



## Calling All Mid-Atlantic Chestnut Growers!

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Upcoming 2023 Annual Conference

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2023 Joint Conference  
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**July 23-26, 2023**  
**Columbia, Missouri**

SilvoCulture is looking for nuts—and nut growers!

### WHO ARE WE?

SilvoCulture was created in 2019 to help promote the planting, harvesting, and marketing of nut trees in the mid-Atlantic. We are a grassroots non-profit that aims to create a regional economy and agriculture based on nut trees to foster resilient ecologies and financial security for future generations. To do this we are partnering with landowners, farmers, non-profits, community groups, and other stakeholders to provide education, resources, and support in establishing orchards and agroforestry. Our goal is to plant one million nut trees in the mid-Atlantic!

### HOW WE WORK

Education & Outreach

Education is an important aspect of our work to engage the public and support growers. We regularly hold workshops and events around the culture of nut trees (Figure 1, above). These workshops give the public a chance to learn about growing, processing, and eating nuts as well as connect with other nut-enthusiasts in our region.

We have given presentations on the economics of chestnut orchards and the how and why of nut trees. Hands-on workshops include tree-planting, swale-digging, and nut processing.

### Chestnut Roast

In 2022, we held our 2nd Annual Chestnut Roast that included chestnut talks, an orchard tour, live music, vendors, and of course – roasted chestnuts (Figure 2, page 11)! The Roast sold out

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# THE CHESTNUT GROWER

Spring 2023

## About Chestnut Growers of America, Inc.

The purpose of Chestnut Growers of America is to promote chestnuts, to disseminate information to growers of chestnuts, to improve communications between growers within the industry, to support research and breeding work, and generally to further the interests and knowledge of chestnut growers. CGA advocates the delivery of only high-quality chestnuts to the marketplace.

CGA began as the Western Chestnut Growers in 1996 in Oregon where about 30 or so chestnut growers understood the need to join forces to promote chestnuts in the U.S. Eventually they realized that they needed to be a national organization and solicited memberships from every grower in the country, which took the membership to over 100. The name of the organization was changed to Chestnut Growers of America, Inc., and it was granted 501(c)(5) status. Annual meetings take place around the country in an effort to make it possible for a maximum number of people to attend. A newsletter, *The Chestnut Grower*, is published quarterly and distributed by mail and/or email. CGA maintains an extensive resource site available only to members containing information helpful in growing and marketing. Visit [chestnutgrowers.org](http://chestnutgrowers.org) for more information.

## Board of Directors

<i>President</i>	Roger Blackwell Milford, MI	(810) 923-2954 <a href="mailto:rblackwel@comcast.net">rblackwel@comcast.net</a>
<i>Vice President</i>	Sara Fitzsimmons University Park, PA	(814) 863-7192 <a href="mailto:sff3@psu.edu">sff3@psu.edu</a>
<i>Secretary/Treasurer</i>	Jack Kirk Richmond, VA	(804) 357-1137 <a href="mailto:jackschestnuts@gmail.com">jackschestnuts@gmail.com</a>
<i>Director</i>	Steve Jones Selah, WA	(509) 697-4160
<i>Director</i>	Greg Miller Carrollton, OH	(330) 627-3181
<i>Director</i>	Tom Wahl Wapello, IA	(319) 729-5905
<i>Director</i>	Luke Wilson Gridley, CA	(530) 370-5533

## Committees

<i>Editor/Webmaster</i>	Rita Blythe	<a href="mailto:chestnutgrowersofamerica@gmail.com">chestnutgrowersofamerica@gmail.com</a>
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## Annual Membership Dues

Single membership, \$45; Household membership, \$55; Associate membership, \$60. Members receive *The Chestnut Grower* quarterly. Emailed newsletters are included. Mailed newsletters are an additional \$5 per year. A \$10 late fee is applied to membership renewals submitted after April 1.

## Advertising Rates

Full page	\$20.00
Half page	\$15.00
Quarter page	\$10.00
Business card (4 issues)	\$15.00
Classifieds	<b>FREE</b>

Email ads to [chestnutgrowersofamerica@gmail.com](mailto:chestnutgrowersofamerica@gmail.com). Send payment for ads to Jack Kirk, 2300 Bryan Park Av., Richmond, VA 23228. Make checks payable to Chestnut Growers of America, Inc. OR visit [www.chestnutgrowers.org/paydues.html](http://www.chestnutgrowers.org/paydues.html) to submit payment online via PayPal.

## Editorial Opinion

The views, articles and advertising appearing in *The Chestnut Grower* do not necessarily reflect the attitude nor policy of Chestnut Growers of America, Inc., its members, officers, Board of Directors, or Editor. Chestnut Growers of America, Inc., and this publication are not responsible for errors and/or misrepresentations in advertising. The Editor reserves the right to reject or edit all material submitted for publication.

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## Message from CGA President Roger Blackwell, Chestnut Grower

*Hello Chestnut Growers of America,*

In Michigan, this spring the weather has been very unusual with temperatures in the eighties and lows in the twenties. We are at least 3 weeks ahead in our growing season.

