilltop for a Backcross 3 (BC3) orchard. The female parents of the planted seed were native North Carolina American chestnut trees, and the male parents were moderately blight-resistant BC2 trees from TACF’s Meadowview Research Farms. About 100 trees from each cross will be grown up to four years of age, at which time they will be inoculated with chestnut blight to find out which ones have moderate resistance similar to their male parent. These moderately resistant BC3 trees will then be intercrossed to produce BC3F2 trees, some of which should have high resistance to the blight. The first Carolinas BC3 orchard was planted in 2001, and the Chapter hopes to have blight-resistant seed for testing about 2012—seven years from now.



*Nancy and Scott Pryor in their soon-to-be chestnut plantation in Edneyville, NC.*

Other BC3 orchards will be planted on land of cooperators who can provide fertilization and weed and pest control. All cooperators have also signed TACF’s Germplasm Agreement, which protects the seed and trees during the critical breeding and testing period.

*Paul Sisco, Ph.D., TACF Regional Science Coordinator*

## USDA Forest Service Chestnut Meeting in Asheville

On February 3rd and 4th, about 30 USDA Forest Service (USFS) employees met in Asheville for a planning session with The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF).

The signing of the nationwide Memorandum of Understanding between the USFS and TACF last October opened the way

for cooperation on many levels. This meeting focused on the South (Region 8), with representatives from forests in Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, and North Carolina. Don Tomczak, Region 8 Silviculturist, and Barbara Crane, Region 8 Geneticist, orga-

*See Asheville, page 6*



*USFS and TACF representatives pose for a group photo in Asheville.*

## CC-TACF 2005 Spring Meeting: Saturday, April 23, Clemson, SC

Members should have already received their announcements in the mail for the annual Carolinas Chapter meeting on Saturday, April 23. The meeting is being held in Lethotsky Hall Auditorium, at Clemson University, Clemson, South Carolina. If you did not receive a registration form, please call the regional office in Asheville, 828-281-0047.

The goal of this meeting is to impart knowledge in a fun and friendly atmosphere to you, the members. For it is you who will ultimately determine the success or failure of our efforts.

We are blessed this year with an impressive array of well known and accomplished scientists, each of whom has worked directly on different parts of the “chestnut problem.” There will be time for questions, for fellowship, for member sharing, and a short field trip to “Chestnut Return” (Joe James’ farm, Seneca, South Carolina). Registration fees are \$15 for members, \$20 for couples, \$10 for students, and \$25 for non-members. (The non-member fee covers the meeting and the first year’s annual dues.)

**Please Come and Bring a Friend**

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## Growers' Tips

Please send us your tips, tricks and methods for growing chestnuts.

chestnutmast@bellsouth.net

## President's Message



### Carolinan Chapter Summary of Activities

First and foremost, I would like to say that The American Chestnut Foundation and the Carolinas Chapter have continued to make progress toward our ultimate goal of restoring the American chestnut. In the process, many events have occurred during the past twelve months. Following are highlights of the more important accomplishments of the Chapter and at the national foundation level.

You may have visited our newly revised website at [www.carolinan-tacf.org](http://www.carolinan-tacf.org). Thanks to Doug Gillis, it is attractive, easy to use and should be very useful to all.

Also in the realm of publicity, we had an article in the February 2005 issue of *Our State, Down Home in North Carolina* magazine by Elizabeth Weigand. It is the best news article on American chestnut I have read. Thanks again to Doug Gillis and K.O. Summerville for making this possible.

As you have noticed, this newsletter you are reading continues to get better as the result of the hard work done by John and Jane Frampton. If you have something you would like to submit for publication in the newsletter, you may contact the co-editors through the website or via their e-mail address listed to the left.

This past fall, a field trip to Pilot Mountain was organized and led by Steve Barilovits, III, with the help of K.O. Summerville. They are planning to repeat this trip in mid-May (see details, page 3). It is hoped that many more local field trips can be organized and carried out with the goal to have fun, get to know other members, and learn together.

Root rot disease, caused by *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, has attracted recent attention as a significant source of the original chestnut decline but also continues as a threat

to re-introduction efforts, especially in the southern Piedmont. Through research by Dr. John Frampton and his graduate student Mollie Bowles and separately by Dr. Steve Jeffers and myself, the Carolinas Chapter has led the way toward awakening the national foundation and all its chapters to this serious threat. Updates on the status of this research will be given at the April 23<sup>rd</sup> spring membership meeting at Clemson University. Plan to be there!

