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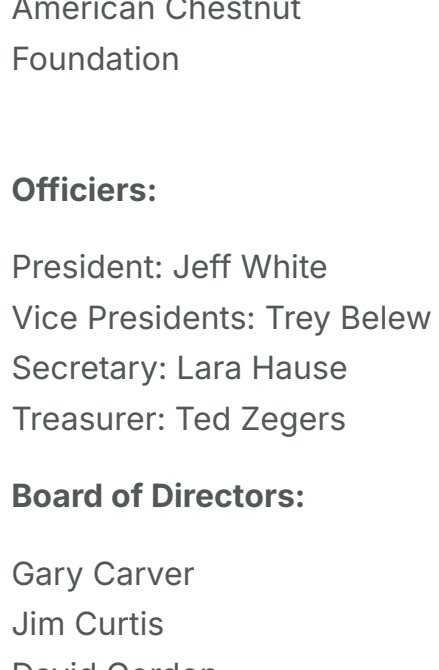
American Chestnut FOUNDATION

MD

CHAPTER

Maryland Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation

Fall 2025 Newsletter



Jeff White is President of the Maryland Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation

Hello, Maryland, DC, and Delaware chestnut enthusiasts! Welcome to Fall and our seasonal newsletter. It has been a good growing season even with the stretches of dry weather. It's hard to find a tree that can grow faster than a young chestnut. The weather turned dry in September and the watch for the time to harvest the nuts began. The optimal time is to pick the burs is just before they open otherwise we are competing with the local wildlife. You name it, just about everything likes chestnut. Deer, squirrels, blue jays and lots of other animals make off with the nuts. Of course that's just one of the many reasons the tree is so valuable to the forest ecosystem. Every year they produce a great crop of nuts. Collecting this year's crop was especially important to ensure we have enough chestnuts for our festival on October 19, next weekend! Read more about the festival below.

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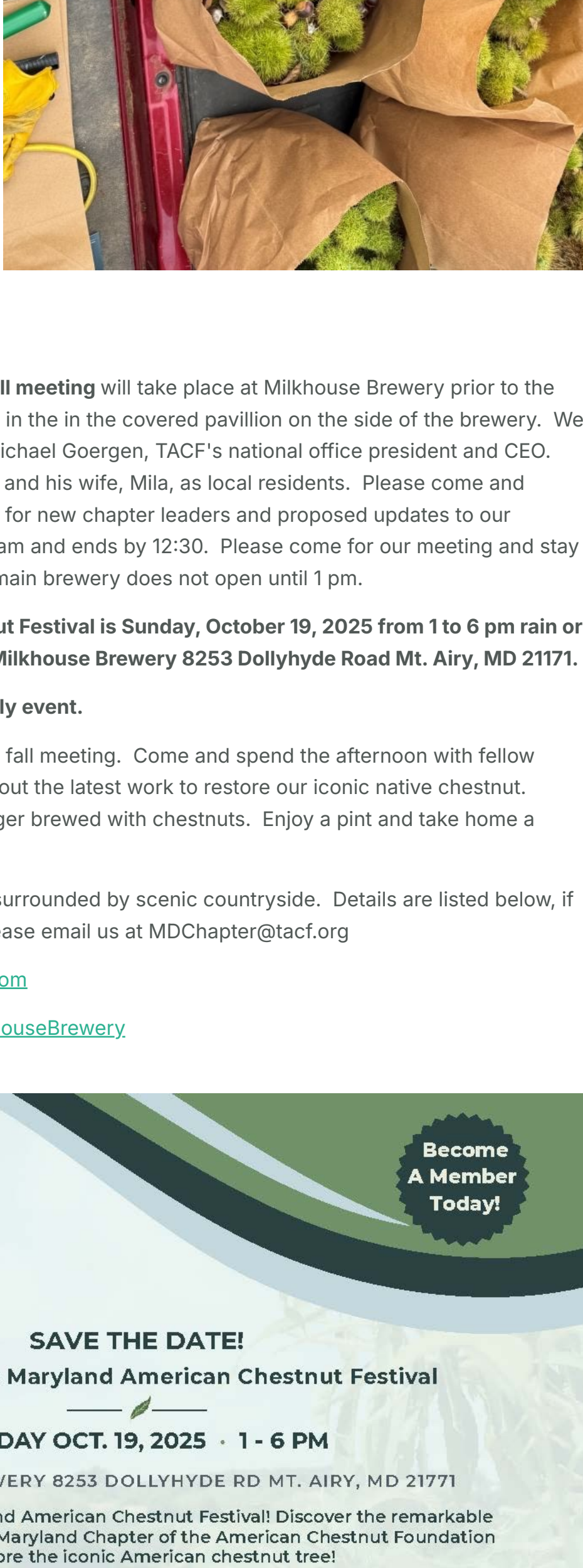
Email: mdchapter@tacf.org