Once again, I want to remind you that our organization will be having our Annual Membership Meeting this year at the University of Missouri campus in Columbia, Missouri Sunday, July 23 - Wednesday, July 26, 2023. This year's meeting will be a joint meeting with Northern Nut Growers Association (NNGA) and the growers of the Walnut Council. We are calling it The Tri-Meeting. Our Boards for each group have agreed to have this joint meeting to save money and time with all meetings held together at the same place.

Mike Gold, CGA Member, is our host for the meeting, and he has collaborated with members of NNGA and the Walnut Council to coordinate an exciting meeting for all of us. Between the three groups you will find a diverse group of speakers to educate and inform about chestnuts, walnuts, and other nut trees across the country and what is happening in Missouri with chestnuts.

The newsletter you are receiving has all the information about the annual meeting and how to register for the meeting. Also, please read the article from Taylor Logsdon about his SilvoCulture operation. Please help Rita, CGA Editor, in futures months with new articles for the Chestnut Grower. She welcomes any information that can be for the benefit of members.

Please see the list of CGA Directors below and thank them for continuing for the next year on the CGA Board.

I am sure you all are looking forward to having an in-person meeting and seeing how everyone is doing.

Best regards,

*Roger P. Blackwell*

### 2023 - 2024 CGA Slate of Officers:

*President:* Roger Blackwell

*Vice President:* Sarah Fitzsimmons

*Secretary/Treasurer:* Jack Kirk

*Directors:* Steve Jones, Greg Miller, Tom Wahl  
*One director position is currently vacant.*

*According to the bylaws, the slate shall be considered to have been elected unanimously if no written petitions are received.*

# 2023 Joint Conference of the Northern Nut Growers Association, the Chestnut Growers of America, and the Walnut Council Highlights

## OVERVIEW

The 2023 Joint Conference of the Northern Nut Growers Association (NNGA), the Chestnut Growers of America (CGA), and the Walnut Council (WC) will take place July 23-26, 2023 on the University of Missouri campus in Columbia, Missouri. The university is located in the middle of the state with easy access off Interstate 70 and Highway 63. If you stay in the university housing, the meeting rooms, dormitories, cafeterias, and parking are within close proximity of each other (see map on page 14). For more information about the campus and to view their online tour, go to [missouri.edu](http://missouri.edu). For information on restaurants, lodging, shopping, parks, trails, and nature areas in Columbia, visit [visitcolumbiamo.com](http://visitcolumbiamo.com), or request a visitor's guide at [visitcolumbiamo.com/request-visitors-guide](http://visitcolumbiamo.com/request-visitors-guide). The conference is open to everyone with an interest in trees managed for nuts and/or timber.

## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

### Sunday, July 23rd

Conference attendees can begin picking up their registration packets after 3:30 p.m. in the lobby of the Anheuser Busch Natural Resources (ABNR) building (1111 East Rollins Street). Likewise, easels will be available to set up posters and tables for displays and exhibits in the ABNR 123 or the lobby. The NNGA will hold their annual Board of Directors meeting starting at 9:00 a.m. in ABNR 210. The Walnut Council Foundation and Walnut Council will hold their Board of Directors meeting at the Hampton Inn & Suites Columbia at the University of Missouri, 1225 Fellows Place (**not** the Hampton Inn on

3410 Clark Lane). The Chestnut Growers of America will hold their Board of Directors meeting at 4:00 p.m. in ABNR 210.

A welcome reception with hors d'oeuvres will be held that evening in the ABNR reading room and lobby from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. The cost of the reception is included in the full and companion registration fee. Following the reception, a poster session will be held from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. with most presenters by their posters.

The member-sharing Show & Tell will follow the reception in ABNR Conservation Hall with 10 minute or less “lightning talks” from 7:10 – 8:30 p.m. This ever-popular event will include presentations from individuals who want to introduce themselves, who have built or tried new equipment or techniques, promising selections or cultivars, had some recent successes or failures.

### Monday, July 24th

For most of the attendees, Monday will be an all-day field trip to the Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Farm (HARF; visit [moaes.missouri.edu/central-missouri-research-extension-and-education-center/horticulture-and-agroforestry-research-farm](http://moaes.missouri.edu/central-missouri-research-extension-and-education-center/horticulture-and-agroforestry-research-farm) for more information) from 8:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Field tours will include the repositories, progeny, and cultivar trials for chestnut, hazelnut, black walnut, and northern pecan; demonstrations of equipment; and how-to videos on grafting and podcasts around the haybarn (pavilion).

Attendees will be asked to carpool or drive their own vehicles to HARF (approximately 45 minutes or 25 miles one-way from campus). There is plenty of parking around the haybarn. A staggered lunch will be served in the pavilion with those going to the alternate timber management field tour served first.

An alternate half day timber management field tour to a nearby woodlands is planned for Monday afternoon for those more interested in forest management than tree improvement and orchard management. Planned topics include controlling invasive species, alternative vegetation to grass, small log utilization, thinning, and an equipment display, including a small sawmill.

Dinner will be on your own coming back from HARF. Check out the [visitcolumbiamo.com](http://visitcolumbiamo.com) website for list of

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*Anheuser Busch Natural Resources Building*

restaurants in Columbia for a quick meal before the start of the evening session at 7:00 p.m.