The national annual meeting was held this past fall in Asheville (see article in *Chestnut Mast*, Vol. 6, Issue 2, Harvest 2004). It was well attended and productive. You can't beat "southern hospitality."

Paul Sisco, Ph.D., by virtue of a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, obtained the aid of two summer interns. Austin Wagner and Steven Slack were immense help to a very busy Paul Sisco. Dr. Sisco will also be updating us on his genetic marker research at the upcoming April 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

As you know, our Chapter survives on a shoestring. So, the very generous gift the chapter received from the Ecology Wildlife Foundation was not only greatly appreciated, but also vital.



On the national scene, several major activities come to mind. First, the U.S. Congress granted a \$250,000 allocation to the national foundation in Vermont for the year 2004. Another grant should be forthcoming in 2005. Presently it is not budgeted after 2005. Unlike the Ecology Wildlife Foundation gift, the federal grant is subject to "trickle down" and must be shared over all the chapters.

Second, a somewhat spontaneous and very important meeting was held at the Middletown campus of the Miami University of Ohio in February, 2005. Many very important governance issues and practical "growers" issues were discussed. Ron Myers, past chapter president who represented us at this gathering, will present the major points at the Clemson meeting.

Finally, through the work of Marshal Case, TACF President and CEO, a "Memorandum of Understanding" was issued in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service. This has far reaching ramifications such as providing for access by TACF to the vast eastern forests administered by the Forest Service for the purpose of planting and re-establishing the American chestnut.

Joe James, Chapter President

## Chapter Website Update

Do you recognize the Web address for the Carolinas Chapter website—[www.carolinas-tacf.org](http://www.carolinas-tacf.org)? Have you visited the site lately?

The Chapter's website was redesigned last fall and installed on October 31, 2004. For the four month period, November 2004 through February 2005, an average of 158 unique visitors have viewed the site each month for an average of 234 visits per month, or roughly three visits for each two people.

Each visitor on average looks at four of the pages on the website. Most visitors are from the United States and a few are from Canada. A number of folks from Europe and the Pacific Rim countries have also visited. Perhaps that is due to their knowledge of

European or Asian varieties of chestnut trees and their interest in the American chestnut. Surprisingly, 100 visitors from the Dominican Republic viewed our Chapter's site. One person from Togo, located in western Africa, signed on.



It is time for feedback. What do you think of the site design? Are you finding it easy to navigate? Certainly the content needs to be kept fresh. I have agreed to maintain and update the information. I need your help in that regard. Please send me information and pictures that can be placed in an album. You need to

participate in the effort to keep the website interesting and informative.

You may contact me by e-mail, [Dmgillis@aol.com](mailto:Dmgillis@aol.com), or phone at 704.542.0627.

*Doug Gillis, CC-TACF Board Member*

## Chestnut Hike to be Held at Pilot Mountain State Park

The Carolinas Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation will lead a Chestnut Hike at Pilot Mountain State Park on Saturday, May 14, 2005, from noon till 2:00 p.m. Come out with us to explore some of the trails around the pinnacles at Pilot Mountain. You'll see surviving but blighted American chestnuts in their natural environment near the summit growing with another native chestnut species, the Allegheny chinquapin. The hike will finish with an observation of a 60-foot tall surviving American chestnut about a mile from the pinnacle summit.

Pilot Mountain State Park is located at 1792 Pilot Knob Park Road, Pinnacle, NC 27043.

The mountain section of the park is located 24 miles north of Winston-Salem, NC and 14 miles south of Mt. Airy, NC on US Highway 52. To enter the park, take the Pilot Mountain State Park exit on Highway 52, and proceed west up the park road. For more information about the park visit [ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/pimo/home.html](http://ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/pimo/home.html) or call 336-325-2355.

*Steve Barilovits, III*



## Editor's Memo

Here is my story about volunteering. I was "volunteered" by my husband, John, to be the co-editor of this newsletter. We share the task, and in addition, he serves on the board of directors. Our schedules and location in the Raleigh area don't allow us to do the volunteer fieldwork that we would like to do in the western part of the state or at Meadowview Research Farms. So we use our talents and interests in other ways. I truly enjoy putting this newsletter together twice a year. I like the basic tasks of editing, I get to use a cool layout program, and in the end try to put out a pleasing product that serves our members.

