

The GA-TACF American Chestnut Seed Grant Program

Sponsored by The Georgia Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation

The mission of The Georgia Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation (GA-TACF) is to assist in the work of The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF) in bringing back a revival and a renewal of the American chestnut tree as a prominent part of the forests of the United States of America by strengthening TACF's financial and membership base, education, public awareness, and research activities. The objectives shall be to: (1) recruit new members to join and support TACF's research work; (2) raise funds and provide information of major fundraising opportunities to the TACF Board of Directors; (3) develop educational activities concerning American chestnut in this state; (4) generate media coverage of state activities; (5) increase the awareness and participation of the public in TACF projects; (6) identify and help protect existing American chestnut trees in the state in order to preserve varied genetic materials; (7) engage where possible in breeding activities carried on under the supervision of and in cooperation with TACF; (8) do such other things reasonably related to the foregoing which will advance the cause of preserving and reviving the American chestnut tree.

The GA-TACF American Chestnut Seed Grant Program is to provide seed money for research by investigators in the state of Georgia. *The intent of the grant is to encourage researchers to obtain preliminary data in anticipation of submitting a grant proposal to TACF's External Grants program* (see <https://www.acf.org/our-work/external-grants/>). Projects may relate to or utilize existing GA-TACF projects or may represent completely new research projects.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY? Students and faculty at colleges or universities within the State (or conducting research in Georgia), private consultants, government officials, and other qualified individuals with a demonstrated interest in plant- or forest-based research are eligible to apply for a grant. Projects eligible for funding include, but are not limited to, the following research areas:

- 1) historical and current distribution of American chestnut and habitat relationships.
- 2) methods of locating, conserving, and breeding wild American chestnuts.
- 3) methods of vegetative propagation of American chestnut.
- 4) mechanisms of pathogenesis and resistance to pathogens, particularly *Cryphonectria parasitica* and *Phytophthora cinnamomi*.
- 5) patterns of genetic diversity of wild American chestnuts.
- 6) methods of propagating, growing, testing and evaluating disease resistance of American chestnuts, hybrids, and genetic variants of all types.
- 7) silvicultural research related to restoration of natural habitats using disease-resistant chestnuts.
- 8) research related to other pests and pathogens, especially Asian ambrosia beetles.
- 9) Evaluation of the morphology, physiology, biochemistry, and field performance of TACF breeding program products (e.g., backcross trees; transgenic trees) in comparison with American chestnuts.

PROPOSAL GUIDELINES:

- 1) Proposals must be submitted to gachestnut@gmail.com as an MS-Word file by e-mail attachment, in a font no smaller than 12, with 1 inch-wide margins, and no more than 4 pages in length (not including cover page and applicant profiles).

- 2) Cover page with applicant's name, institution (if any), mailing address, e-mail address, and phone number.
- 3) Description of the proposed study, including objectives and brief review of relevant literature.
- 4) Methods to be used (if permits are required, include details).
- 5) Complete project time-line (normally one year).
- 6) Anticipated benefits to GA-TACF's mission.
- 7) A detailed budget (may include travel expenses, expendable supplies, fees for equipment rental, laboratory services, printing costs, and costs associated with oral presentation preparation).
- 8) Profile(s) or resume(s) of the grant applicant(s), no more than one page in length.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Research proposals must be submitted via email by Oct 1, for projects to begin on Nov 1. Proposals are reviewed by a GA-TACF grant evaluation committee; announcements of awards will be made by Oct 15.

GRANT AMOUNTS: Funding requests in amounts up to \$1,000 may be submitted. Smaller budgets are encouraged and will receive preferential treatment. If work is not completed, a certain amount of the original grant, to be determined by the GA-TACF grant evaluation committee, must be refunded.

FINAL REPORTS: A final report is due at the end of the study in a form suitable to form the basis of a full application to TACF's external grant program (see <https://www.acf.org/our-work/external-grants/>). If the project is not completed within one year, a progress report must be submitted at the end of the first year.

RESPONSIBILITY OF GRANTEE: The recipient of a grant must acknowledge GA-TACF in any popular or scientific articles as well as in oral presentations delivered at professional meetings resulting from the work supported. Any data collected in natural communities must be submitted to the Natural Heritage database maintained by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Program or other appropriate organizations such as the Georgia Plant Conservation Alliance (GPCA), The Nature Conservancy, and the USDA Forest Service.

It is strongly encouraged that potential applicants contact GA-TACF at gachestnut@gmail.com to run project ideas by the science coordinator prior to making the application.