Monday evening, we will be back on campus. A second poster session is planned from 7:00 to 7:30 p.m. A live auction will follow the poster session starting at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend – bring your checkbook, cash, or credit card! In the past, auction items have included artwork, handmade donations, plant material, nut products, baked goods, and/or gift certificates. Please consider donating items to the live or silent auction regardless of which organization you belong to. If you are an exhibitor, this is an excellent way to advertise your products. Donation forms will be available to indicate whether you prefer silent or live auction and what organization's research program should benefit from the proceeds. If you donate baked goods, please label your treats as to whether they are nut, dairy, or gluten free.

### **Tuesday, July 25th**

The NNGA and WC will have short business meetings from 7:45 to 8:15 a.m. to set up or complete voting for new officers, directors, committee chairs, or representatives. Coffee will be available in the ABNR lobby before the technical sessions begin.

Tuesday will be the first day of technical presentations starting at 8:20 a.m. and running until 4:50 p.m. The planning committee received an overwhelming response to our call for presentations, so Tuesday's program will have concurrent sessions with 20-minute talks. One session in Conservation Hall will focus on various aspects of growing and marketing chestnut, hazelnut, pawpaw, persimmon, and pecan. The alternative concurrent session in the Agriculture Sciences Building (700 Hitt Street) will focus more on forest/timber management topics. Both meeting rooms are newly designated as 'Zoom rooms' that will allow virtual registration for the keynote and technical presentations for this meeting.

A box lunch is included in each full registration.

The silent auction in ABNR 123 will close at the end of the afternoon break. Successful bidders can pay and pick up their items after the last presentations.

On Tuesday evening, we will set up for a group photo at 6:30 p.m. in front of the Brewer Field House (1000 Rollins Street) during the cash-bar social from 6:15 to 7:00 p.m. inside the Field House. The annual banquet will start at 7:00 p.m. in the Field House. The cost of the banquet is included in the full and companion registration to encourage everyone to attend.

After we eat, we will have the conference keynote presentation by Shawn Mehlenbacher starting around 8:00 p.m. After the keynote, we will give each organization a little time to entertain us with selection of the new Big Nut, presentation of awards, roll call of states, and announcing results of their annual elections.

### **Wednesday, July 26th**

Wednesday morning, we will continue with technical presentations in ABNR Conservation Hall on topics we believe will be of interest to members of all hosting organizations. We will ask attendees with poster presentations to leave the posters up for the morning as a concurrent activity to the technical session.

### **POSTERS AND EXHIBITS**

Posters will be set up in the ABNR lobby. Posters should be formatted to fit a 36 x 40-inch poster board set on a two-sided easel. Poster presenters are expected to register for the conference and be present (or have a colleague) by their posters during the two scheduled poster sessions from 6:00-7:00 p.m. on Sunday and from 7:00-7:30 p.m. on Monday.

Exhibits and displays will be in the ABNR lobby or ABNR 123 if they need to be locked up when not attended. Registration for exhibitors includes a table and one full registration to attend all events or choose display or exhibit registration which includes one unattended table without a registration. If you are unable to attend and have a display or exhibit, please call or contact Caroline Todd ([toddcs@missouri.edu](mailto:toddcs@missouri.edu)) to arrange for shipping and setting it up. A 'staging room' will be set up inside the Agriculture Sciences Building (700 Hitt Street). Use the city's metered parking (quarters or credit card) along Hitt Street while loading and unloading vehicles.

### **LIVE AND SILENT AUCTIONS**

Please plan to donate items to the live and/or silent auctions that will be conducted to support the NNGA and WC Foundation research grant programs. The NNGA/CGA will host a live auction on Monday evening. The Walnut Council Foundation, the educational arm of the Walnut Council, will set up a silent auction that will be open from Sunday evening and run through the break on Tuesday afternoon. Be sure to complete the donation sheet that will be printed in the summer issue of *The Nutshell* or at the door so we know your preference as to live or silent auction, distribution of proceeds, and if you have a reserved bid.

### **COMPANION OR CAPS PROGRAM**

On Tuesday, an alternative program is being arranged for those who do not register for the technical sessions. Participants on the Companion (or CAPS) program will

tour several local sites which are still being arranged and enjoy lunch together. The meeting place will be announced at the Sunday Show and Tell.

### **MEALS, CAMPUS LODGING, AND PARKING**

Sunday's welcome reception, Monday's field tour lunch, Tuesday box lunch and breaks, Wednesday's breaks, and Tuesday's Social/Banquet are included in the registration fee. Other meals are on your own. The Plaza 900 cafeteria (900 Virginia Avenue) will be open for breakfast (\$10), lunch (\$12), and dinner (\$12). Payment must be by credit card. The Student Center (901 E. Rollins Street) one block from the conference venue has a cafeteria as well as a gift shop and bookstore. The downtown area has numerous local restaurants within a five-block walk ([visitcolumbiamo.com](http://visitcolumbiamo.com)).

Campus housing will be in the College Avenue residence halls (1300 Rollins Street) accessible off Rollins Street. Single rooms with one twin bed and double rooms with two twin beds are available for \$180 and \$200 (\$100 per person) for a Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday night stay that includes linens and towels. If you need Saturday or Wednesday night, call Caroline Todd (573-884-2874). Rooms have both Wi-Fi and air conditioning. Each room shares a common bathroom with another room. Housing reservations need to be made **by May 21** and paid for on the registration form. After May 21, call Caroline Todd (573-884-2874) to see what is available. Fifty percent of the housing fee will be refunded if cancelled 10 to 60 days before the conference.