There are lots of opportunities for you as Chapter members to volunteer. Starting with this publication, we could use people to write articles, submit news items, take photos, or contribute chestnut memories or growers' tips. (E-mail us at [chestnutmast@bellsouth.net](mailto:chestnutmast@bellsouth.net).) Leading a hike in chestnut territory or meeting in a park for a workshop on chestnut ecology are possibilities for offering your services. Helping organize and assist with meetings would also benefit the Chapter. And, of course, there is always pollination season (June and July) and harvest season (September) where field volunteers are invaluable.

Please consider these ways to assist the Carolinas Chapter, and if you have other ideas not listed here that would truly help the organization, let us know. Remember, you may have success volunteering your spouse. And, as always, financial contributions to your local Chapter are welcomed. You can print and fill out a volunteer registration form from our website, [www.carolinas-tacf.org](http://www.carolinas-tacf.org), or contact Louis Acker (Northwest NC Region) [ackerlouis@hotmail.com](mailto:ackerlouis@hotmail.com), Paul Sisco (Asheville Region) [paul@acf.org](mailto:paul@acf.org), or Joe James (Southwest NC and South Carolina) [s4e4j4@cs.com](mailto:s4e4j4@cs.com).

*Jane Frampton, Co-Editor*



## Book Review

### Sweet Chestnut History, Landscape, People by Chris Howkins

This is a wonderfully illustrated book on the history of chestnut in England from Roman times to the present. Chris Howkins is a naturalist and writer specializing in ethnobotany. According to [www.ethnobotany.com](http://www.ethnobotany.com), "ethnobotany is the study of plants used by specific cultures for various reasons...drawing upon the studies of botany, anthropology, phytochemistry, sociology, medicine as well as agriculture."

The interrelationship of man and the chestnut tree in Great Britain is the subject of every chapter of the book, and the scope of that 2000-year history is what I found so fascinating.

The chestnut tree found in England is *Castanea sativa*, commonly called the European, Spanish, or sweet chestnut. The European chestnut may be the closest living relative of our American chestnut, *Castanea dentata*, and like our American species, it is susceptible to both the chestnut blight and Phytophthora root rot.

During the last ice age, European chestnut trees were probably driven back to eastern Turkey and the Caucasus, and perhaps also to southern Spain. From there, the Greeks and Romans planted the tree extensively over the Mediterranean world for its value as a nut tree and as a source of rapidly-growing and rot-resistant wood.

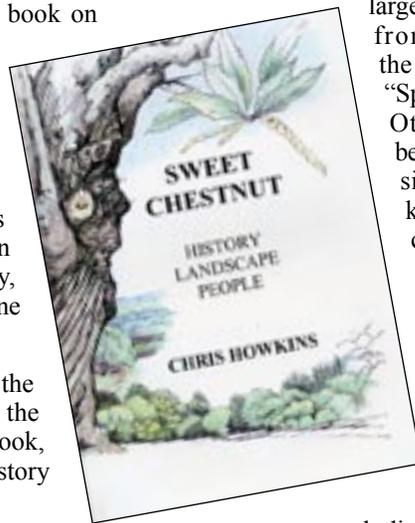
The best archaeological and written evidence indicates that chestnut trees were brought to England by the Romans 2000 years ago. The first question the author attempts to answer is why the Romans would have bothered to bring the tree to Britain in the first place. What particular use did it have that made it worth importing?

Publisher: Chris Howkins  
Printer: Unwin Brothers, Ltd.  
Publication Date: 2003  
ISBN 1-901087-40-9

Available from Summerfield Books  
[www.summerfieldbooks.com](http://www.summerfieldbooks.com)

Paperback. 96 pages. Price is £15 plus shipping from England. (Total cost of book plus shipping is about US \$50, depending on exchange rate).

He suggests four possible reasons: (1) for their nuts as food; (2) for a source of fast-growing firewood; (3) for making charcoal for smelting metals; and (4) as a source of poles for vineyards. The nuts of chestnut trees in England are not large, and most chestnuts used



as food in Britain are larger nuts imported from Spain, thus the common name "Spanish chestnut." Other woods are better for firewood, since chestnut is known to "pop" cinders a lot, and the main center of metal smelting in Britain is north and west of the area where most of the chestnut trees are found. After much discussion, he concludes that the primary reason may have been as a source of fast-growing, rot-resistant poles for vineyards, since wine-making was an important part of Roman culture, and no native British tree combined fast growth with rot resistance.

