

Looking Back to Move Forward

Founding and New Leaders of The American Chestnut Foundation
Share Visions at Area Events May 15-17

Phil Rutter, charismatic founding executive of The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF) and Bryan Burhans, the organization's new President and CEO will share the stage at upcoming events sponsored by the Virginia and Maryland Chapters of TACF.

After twenty-five years of scientific work—a successful collaboration between professional scientists and state chapter citizen scientists, TACF is on the threshold of accomplishing its backcross breeding objectives. While the backcross effort will continue for many years, the organization is now looking ahead to the challenge of restoring the once giant American chestnut tree to its former range throughout the Appalachian region. Planned events in Maryland and Virginia offer residents of the mid-Atlantic region a remarkable opportunity to learn, and to participate in envisioning the future path to restoration of a tree that was once a mainstay of the Appalachian economy—an icon of the Eastern forest whose wood, nuts and beauty was cherished by humans and provided food for both wild and domesticated animals,

Rutter, who led TACF from 1983 to 1990, will discuss “Some of What We Still Don’t Know & How To Find Out”. Since retiring from TACF, Rutter has pursued the intensive domestication of woody perennial plants for agriculture. His Badgersett Research Corporation (<http://www.badgersett.com>) promotes and conducts research on woody agriculture, and grows and sells hybrid chestnut and hazelnut plants and nuts.

Burhans, who has lived in both Maryland and Virginia, brings fresh perspective to TACF from his experience as Director of Land Management Programs with the National Wild Turkey Federation, an organization whose challenges are shaped by a growing membership and remarkable accomplishments toward its mission of restoring a keystone tree that was reduced to struggling stump shoots by a blight fungus pandemic in the first half of the Twentieth Century. Burhans will address: “Our Foundation's Growth -- Where Do We Go From Here?”

The Virginia Department of Forestry will host Saturday events, with Virginia State Forester Carl E. Garrison III introducing speakers, and Dr. John Scrivani, Director of Resource Information for the Virginia Department of Forestry sharing insights from analysis of both current and historic forestry data.

For more information:

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See Schedule of Events on following page.

Schedule of Events

MAY 15 - 16 VIRGINIA CHAPTER OF TACF

7 pm To 9 pm
Friday May 15 **Dinner Reception At Graves Mountain Lodge**, Syria, VA
Cost \$40 per person - Proceeds benefit Virginia Chapter of TACF
Informal remarks by speakers

9 am - 12 n
Saturday, May 16 VATACF Board Of Directors Meeting
(Members Welcome To Observe)

1 pm - 3 pm
Saturday, May 16 **Looking Back, Moving Forward: Growing The Future Of American
Chestnut** (Free and open to the public)
Virginia Department Of Forestry Headquarters
900 Natural Resources Drive, Suite 800,
Charlottesville, VA 22903

Introduction and Welcome - State Forester Carl Garrison, Virginia
Department of Forestry

Our Foundation's Growth -- Where Do We Go From Here? - TACF President
Bryan Burhans

Geography of Chestnut - Dr. John Scrivani, Director of Resource Information,
VA Dept. of Forestry

Some of What We Still Don't Know & How To Find Out - Phil Rutter,
Founding President of TACF and Founder of Badgersett Research
Corporation

MAY 17 MARYLAND CHAPTER OF TACF

1:30 pm
Sunday, May 17 **Looking Back, Moving Forward: Growing The Future Of American
Chestnut** (Free and open to the public)
Izaak Walton League of America Headquarters
707 Conservation Lane
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

Our Foundation's Growth -- Where Do We Go From Here? - TACF President
Bryan Burhans

Some of What We Still Don't Know & How To Find Out - Phil Rutter,
Founding President of TACF and Founder of Badgersett Research
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A wine and cheese reception will follow the presentations