For those staying in the College Avenue campus housing, plan to use the parking behind the residence hall and Bingham Commons. The least expensive option for parking is to purchase a 7-day pass for \$24 that allows you to park in the lot behind the residence hall and the Hitt Street Parking Structure (metered parking is not included). There is a pedestrian overpass over College Avenue that leads to the Plaza 900 cafeteria and Virginia Avenue to conference area. Golf carts will be available to help those with limited mobility move between the residence hall and ABNR on campus.

Because the University is between sessions, there should be plenty of parking near the conference area. You are encouraged to park along Hitt Street during the day and feed the meters with quarters or credit card or keep it simple and purchase a 7-day pass for \$24 to park in the Hitt Street Parking Structure (309 Hitt Street) any time day or night. We will have golf carts shuttling people between the parking garage and ABNR.

If you have an ADA placard or license plates, you can park first come/first serve in any non-reserved and non-restricted accessibility spaces on campus including the Hitt Street

Visitor Lot (HSVL) across the street from the Agriculture Sciences Building with the purchase of a \$24 7-day pass.

### **OFF CAMPUS LODGING**

We have booked a block of rooms with discounted rates as an alternative to the residence hall. The Hampton Inn and Suites Columbia at the University of Missouri, 1225 Fellows Place (not 3410 Clark Lane) is approximately 0.5 miles south of the campus. Regardless of which organization you are a member of, call 573-214-2222 to book at the special "Walnut Council" group rate of \$115 + tax per night or book online at [bit.ly/3j1BuXc](http://bit.ly/3j1BuXc). This includes a free hot breakfast and free parking. Pets are allowed with an additional one-time charge of \$50 for up to 4 days. Consider walking between the Hampton Inn and ABNR or the Brewer Field House to avoid purchasing a 7-day pass or feeding meters.

On Sunday, the Board of Directors meetings for the Walnut Council Foundation and Walnut Council will be held in the Hampton Inn meeting room.

The [visitcolumbiamo.com](http://visitcolumbiamo.com) website lists more than thirty other lodging options within five miles of the campus.

The closest RV and MH park is Pine Grove Village (573-474-4412) at 3900 Clark Lane just east of the I-70 and US 63 interchange or 15 minutes from campus. For information on other camping sites, visit [visitcolumbiamo.com/section/camp](http://visitcolumbiamo.com/section/camp).

### **TRANSPORTATION**

Columbia has an airport served by American Airlines with five flights daily through Dallas/Ft Worth or Chicago ([flycou.com](http://flycou.com)). The Hampton Inn and campus are approximately 12 miles from the Columbia Regional Airport. Car rentals (National, Alamo, and Enterprise) are available at the Columbia airport (573-442-3250). Taxi cabs are available between the airport and campus ([flycou.com/parking-transportation](http://flycou.com/parking-transportation)).

The next closest airport is St. Louis, 90 miles east and then Kansas City airport, 120 miles west of Columbia. Both airports have multiple agencies offering car rentals. Mo-Express offers shuttle service ([moexpress.com](http://moexpress.com); 877-669-4826) between St. Louis and Columbia with ten round trips daily. Advance reservation is required. Door to door is \$70 one way or \$135 round trip plus gratuity with online registration.

### **REGISTRATION FOR CONFERENCE**

Online registration with credit card will be available at [centerforagroforestry.org/event/2023-nut-grower-conference](http://centerforagroforestry.org/event/2023-nut-grower-conference). Alternatively, complete the registration form on pages 15-16 and mail to Caroline Todd, 1111 East Rollins Street, 302 ABNR, Columbia, MO 65211 along with

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a check made payable to University of Missouri. **Register by June 24 to take advantage of the early bird special rate.** Full refunds on registrations are available through July 13.

We are asking each adult attendee to complete an individual registration including accompanying adult companion(s). Children should register with an adult companion who is not attending the field trip and technical sessions. Full registration includes program packet, favor, Sunday's welcome reception, Monday's field tour lunch, Tuesday's box lunch and break refreshments, Wednesday's break refreshments, and Tuesday's Social/Banquet. It does not include transportation or lodging.

### CONFERENCE FIELD TOUR

Plan to drive your own vehicle on Monday to the field tours 26 miles from the campus (allow 45 minutes). There is plenty of parking at the Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Farm (10 Research Center Road, New Franklin) by the haybarn (pavilion) surrounded by a gravel parking lot and along the roads on the farm.

Directions from Columbia to HARF (that avoid the US-40 road closure between Hwy 240 and Hwy 5) involve taking I-70 W to US40 W (exit 121) to MO-240 W (toward Fayette) to State Route P south into New Franklin. Alternatively, take I-70 W to MO 87 (exit 106) toward Booneville to Hwy 5 and follow Hwy 5 north through Booneville past the casino and into New Franklin. Once in New Franklin, stay on Broadway (Hwy 5) past the school, turn left on Research Road just before the New Franklin Car Wash. After the curve, HARF will be on the right. Follow the gravel road for approximately one mile past the HARF shade house and office to the hay barn (pavilion).