He then traces the uses of chestnut wood and poles after the Roman period, most of which take advantage of its rot-resistance — props in the coal mines, poles in the hop



*A basket weaver uses chestnut wood in his craft at the Third International Chestnut Congress in Portugal last year.*

orchards and planks for fencing. Those of us who attended the Third International Chestnut Congress in Portugal last October saw another use of strips of chestnut wood — for basket-making (*see photo below*). In England, these baskets are called "trugs," probably from the Saxon word "troog" meaning "boat," because they are shaped like a small boat. Later, chestnut was used for pulpwood and tannin extraction, much as it was in the southern United States. (*See, for example, the article about Champion Paper's chestnut extract plant in Canton, NC, in the Fall, 2004, Journal of The American Chestnut Foundation.*) Little chestnut in Britain was used for structural timbers in buildings, however, unlike the situation in the United States or even France.

In the 19th century, rows of chestnut trees in England were planted for coppice. The main stems were cut off, and side shoots were allowed to grow to pole size. These coppice orchards are now neglected in the English countryside, and Chris Howkins makes an impassioned plea for their preservation as part of the landscape.

Those having an interest in chestnut and planning a trip to Britain would be well to read this book for its directions to old and interesting chestnut trees, some on National Trust preserved lands. But the outstanding value of this book is that it gives one a sense of how a particular tree species was integrated into human culture for over 2000 years. The numerous drawings, most done by the author himself, wonderfully illustrate the text.

*Paul Sisco, Ph.D., TACF Regional Science Coordinator*



We are looking for reviews of books having to do with chestnuts. If you would like to write a review please send it the editors at [chestnutmast@bellsouth.net](mailto:chestnutmast@bellsouth.net). If you have a suggestion for a book review please let us know and we can find someone to review it.



## Nominees for CC-TACF Board of Directors

Elections for CC-TACF Board of Directors will be held during the spring chapter meeting at Clemson University. Below are current nominations. If you wish to nominate a member or yourself, contact BOD member and chair of the Nomination Committee, Carol Namkoong (GNamkoong@compuserve.com), at least one week prior to the chapter meeting. Please include the phone number and e-mail address of the nominated person(s).

### New Candidates

**Scott Pryor** Scott and his wife Nancy are retired educators who reside in Gwinnett County, GA. Both are native Tarheels. They are excited to provide a site on their mountain property for the Regeneration Project for the establishment of the American Chestnut Tree. The initial phase begins this spring when BC3 nuts are planted on their family's former apple orchard in Edneyville, NC. Scott has served as interim appointed term on the board for one year.

### Running for Re-election

**Louis Acker** Louis, an engineering geologist with the N.C. Dept. of Transportation, coordinates the chapter mother tree and breeding program for northwestern N.C. He previously worked as an exploration geologist in the Carolinas and eastern U.S. He and his wife, Allie Funk, live on a farm in the Ashe County community of Creston, NC.

**Steve Barilovits, III** Steve is an electrical engineer with Talon Logic Corporation, an integrated circuit design firm that he co-founded. He became interested in chestnut trees during hikes in North Carolina and Massachusetts with his son, Steve, IV, who at age 10 became TACF's youngest full member. Steve, III, and his wife Jane Laurent live in Charlotte, N.C., where she is on the history faculty of UNC-Charlotte.

**John Frampton** John is an associate professor and leader of the Christmas Tree Genetics Program in the Dept. of Forestry at N.C. State University. John has expertise in various aspects of tree breeding including control-pollination, grafting, rooted cutting propagation, pest resistance screening, and genetic field-testing. John's office, lab, and the greenhouses are on main campus in Raleigh but he frequently travels to western North Carolina for fieldwork. John and his wife, Jane, are co-editors of the *Chestnut Mast*.

**Joe James** Joe, a retired orthopedic surgeon, has been interested in wildlife since his college days at Clemson University and started working with chestnut trees over 12 years ago. He now serves as the chapter president. Joe and his wife, Sandy, live on their farm, Chesnut Return, in Seneca, S.C.