Website: tacf.org/md

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MDTACF Fall Meeting

The **Maryland Chapter annual fall meeting** will take place at Milkhouse Brewery prior to the start of the festival. We will meet in the in the covered pavillion on the side of the brewery. We scored big, our speaker will be Michael Goergen, TACF's national office president and CEO. We are fortunate to have Michael and his wife, Mila, as local residents. Please come and welcome them. We will also vote for new chapter leaders and proposed updates to our bylaws. Our meeting starts at 11 am and ends by 12:30. Please come for our meeting and stay for our festival. Please note the main brewery does not open until 1 pm.

Our Maryland American Chestnut Festival is Sunday, October 19, 2025 from 1 to 6 pm rain or shine. Time: 1 - 6 pm, location: Milkhouse Brewery 8253 Dollyhyde Road Mt. Airy, MD 21771.

Admission is free. This is a family event.

The festival will follow our annual fall meeting. Come and spend the afternoon with fellow Chestnut enthusiast and learn about the latest work to restore our iconic native chestnut. Sample our excellent chestnut lager brewed with chestnuts. Enjoy a pint and take home a growler.

The venue is a on farm brewery surrounded by scenic countryside. Details are listed below, if you have additional questions please email us at MDChapter@tacf.org

<https://www.milkhousebrewery.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/MilkhouseBrewery>

JOIN US
ONLINE AT
TACF.ORG
OR BY PHONE
(828) 261-0047

Become A Member Today!

SAVE THE DATE!

Join Us At The Maryland American Chestnut Festival

SUNDAY OCT. 19, 2025 • 1 - 6 PM

MILKHOUSE BREWERY 8253 DOLLYHYDE RD MT. AIRY, MD 21771

Join us for the 1st Maryland American Chestnut Festival! Discover the remarkable work being done by the Maryland Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation to restore the iconic American chestnut tree!

Learn: Meet members, explore displays & get answers to your chestnut questions.

Taste: Enjoy roasted chestnuts and a seasonal chestnut beer from Milkhouse!

Shop: Buy fresh chestnuts, seedlings, and chapter gear - stickers, shirts, & caps.

Eat: Savor creative, chef-crafted dishes from Kevin's Bistro Bowls by Cordon Bleu trained Chef Kevin.

Enjoy: Live music, sketching by Frederick artist Goodloe Byron, face painting, and other local environmental & conservation orgs.



Follow us on our Festival Facebook page for the latest information!



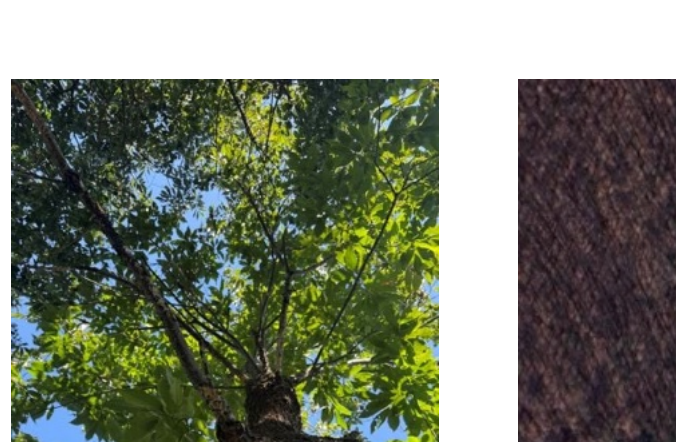
The American Chestnut Foundation
Rooted in Restoration

