

The 5th Annual West Virginia

Chestnut Festival, Sunday, October 7, 2012

What makes **Columbus Day Weekend** so exciting? It's **West Virginia's 5th Annual Chestnut Festival**, coming Sunday, October 7, 2012, from **10:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.** in **Rowlesburg, WV!**

THE THEME. This year, we will honor the heritage of our **Great American Chestnut Tree**. We will also honor the **research scientists** and their ongoing research, dedicated to restoring American Chestnut Trees back into the hills of the Appalachian Range. **Former U. S. President, James Earl (Jimmy) Carter**, an Honorary Director of The American Chestnut Foundation, was invited to attend as a distinguished guest but was unable to accept due to previous engagements.

ACTIVITIES. You will not want to miss the one day's variety of activities. They take place in the **scenic Rowlesburg Park**, located along the big bend of the Cheat River, and in the nearby **Szilagyi Creative Arts Center**. Activities are planned for **all ages and for all types of interest**, whether it be sampling and purchasing roasted **Chestnuts** -- browsing varied **Chestnut** vendors selling their wares -- purchasing **Chestnut** sapling trees -- attending **Chestnut** scientific presentations -- meeting **Chestnut** researchers -- attending a Gala **Chestnut** Banquet -- and much more.

THE DAY BEGINS. A **Continental Breakfast** is served from **10:30 a.m. to Noon** in the River City Café, located in the Szilagyi Creative Arts Center. Come and meet our Distinguished Guests, including **Dr. Dennis Fulbright**, noted Chestnut Researcher and Author, from **Michigan State University**, who will autograph one of his signature chestnut themed articles. Dr. Fulbright, along with **Dr. William MacDonald (WVU)**, and **Research Associate Mark Double**, have just returned from spending two weeks in Italy with **Italian Chestnut researchers**.

The **Rowlesburg Park will Feature Many Vendors and other Activities** from **noon to 5:00 p.m.**, including the sampling and selling of grilled roasted chestnuts (Yummy).

SZILAGYI CREATIVE ARTS CENTER. The **Center** is located across the street from the Park. The **River City Café** will be open, including the serving of delicious desserts. There are **two exciting Scientific Programs** that explore the Chestnut World of Research: (1) The **West Virginia Chapter Meeting** of The American Chestnut Foundation from **Noon to 2:00 p.m.** -- **the public is invited**; (2) From **4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**, WVU research associate, Mark Double and

Dr. Joseph Nassif, will host a **Chestnut Scientific program** with prominent speakers, including: **Dr. Dennis Fulbright** and **Bryan Burhans**, CEO and President of **The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF)**.

GALA CHESTNUT DINNER BANQUET. The banquet has been a big hit with the public, and begins **5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.**, in the Auditorium of the Szilagy Center. The dinner menu includes savory Chestnut flavored dishes. We will honor the **5th Annual Crowning of this year's Chestnut Royalty, Mr. and Mrs. Chestnut, Mark and Mindy Double**, Research Associate, West Virginia University. Dr. Joseph Nassif, Festival Director, and Shirley Cook Hartley, Co-Chairperson, will MC the program, introducing **distinguished guests**, and keynote speaker, **Dr. Dennis Fulbright**, Plant Pathologist.

Vendors are Welcome. For more information and/or to reserve banquet dinner tickets or vendor space, contact Shirley Hartley, (304) 329-1240, Shartley812@frontier.com; Joseph Nassif, njn3@msn.com; or Anna Nassif, (304) 454-9786 , annarnas@aol.com. Visit www.rowlesburg.info, www.wvchestnutfestival.com, www.rowlesburg.org, www.rowlesburgguide.com. Hosted by the Rowlesburg Revitalization Committee, Rowlesburg Tourism Commission, and Town of Rowlesburg.