**Jack Johnston** Jack lives in Rabun County in northeast Georgia and works as an RN in the ER for a hospital in nearby Stephens County. He has a B.S. in biology, employing this degree in his previous work with a museum of natural history and also in laboratory biology, as well as completing environmental assessments of properties. He spends a lot of time in the woods of northeast Georgia, southwest North Carolina and north Alabama looking for surviving American chestnut trees. An amateur botanist, Jack has learned grafting techniques to help us increase the genetic diversity of our chapter breeding program.

**Don Surrette** Don is retired from Agfa Corporation, a film-making plant in Transylvania County, where he worked as a Controls Technologist. At their home in Pisgah Forest, N.C., Don and his wife, Norma, are taking care of a BC3 orchard of chestnut trees. Don was co-founder of Carolina Mountains Credit Union, formerly DuPont Employees Credit Union. He enjoys working with wood and hiking.



### Winter Board Meeting

The Carolinas Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation Board of Directors met at DuPont State Forest, Guion Farmhouse on February 19, 2005.

General topics covered at the meeting were the website, publicity, hikes, the annual spring chapter meeting, upcoming board elections, treasurer's report, chapter breeding report, and Phytophthora research.

*Board Members: (l-r) John Frampton, Don Surrette, Jack Johnston, K.O. Summerville, Scott Pryor, Carol Namkoong, Steve Barilovits, Joe James, Doug Gillis, Louis Acker. Also present, taking photo, Paul Sisco. Absent: Ron Myers*



## Chestnut Connections: Stories, Recollections and Profiles from Members

*This feature shares inspiring chestnut stories and memories. Please send yours to [chestnutmast@bellsouth.net](mailto:chestnutmast@bellsouth.net).*



*Paul Dunn*

I am 85 plus years old and was born in Blount County, Tennessee. I came into this world about the time the last of the American chestnut trees were dying. My Daddy worked all his life at sawmills.

I grew up in chestnut country. My family moved several times but we were always in the mountains of eastern Tennessee, eastern Kentucky, and southwestern Virginia. We always lived in lumber camps.

Until 1935, we could always find chestnuts.

Many Sunday afternoons were spent gathering chestnuts. My Daddy worked six days a week at the sawmill, so Sunday afternoons were the only time he could go with us.

We moved to Pathfork, Kentucky (Harlan

County), in 1927 where Bringardner Lumber Company had built a sawmill. Nearly the entire lumber camp was built of sound wormy chestnut wood. This included about 25 houses, the company store, the boarding house, and the shop. In addition, the timbers for the mill and the cross-ties for the railroad were built using wormy chestnut.

Mountain people used chestnut for most everything; to build houses, barns, split-rail fences, picket fences, fence posts, furniture, and coffins.

Chestnut lumber was straight-grained and finished well. It was the choice lumber for so many things.

In 1935 while still in high school, I worked the summers helping ship air-dried lumber. We shipped railroad boxcars loaded with up to 30,000 board feet of sound wormy chestnut—boards up to 20 inches wide and 16 feet long. I did this through the summer of 1937.

In the 1930s, the hills and mountains were well freckled with bleached and gray chestnut giants. When I came back from World War II, they were all gone. You could find those that had fallen. It took years for them to rot. Some can still be found but they are soft and falling apart.

I left my mountains in 1946. I always go back at least once each year. I am a product of Appalachia and those mountains will always be a part of me, and I, a part of them.

*Paul Dunn*



## Well-Worn Chestnuts

Have you a well-worn chestnut that you carry around with you? I am talking about a chestnut that is an old, frequently repeated story. One that is smooth from rolling it around in your mind, all the fuzziness gone after having told it many times.

If you have such a chestnut about the American chestnut, share the story repeatedly. Write it down and preserve it for your family, for friends, and for the children of the next generation. From their numbers will come the future researchers, volunteers, and contributors who sustain the effort to restore the American chestnut to the eastern forests of the United States.

Why are American chestnut stories important? Because they keep alive the legacy and history of the American chestnut when it was the dominant tree in the eastern forests. The stories tell people about the magnificence of the tree and, through examples from the past, why it is important to bring the American chestnut back into the forest as a viable, sustainable species that can withstand the chestnut bark blight.

If the next generation does not hear these stories and are not educated about the importance of the effort to restore the American chestnut, the species could eventually die, not because of the persistence of the blight, but because of ignorance. Keep repeating the old, well-worn chestnuts and share them with others, particularly through publications such as the *Chestnut Mast*.