TOP 10 REASONS TO SAVE THE AMERICAN CHESTNUT

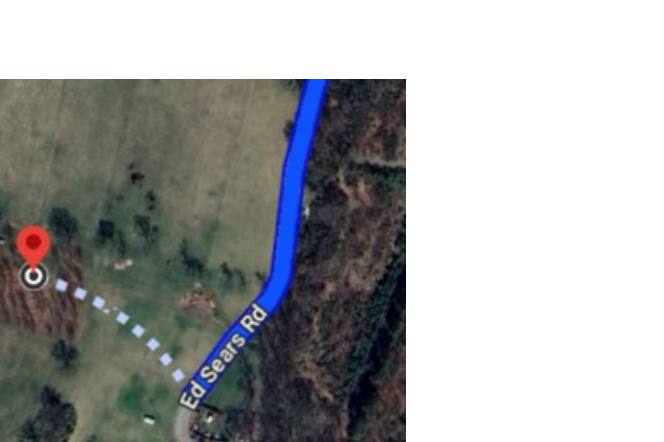
1. Healthy Forests
2. Restoring an American Legacy
3. Superior Wildlife Food
4. Reclamation
5. Road Map for the Future
6. Outstanding Timber
7. Craftsmanship
8. Culture
9. Landscaping
10. Conservation

www.tacf.org

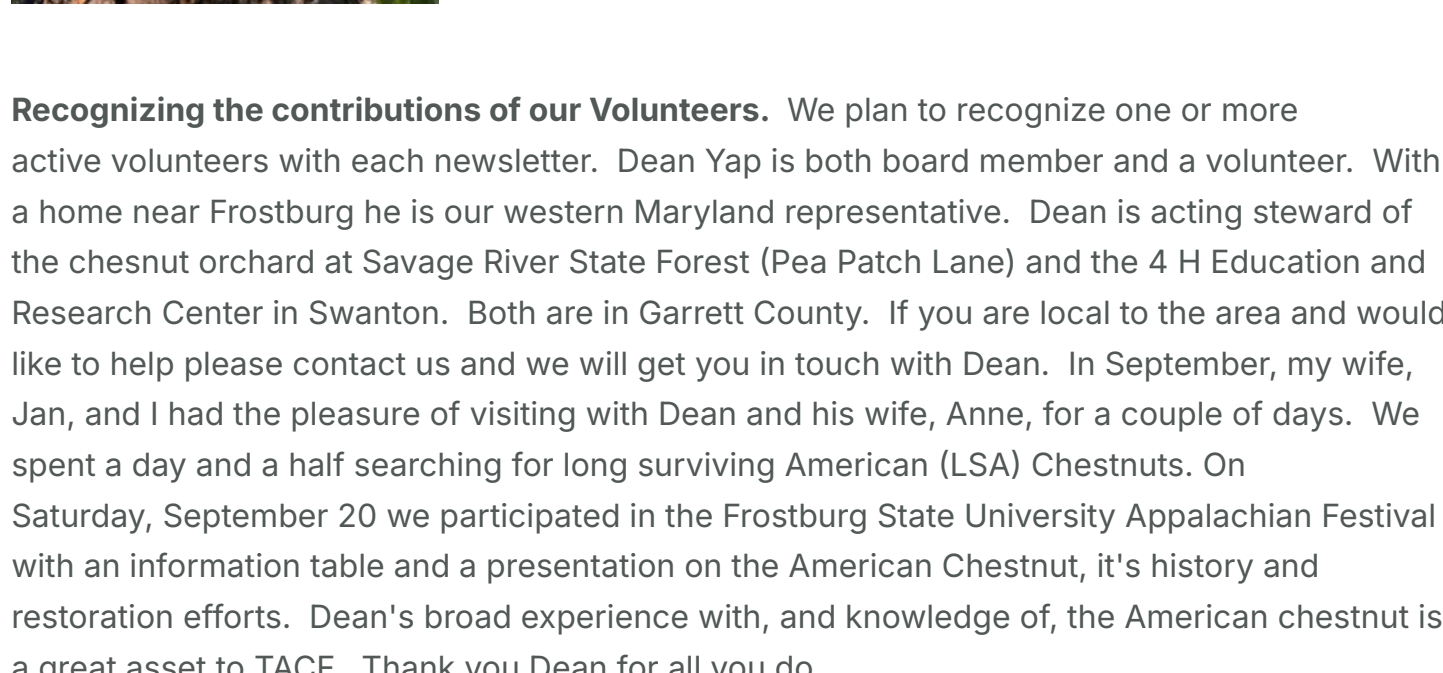
Using science to bring back an ecologically significant tree species



The making of a great chestnut lager. This limited release will be on tap at the festival.



We will have a limited quantity of chapter apparel for sale, including, hoodies, t-shirts, and ball caps.



Freshly harvested Chestnuts from our Black Hills Orchard for our festival. Come sample roasted chestnuts or purchase some fresh to take home.