The field tours will start with a welcome at 8:45 a.m. and run through 4:30 p.m. We will use bleacher wagons (capacity 30 to 45 people) for the near and far-loop tours. A walking tour is planned for the field stops around the haybarn and demonstration area. All three tours are scheduled to be repeated two times. Stops are scheduled for most of the repositories, progeny, and cultivar trials for chestnut, hazelnut, black walnut, and northern pecan. Equipment planned for the demonstration area include irrigation, electric deer fence, and nut harvesting. How-to videos for topics such as grafting that we cannot demonstrate in the summer will be shown in the haybarn.

After lunch, you will need to decide whether to take the other two field tours at HARF or travel to the alternate timber management field tour at a private woodlot (301 North Highway UU – 1 mile south on UU of eastbound US

40 at I-70 Exit 121). Various field stops are planned to discuss vegetation management, sawmilling and small log utilization, thinning, and an equipment display.

### POST-CONFERENCE TOUR OPTIONS

We are trying to set up a few post conference tours you could participate in after the conference on Wednesday afternoon or Thursday morning. Mark your interest on the back of the registration form. If there is no demand, we will not plan those tours. Below is a partial list of some post-conference tour opportunities listed in order of increasing distance from Columbia giving general direction, travel times, and miles from Columbia. Check the summer issue of *The Nutshell*, the NNGA website, or the printed program at the conference to see which post conference tours have been organized.

**Brundage/Wilson HTIRC Black Walnut Clonal Trial, Harrisburg, MO.** Grafts of the HTIRC's fifteen best timber selections in 2007 were planted in replicated plots on a wide floodplain less than an hour (20 miles) northwest of Columbia. Check the summer *The Nutshell* to see if this becomes a Sunday afternoon pre-conference tour.

**Missouri Pacific Lumber, 694 State Rte. DD, Fayette, MO** ([mopaclumber.com](http://mopaclumber.com); 660-248-3000). Web banner: Setting the Gold Standard in American Black Walnut for Over 40 Years. Less than an hour (25 miles) northwest of Columbia.

**Shepherd's Pecan Valley, 1580 County Road, Clifton Hill, MO.** Dan Shepherd ([dan@cvalley.net](mailto:dan@cvalley.net)) manages one of the largest pecan orchards ([shepherdffarms.com](http://shepherdffarms.com)), processes his own pecans and markets pecans via the internet and farm store. Located about 1 hour (50 miles) north and west of Columbia.

**Cedar Hill Farms, 31229 Mount Olive Rd, Marshall, MO 65340.** Bill and Sue Ellen Stouffer ([cedarhillfarm.com](http://cedarhillfarm.com), 660-287-4510) manage over 20 acres of chestnut trees in an alley cropping agroforestry practice about 1 hour (60 miles) west of Columbia (Hwy 41 of I-70 W).

**Forrest Keeling Nursery, 88 Forrest Keeling Lane, Elsberry, MO.** The Lovelace family owns and operates a tree nursery ([fknursery.com](http://fknursery.com), 573-898-5571) noted for its air-root pruned (RPM) planting stock about 2 hours (103 miles) northeast of Columbia (Hwy E off I-70) and 1 hour (53 miles) to St. Louis Airport.

**Chestnut Ridge of Pike County, US 54, Rockport, IL.** Dale Black manages 30 acres of 'Dunstan' chestnut plantings ([chestnutridgeofpikecounty.com](http://chestnutridgeofpikecounty.com)) along the bluffs above the Mississippi River Valley about 2 hours (105 miles) northeast of Columbia (US 54E off I-70 E) and 2 hours (95 miles) from St. Louis Airport (I-70 E off US 61 S).