*Doug Gillis, Board Member*

## Asheville

*continued from page 1*

nized the meeting, while Dr. Fred Hebard, Staff Pathologist, Dr. Paul Sisco, Regional Science Coordinator, and Phil Pritchard, Director of Development and Special Projects, represented TACF.

The main issues that came up in the meeting were (1) when the first seed for testing would



*Scott Schlarbaum explains a point to Rex Mann of the Daniel Boone NF in Kentucky.*

be available from TACF's Meadowview Research Farms, (2) what types of tests need to be done, (3) where on USFS land these seed would be planted, (4) what types of data need to be taken, and (5) in what other ways TACF and the USFS could cooperate, such as locating American chestnut trees for pollination.

The discussion was greatly helped by presentations from Dr. Scott Schlarbaum of the University of Tennessee and Dr. David Loftis of the USFS Southern Research Station, who have been testing pure American chestnut seedlings in forest settings for over two years. Dr. Loftis agreed to host another planning meeting in Asheville on April 12, where the details of the testing program will be drawn up.

*Paul Sisco, Ph.D., TACF Regional Science Coordinator*



*Don Tomczak and Barbara Crane confer while Fred Hebard prepares his talk.*



## Carolinas' Chapter members attend TACF Chapter Meeting in Middletown Ohio



Participants at the meeting of TACF chapters in Middletown, Ohio, during February, 2005.

On February 11-13<sup>th</sup>, approximately 35 chestnut leaders from the chapter network within TACF met to exchange ideas, communicate with one another, discuss the national 10-year breeding plan, and share techniques and tips for chestnut culture. The field experience of this group was very noteworthy. We even had a moderator to keep discussions on track.

What made this meeting so special was the sense of purpose and the relaxed format to generate discussions on chestnut restoration. Hill Craddock with the TN chapter said, "This is one of the most important meetings in TACF's history." You could feel the urgency, the passion, and the frustration of some attendees to come up with ways for chapters and national TACF to coordinate and communicate. There were several discussions on how each chapter communicates with the Science Cabinet and ways to improve how chapters, cabinet members, and scientists can work together.

TACF has grown into a bigger, more complex organization in a short period of time with the additions of separate chapter organizations. All organizations go through growing pains with new requests for change or improvements. Aside from the Meadowview Research Farms, chapter members consider themselves the growers/implementation group to conduct local breeding activities for regional adaptability and the establishment of BC3F2 orchards to support TACF's 10-year plan. Dr. Fred Hebard was there to answer many of our questions and to give explanations to guide our future decisions as they relate to pollination, the establishment of chestnut orchards or lines, and blight inoculation scoring.

We all agreed that we need a forum or biennial chapter meeting to communicate with each other, update one another on our breeding accomplishments, and spend time during a field tour to review what is being done on the ground. By doing this, we can all stay informed on the latest breeding milestones and feel that we are working collectively toward a common purpose or goal, "toward the restoration of American chestnut."

I came away from the meeting with a sense of pride and renewed energy to keep up our efforts in the Carolinas Chapter.

Ron Myers, CC-TACF Past President

## Chestnuts in the News

Four articles about the American chestnut have appeared or soon will appear in regional magazines. Be sure to pick up a copy of the magazines.

**Our State, Down Home in North Carolina magazine:** "Chasing the Chestnut," by Beth Wiegand, appears in the February 2005 issue of the magazine. Ms. Wiegand interviewed Carolinas Chapter members Paul Sisco and K.O. Summerville. Both share information in the article. Through Phil Pritchard's efforts, mention was made of major funding for the restoration in the Southern Appalachians provided by the National Forest Foundation. Phil Pritchard is Director of Development and Special Projects of the Southern Appalachian Regional Office of The American Chestnut Foundation. Ms. Wiegand's story is about the history and culture of the American chestnut and about the research being conducted to restore the American chestnut. It is well written and is a must read, not only for Chapter members, but also for anyone with an interest in the American chestnut. The editor of the magazine will provide a text version of the article for our Chapter to place on its website. Information about the magazine can be found at [www.ourstate.com](http://www.ourstate.com) or by writing Our State, Down Home in North Carolina, PO Box 4552, Greensboro, NC 27404. Call toll free at 1-800-948-1409.