Orchard News

BARC Orchard

We reported in an earlier newsletter that USDA is proposing the closure of BARC. During the comment period the national office of The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF) and the Maryland Chapter of TACF submitted a letter to the Secretary of Agriculture stating TACF and MD- TACF strongly endorse the decision to defer the closure of the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) over multiple years to avoid disruption of critical USDA research activities. Our understanding is USDA is considering the time table with a view to continuing important long-term research. The MD congressional delegation has raised concerns about the proposed closure. Senator Van Hollen's office in particular is holding zoom meetings with stakeholders to learn more about the impact the closure would have on farmers, businesses and researchers in Maryland and in the US as whole. There will be a BARC's closure stakeholder meeting using Zoom scheduled for Thursday, October 23rd at 2 pm. If interested in attending please contact Alex Swanson at Alex_Swanson@vanhollen.senate.gov for more information.

Western Maryland Research and Education Center (WMREC) Orchard

Our WMREC orchard was planted with almost 900 chestnut seeds as part of a common garden experiment. Seeds were planted in April of 2024 from throughout the range from our best performing trees in order to test their blight resistance and inform our future breeding decisions. WMREC orchard is part of a "common garden" study, this is one of four sites in which these crosses were planted.



Volunteers visited our Western Maryland Research and Education Center (WMREC) Orchard on September 9 to weed and water second year trees. Some trees planted as seed in the spring of 2024 are now 7 feet tall. Wow!

Central Maryland Research and Education Center (CMREC), Black Hills, Monocacy, Fort Detrick and the Manchester Orchard all contain trees bearing nuts. Our volunteers collected nuts from the trees to contribute to our festival.



Volunteers harvesting chestnuts at the CMREC orchard on Sunday September 21.

Highlighting our Monocacy Orchard

Story by Tony Sutton

Our orchard at Monocacy holds some of our best looking and most mature hybrid trees. Most are B1s (three-quarters American) or B2s (seven-eighths American). The orchard has been a prime location for researching and propagating backcrossed hybrids, although the trees are now large enough that we need a bucket lift to pollinate by hand. All told, MDTACF planted 554 trees at Monocacy between 2006 and 2009. The finest 63 remain.

Monocacy's conditions are so good for chestnuts that its trees outperform their own genes. Offspring from Monocacy trees regularly perform worse than their parents in resisting the blight. Therefore, we have to correct for the advantage given to its trees when we decide which parents to use in new crosses. Even so, the orchard holds many high-quality trees. We have planted 714 offspring of Monocacy trees in seven other orchards, including some as recently as this spring.

MDTACF members are welcome to visit the orchard, which is on state land within the Monocacy Natural Resource Management Area. To get there, take Route 28 east from Point of Rocks or west from Poolesville. Just west of the bridge crossing the Monocacy River, turn north onto Park Mills Road. Continue for about a mile. Immediately after crossing the river on another bridge, make a sharp left turn onto Ed Sears Road. Proceed for at least a mile until the road ends in a small circle. Turn right into the dirt driveway of the Jehovah-Jireh Farm. The orchard is about a quarter-mile down the driveway, visible on the right.

Ron Kuipers takes care of this orchard, with much help from the farmer and neighbor Myron Horst. If you think this might be an orchard you want to help maintain, please contact Ron (m_kuipers@yahoo.com).

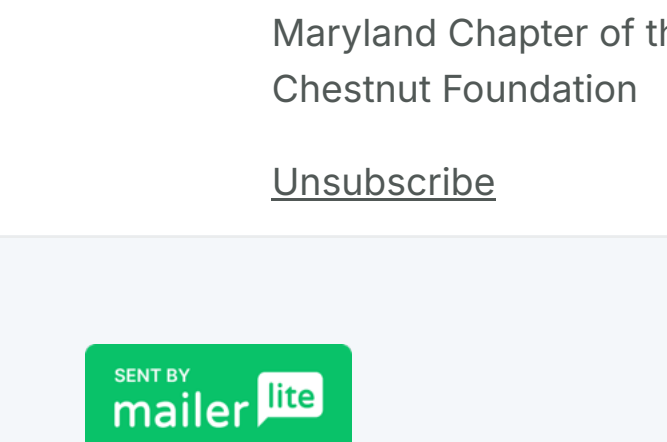
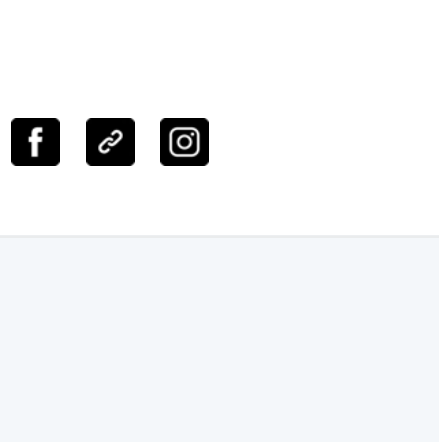


Image above is Google map of Monocacy Orchard . Taken recently, photo to the left is an excellent specimen of a chestnut tree in the Monocacy Orchard.