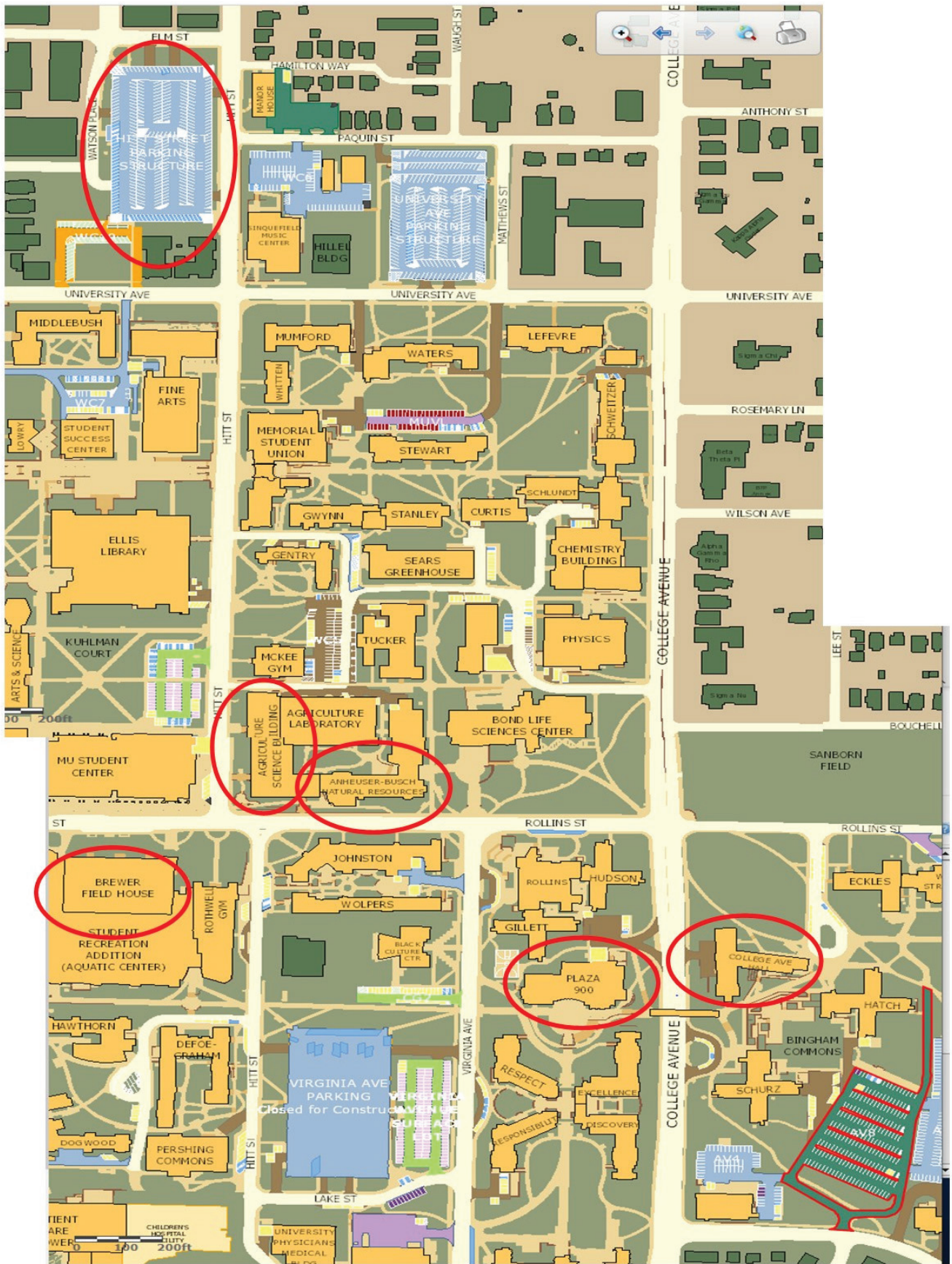
**Hammons Products Company, 105 Hammons Dr., Stockton, MO 65785.** The Hammons family has owned and operated a commercial black walnut processing facility (black-walnuts.com, 417-276-5181) for three generations about 3 hours (160 miles) southwest of Columbia. (US 65 S of I-70 W).

**Chestnut Charlie's Organic Tree Crops, 1841 E 1450 Road, Lawrence, KS.** Chestnut Charlie and Deborah (chestnutcharlie.com) manage 20 acres of nut orchards organically and market 30,000 pounds of chestnut annually about 3 hours (165 miles) west of Columbia off I-70 and 1 hour (50 miles) from Kansas City airport.

### **ANTICIPATED PROGRAM CONTENT**

The presentations at the conference will be a diverse program covering genetics, breeding, and tree improvement; nursery, stand, and orchard practices; insect, disease, and invasive species issues; harvesting, processing, and marketing; and other topics of chestnut, hazelnut, black walnut, butternut, pecan, persimmon, pawpaw, and elderberry. The following is a list of submitted and offered presentations with short titles for the keynote, 20-minute technical, show and tell (10-minute lightning), poster, or field stops. Some of these topics remain to be confirmed along with the addition of more field and poster presentations. The summer issue of *The Nutshell* will have the final program listing presenters, full titles, presentation type, and times.