**North Carolina's Forest Stewardship News:** "Restoring American Chestnut - Efforts Yield Fruit and Promise", Volume 15, No. 1, Winter 2005.

**Smoky Mountain Living magazine:** "The Story of the American Chestnut," by Jim Casada, will appear in the April 2005 issue of the magazine. Mr. Casada is Outdoor Editor for the magazine and has received a national award for the article about the American chestnut, "Saga of a Fallen Monarch," which appeared in 1990 in the *Wildlife in North Carolina Magazine*. His article will be about the history and lore of the American chestnut. Mr. Casada grew up in Bryson City, North Carolina, and is very familiar with the story of the American chestnut. Information about the magazine can be found on the web at [www.smliv.com](http://www.smliv.com) or by writing North American Communications Group, Inc., PO Box 78, Waynesville, NC 28786. Call toll free at 1-866-452-2251.

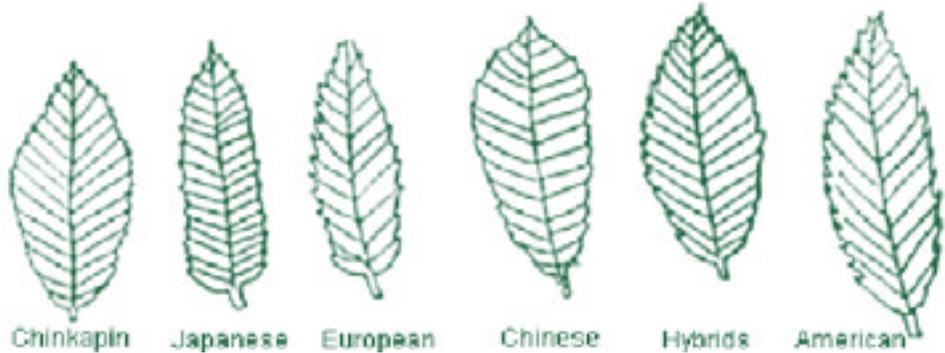
**Blue Ridge Country magazine:** Gwen S. Clarke is writing an article for the September/October 2005 issue of the magazine. She is a winner of a 2002 Award of Merit from the International Regional Magazine association having been recognized for her story, "Looking for Andy" which she wrote for *Blue Ridge Country* magazine. She recently contacted Paul Sisco to introduce herself and to discuss the article about the American chestnut with him. Information about the magazine can be found at [www.blueridgecountry.com](http://www.blueridgecountry.com) or by writing Blue Ridge Country, PO Box 21535, Roanoke, VA 24018-0563. Call 1-540-989-6138.

How to Identify American Chestnut Trees  
(From [www.acf.org/field\\_guide.htm](http://www.acf.org/field_guide.htm))

Chestnut trees are most easily located while they are in full bloom, from early June, in the southern part of the range, to the weeks around the Fourth of July in the North. The great mass of conspicuous white catkins on larger trees is visible at great distances. The odor of the blooms is also quite distinctive, especially on still mornings and evenings. Later in summer, bur-laden trees are fairly obvious. In early fall, chestnut leaves turn yellow sooner than the leaves of many other deciduous trees with yellow leaves. In late fall, the brown leaves tend to stay on the trees. In fall and winter, to locate trees that had female flowers the previous summer look on the ground for fallen burs.

**American chestnut** leaves are long in comparison to their width, the teeth on the edges of the leaf curve inward, and the stems usually have a reddish color. **Chinese chestnut** leaves are more oval in shape, thicker and more leathery than American chestnut leaves.

**Chinese chestnut** leaves grown in the sun have a whitish cast on the back of the leaf, and the stems are gray with large white "bumps" or lenticels on them. **European chestnut** leaves look much like American chestnut leaves, but their teeth tend to be triangular in shape rather than curved inward. **Japanese chestnut** leaves are often dark, shiny green on top and the sides of leaves are somewhat parallel.



You can also see color photos of each species at our Web site <http://www.acf.org/Chestnut.htm>. Just click on Chestnut Identification.



THE AMERICAN CHESTNUT FOUNDATION

Chestnut Mast  
Carolinas Chapter of TACF  
Southern Appalachian Regional Office  
One Oak Plaza – Suite 308  
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### Reminder

Keep Saturday, April 23, 2005, open to attend the Carolinas Chapter meeting at Clemson University. See front page for more details.

**New members:** We want to see you there!