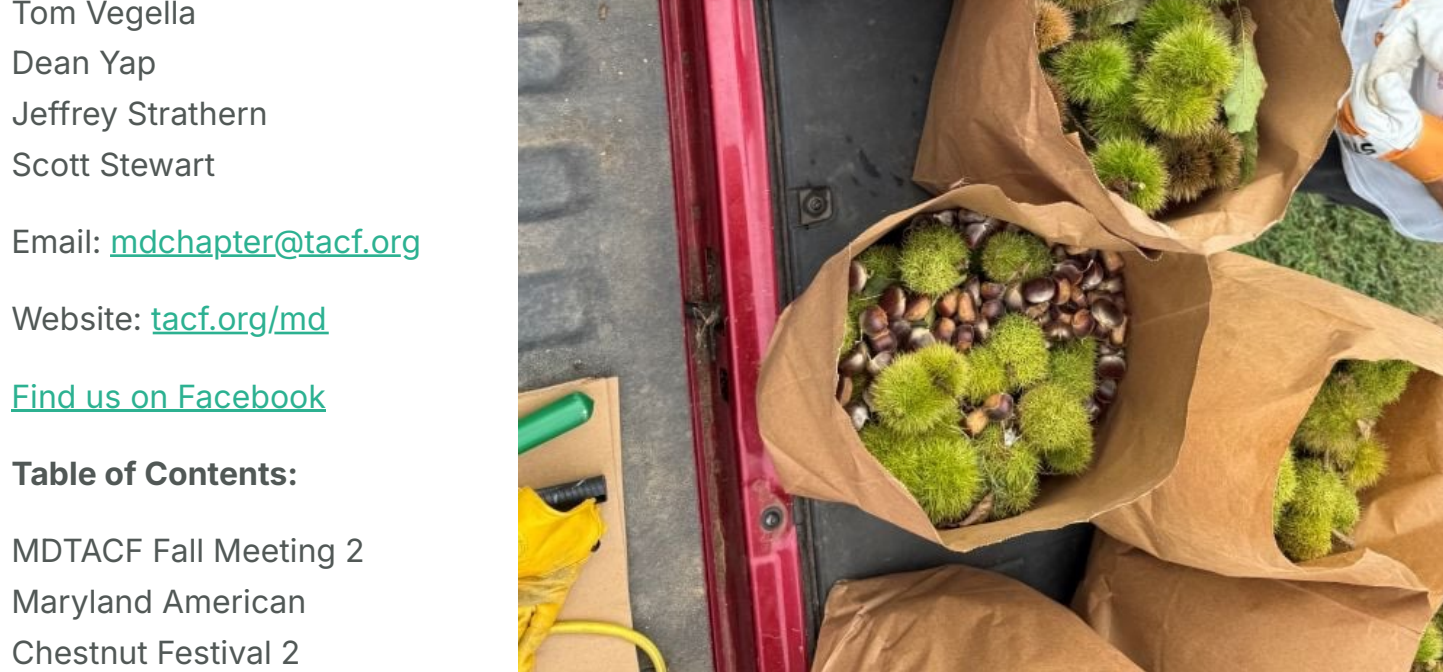
Recognizing the contributions of our Volunteers. We plan to recognize one or more active volunteers with each newsletter. Dean Yap is both board member and a volunteer. With a home near Frostburg he is our western Maryland representative. Dean is acting steward of the research orchard at Savage River State Forest (Pea Patch Lane) and the 4 H Education and Research Center in Savante. Both are in Garrett County. If you are local to the area and would like to help please contact us and we will get you in touch with Dean. In September, my wife, Jan, and I had the pleasure of visiting with Dean and his wife, Anne, for a couple of days. We spent a day and a half searching for long surviving American (LSA) Chestnuts. On Saturday, September 20 we participated in the Frostburg State University Appalachian Festival with an information table and a presentation on the American Chestnut, it's history and restoration efforts. Dean's broad experience with, and knowledge of, the American chestnut is a great asset to TACF. Thank you Dean for all you do.