- The UMCA Chestnut and Other Nut Tree Programs
- AIMS: Update on Chestnut Ancestry
- Cross Species Breeding for Eastern Growers
- Chestnut Repository 1 and 2 and Cultivar Trials
- Seedling vs Grafted Chestnut Performance
- Nutrient Enhancer for Growing Crops and Chestnut
- Cover Crops and Soil Health Impacts in Tree Plantings
- Successful Chestnut Alley Cropping Practice
- Deer Fencing and Irrigation
- Tips and Ideas for an Organic Chestnut Orchard
- Construction and Operation of a Low-cost Air Cleaner
- Our Experience with Oak Wilt in Chestnut Orchards
- Regenerative Chestnut Agroforestry
- Considering Farm Succession for Chestnut Orchards
- The Case for Chestnut Flour: Early Findings
- Marketing Chestnuts – A Panel Discussion
- Ozark Chinquapin Conservation
- New Hazelnut Cultivars from Rutgers University
- Strategies for Hazelnut Propagation
- Breeding EFB Resistance Hazelnut in Missouri
- The Hybrid Hazelnut Consortium
- Hazelnut Breeding Block and Cultivar Trial
- Hazelnut Germplasm and Industry Development Update
- The Upper Midwest Hazelnut Development Initiative
- Diversified Hazelnut and Chestnut Orchard Setup
- Hazelnut Pollinizer Selection and Orchard Distribution
- Mapping the Demand for Agroforestry
- Agroforestry Adoption: On Farm Surveys
- Processing Hazelnuts and Hickory Oil;
- NNGA Cultivar Inventory Database Project;
- Walnut-Past, Present & Future for Nuts and Timber
- Quantitative Trait Loci Mapping in Black Walnut
- Black Walnut Mapping Population and Selection Trials
- Black Walnut Repository and Progeny Block
- NNGA Cultivar Inventory Database Project;
- The Black Walnut Resource in the Eastern U.S.
- NRCS Web Soil Survey for Evaluating Tree Plantings
- NRCS Updated Website and Cost Sharing Opportunities
- GA 4+7 Pre-Soaks Increase Walnut Seedling Production
- Number & Size of Walnut Plantings—Survey Results
- Hardwood Fertilization for Timber and Nuts
- Alternatives to Grasses in Tree Plantings
- Establishing Clover Cover Crops in Walnut Plantings
- When too Thin and Tree Spacing
- Sawmilling and Small Log Utilization
- Shaking Walnut for Earlier and Higher Quality Nuts
- Nut Markets for the 'BOLD, WILD Walnut
- Forestry Co-ops: A Model to Consider
- Walnut Lumber & Log Markets--Industry Prospective
- Timber Basis and Taxation Considerations
- Economic Opportunities & Health Benefits of Walnut
- Conserving Threatened Butternut
- Butternut Artificial Regeneration and Performance
- Witch's Broom: A Threat to Butternut
- Pecan Cultivar Releases & ARS Breeding Program
- Pecan Repository
- Using Drones for Pecan Insect and Disease Control
- My Mistakes in 50 Years of Being a Pecan Farmer
- Climate Smart Forestry with Walnut and Oak
- Soil Suitability and Growth Patterns for Walnut & Oak
- The White Oak initiative
- Swamp White Oak Precocity
- Pawpaw Management
- Who Needs Pawpaw Cultivars?
- Increasing Utility of Native Persimmon Stands
- Elderberry Cultivar Trial
- G x E Interactions in an Elderberry Plantings
- Strategic Responses to Forest Health Threats
- Controlling Invasive Plants in Hardwood Plantings
- Where are We with Thousand Cankers Disease?
- Identification and Distribution of Spotted Lantern Fly
- Native and Exotic Ambrosia Beetles
- What Role Does Phytophthora Play in Oak Decline
- Oak Wilt in an Oak Chestnut Planting 🍄



Map of the University of Missouri campus showing location of venues for the conference (Anheuser Busch Natural Resource and Agriculture Sciences Buildings), social/banquet (Brewer Field House), non-ADA parking (Hitt Street Parking Structure), residence hall dining (Plaza 900), on-campus residence hall (College Avenue), and residence hall parking (AV8). Golf carts will be available to move attendees between most venues. The Hampton Inn is just south of the lower edge of the map west of College Avenue. The downtown area is just off the northwest corner of the map. Source: [map.missouri.edu](http://map.missouri.edu).



# 2023 Joint Conference Registration Form

The 2023 Joint Conference of the Northern Nut Growers Association (NNGA), Chestnut Growers of America (CGA), and the Walnut Council (WC) to be held **July 23 – 26, 2023** on the **University of Missouri Campus in Columbia, MO**.

Register online at [centerforagroforestry.org/event/2023-nut-grower-conference](https://centerforagroforestry.org/event/2023-nut-grower-conference) or complete this form with payment to Caroline Todd, 302 ABNR, 1111 E. Rollins Street, Columbia, MO 65211 (not 65203). **Register by June 24 for the early bird special rate.** For registrations after July 13, call Caroline Todd to see if we have had some cancellations.

**\*\*Please complete a separate registration for each adult attendee.\*\***



## Who is this registration for?

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name as you'd like it to appear on your name tag: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Check if you do not want your name and address included on the printed list of conference attendees.

## Registration Type

All full registrations for in-person attendance include program packet, favor, hors d'oeuvres during the Sunday welcome session, Monday field trip catered lunch; Tuesday box lunch, Tuesday Social (with cash bar)/Banquet; and break refreshments.

**Member Full Registration**  \$200 Early Bird (before June 24)  \$250 (June 24 or later)

I or my spouse is a member of:  NNGA  CGA  WC  Missouri WC + WC

**Non-Member Full Registration\***  \$240 Early Bird (before June 24)  \$290 (June 24 or later)

The registration fee for non-members includes a one-year membership to the organization of your choice. Membership includes online pdf copies of organization's newsletters. Which organization would you like to join?  NNGA  CGA  WC

**Companion(s):** Not attending technical sessions but joining in Sunday welcome reception, Tuesday tour and lunch, Tuesday social/banquet, live & silent auctions  \$120 per companion/child

List name(s) of accompanying child(ren) \_\_\_\_\_

**Exhibitor\*\*** Full registration plus table  \$225 Early Bird (before June 24)  \$275 (June 24 or later)

**Display or Exhibit\*\* Only** (Table without staffing, does not include meals)  \$50

Contact Caroline Todd if you want to send brochures or handouts in advance for the registration packets.

**One Day Registration** If more than one day, please complete a full or companion registration.

\$50 Sunday  \$65 Monday  \$100 Tuesday  \$30 Wednesday

**Virtual Attendance** for Tuesday and Wednesday technical sessions  \$50 total

Link to Zoom sessions will be sent in late July. Send email message confirming registration to: \_\_\_\_\_

**Event Sponsorship:** As part of your registration, would you like to include a donation to help sponsor the conference?

