

CRY

CRY we all,
With the giants who sheltered
In their massive shade,
Morsels of genetic code
We no longer will know.

CRY

For ourselves,
For we knew not
What we did.

CRY

And remember
How it was
And how it
Still should be.

Taken from "Homeward Bound,"
a book of poetry by George S. Nassif

A poem in tribute to our former unique giant, the 1,000 year old American Chestnut Tree: *Castanea Dentata*, "the toothed Chestnut," referring to the sharply ridged leaves. Crowned as "Redwood of Eastern Forests," and found throughout West Virginia and the Appalachian Mountain Range, they were considered comparable to the 2,000 year old Giant Sequoia and Redwoods of California and Redwood of Oregon.

West Virginia's
2nd Chestnut Festival
Rowlesburg, WV

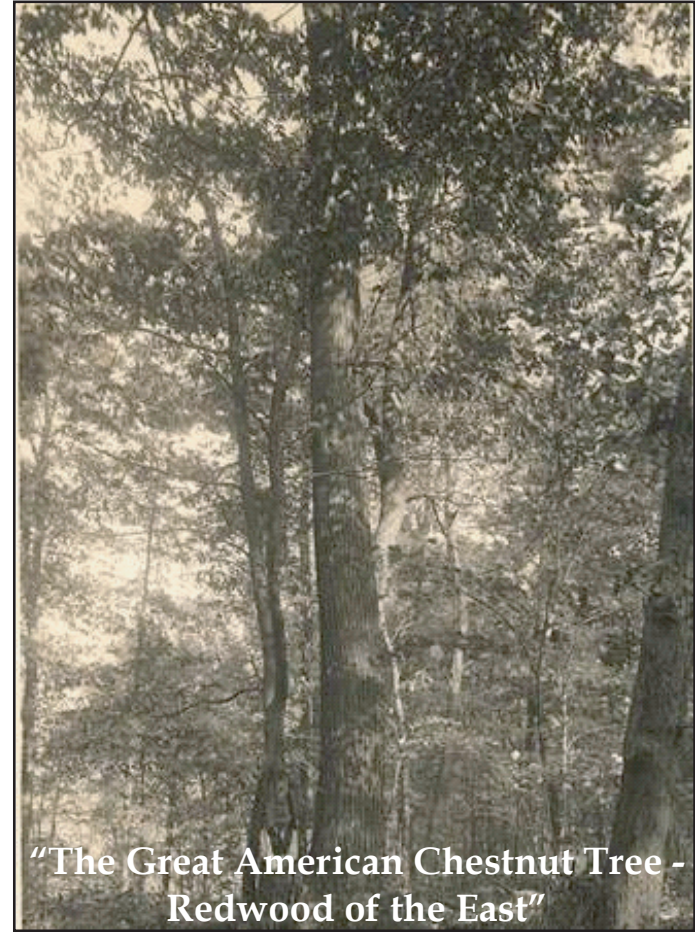


photo courtesy of the PA Blight Commission

Gala Banquet Dinner
Szilagyi Center for the Performing Arts
Old RHS Auditorium
Sunday October 11, 2009
5:15 pm - 7:30 pm

Opening Ceremonies

Preston High Madrigal Choir,
"O Chestnut Tree," and musical selections; Director,
Deborah Westbrook

Crowning of "Mr. & Mrs. Chestnut," Charles and
Doris Wotring, by Bryan Burhans, CEO TACF and
Thomas Cook, WV TACF President

Vino Novelli & The Chestnut Harvest

Welcome & Introduction of Guests by

Master of Ceremonies, Dr. Joseph Nassif
and Shirley Cook Hartley

Invocation

Reverend Roy Mick, Christ Methodist Church

Dinner Menu

Spinach Salad with Roasted Chestnuts
Savory Chicken Breast with
Chestnut Stuffing & gravy
Oven Roasted Potatoes
Tangy Red Cabbage & Chestnut Garnish
Dessert, Coffee, Ice Tea

Dinner music by Deborah Westbrook Combo
Catering by Monroe's Restaurant - Kingwood, WV



Keynote Speaker

Dr. Robert Paris, TACF Chestnut Geneticist,
Introduction by Dr. Wm. MacDonald:
"Reclaiming Strip Mining Land with American
Hybrid Chestnut Trees."

Closing Events

Auction of Handmade Lavender Quilt
and Stone Mountaineer Sculpture.

Ticket Drawing for the
Chestnut Double Eagle Sculpture,
carved by Walter "Bud" Shaver

Dinner hosted by

Rowlesburg Revitalization Committee, Inc.

Wine compliments of

Sandra & Dominick Marrara Jr.
and Michael Marrara,
Joe's Globe Distributing Co.