Dean checking out an wild type American Chestnut found on Swamp Road near Lonaconing. Burs were present in the top of the tree.

Dean at the Savage River State Forest orchard off of Peapatch Lane, Grantsville,

Two wild type American chestnuts we found off of White Rock Road in Friendsville, MD.

Outreach Events



September 20, 2025 at Frostburg State University Appalachian Festival presenting on the Fall and Rise of the American Chestnut . We also had a information table, Dean Yap and Jeff White.



On Saturday September 27 MDTACF volunteers attended the Izaak Walton League Rockville Chapter's National Hunting Fishing days open house. Pictured centered to clockwise is Ron Kuipers, Tony Sutton, and Gary Neubaum. We were out in force spreading the story of the American chestnut.

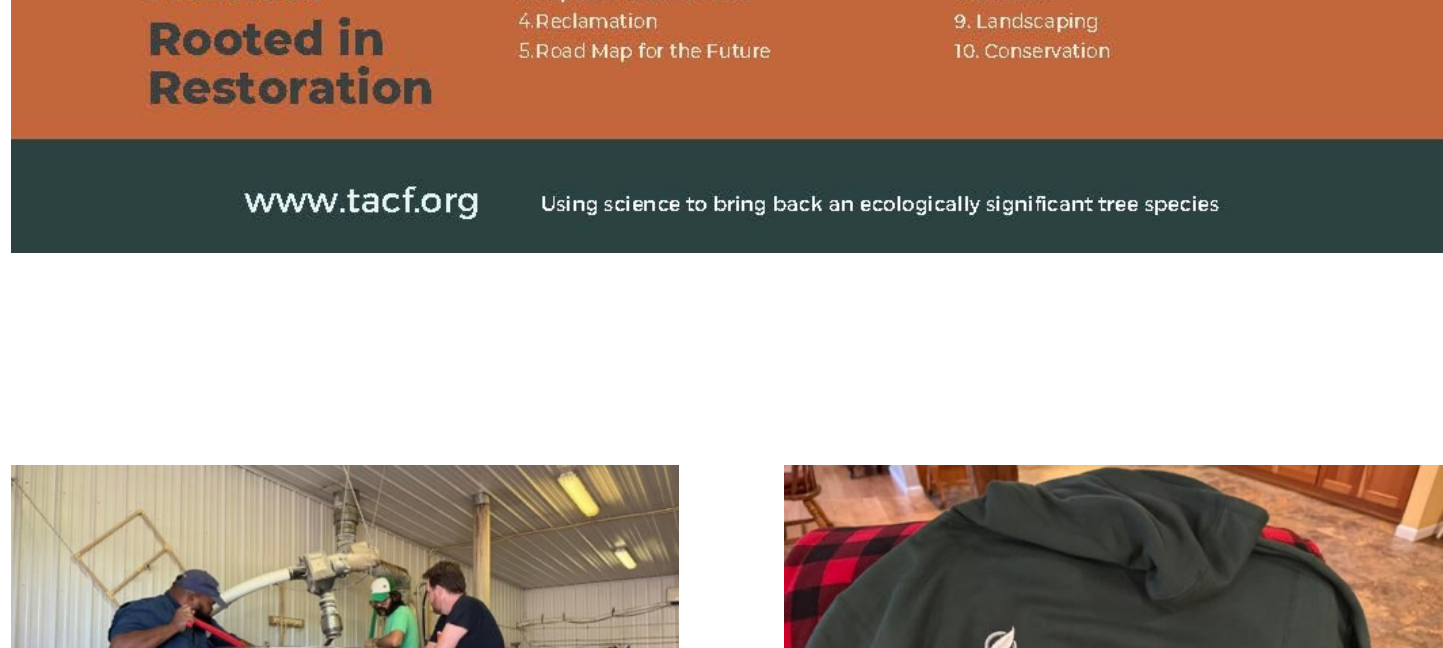
In closing we would like to thank our new members that have joined in July and August this year. Let me know if I missed you, sometimes there is a lag in updates. I am only using first names to respect privacy.

New Members and Donors include: James, Jennifer, John, Elizabeth, Robert, Juliann, Rachel, Laurel, Claudia.

Plus there have been dozens of renewing members. Thank you for your continued support.

If not a member, please renew or consider joining TACF and selecting Maryland as your Chapter. Your membership helps the national organization and Maryland Chapter in bringing back the American Chestnut. Your donation helps your Maryland Chapter establish and maintain local seed and research orchards. As the words in the image below says...

Join Us



Maryland Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation

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