\$10  \$25  \$50  \$100  \$\_\_\_\_\_  No donation at this time

## Dietary Restrictions

Please list any dietary restriction (vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free, etc.) you have. We want to accommodate your needs:

## Accessibility

Activities requiring participants to stand for up to 20 minutes, walk short and moderate distances, and sit in classroom chairs for periods of up to 45 minutes. We recognize that not all individuals are comfortable or able to complete these tasks without assistance. **If you will need assistance with any of these activities**, please list here so that we are prepared to accommodate needs:

**On Campus Housing**

On campus housing will be in College Avenue residence halls across the catwalk from Plaza 900 cafeteria and the ABNR building. There are both single- and double-occupancy rooms available, and both share a bathroom with another room. All beds are twin beds. Rates are for a three-night stay (Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday night) and include towels and linens. If you need additional nights, call Caroline Todd (573-884-2874) to make arrangements. Parking is available behind the residence hall and the Hitt Street Parking Structure with a \$24, 7-day pass. On campus housing reservation and payment must be made on the registration form.

- \$180 per stay, single room with one twin bed and shared bathroom with another room
- \$200 per stay, double occupancy with no roommate with two twin beds and shared bathroom
- \$100 per stay, double occupancy with roommate with two twin beds and shared bathroom. Roommate will need to register on a separate form and pay their \$100/stay share. Roommate's name: \_\_\_\_\_
- \$0—I will find lodging elsewhere on my own

**Payment**

Registration amount from other side \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Event Sponsorship Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
On Campus Housing: Enter amount for 3-night stay \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
On Campus Parking: 7-day pass for \$24 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ License plate: State \_\_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_\_  
**Total Amount Due** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Field Tour Preferences** (Mark the 2 or 3 tours of the most interest to you to help us plan; all choices will be available day of)

- |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Tour A</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Tour B</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Walking Tour</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Timber Mgmt Tour</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Demos Area</b> |
| Chestnut repository 1                  | Walnut mapping pop.                    | Walnut repository                            | Controlling invasives                            | Deer fence, irrigation                     |
| Chestnut cultivar trial                | Walnut selection trial                 | Walnut progeny block                         | Alternative vegetation                           | Harvesting equipment                       |
| Chestnut repository 2                  | Hazelnut breeding block                | Swamp white oak                              | Small log utilization                            | How-to videos, podcast                     |
|  | Pecan repository                       | Hazelnut cultivar trial                      | Thinning decisions                               | Elderberry cultivar trial                  |
|  | Drone demonstration                    |  | Forestry equipment                               |  |

**Post-Conference Tour Wednesday afternoon interest** (Mark 1 or 2 so we can cancel those that have the least interest)

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Do not plan to participate           | <input type="checkbox"/> Chestnut Ridge of Pike County | <input type="checkbox"/> Cedar Hill Farms            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chestnut Charlies Organic Tree Crops | <input type="checkbox"/> Hammons Products Company      | <input type="checkbox"/> Shepherd Pecan Valley       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Missouri Pacific Lumber              | <input type="checkbox"/> Forrest Keeling Nursery       | <input type="checkbox"/> Brundage HTIRC Clonal Trial |

**Please share some information about you and your interests with us!**

Check if you attending your first national meetings of the:

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Nut Growers Association | <input type="checkbox"/> Chestnut Growers of America | <input type="checkbox"/> Walnut Council |
|---|--|---|

What is your principal background and interest?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grower—Commercial Production         | <input type="checkbox"/> Grower—Hobbyist                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Research—Academia, Natural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Consumer—Availability, marketing, nutrition, uses |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Companion to one of the above        | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                      |

Which tree crops are you most interested in? (Select up to three)

- |  |  |   |                                  |
|--|--|---|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chestnuts           | <input type="checkbox"/> Hazelnuts             | <input type="checkbox"/> Pecans         | <input type="checkbox"/> Hickory |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black Walnut (nuts) | <input type="checkbox"/> Black Walnut (timber) | <input type="checkbox"/> Persian Walnut | <input type="checkbox"/> Oaks    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Butternut           | <input type="checkbox"/> Heartnut              | <input type="checkbox"/> Persimmon      | <input type="checkbox"/> Pawpaw  |

What topics are of most interest to you? (Select up to three)

- |  |  |   |  |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Starting a new planting | <input type="checkbox"/> Site selection and layout | <input type="checkbox"/> Site prep and weed control | <input type="checkbox"/> Growing trees from seed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetative propagation  | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultivar selection        | <input type="checkbox"/> Pests & Diseases           | <input type="checkbox"/> Nut processing          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Orchard Management      | <input type="checkbox"/> Harvesting nuts           | <input type="checkbox"/> Harvesting timber          | <input type="checkbox"/> Marketing               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____            |  |   |  |

**Send completed form with payment to:**

Caroline Todd, ABNR 302, 1111 E. Rollins Street, Columbia, MO 65211  
Make checks payable to University of Missouri.

If you have questions or want to check on the cost or status of your registration, please call or email:

Caroline Todd at toddcs@missouri.edu or 573-884-2874

Continued from Page 1...

and got covered in the local newspaper, The Frederick News-Post and in The Guardian. We see the Chestnut Roast as a great way to generate interest in chestnuts in the surrounding area.

We also roasted nuts in downtown Frederick, Maryland during the holiday season. The roasted nuts were met with great enthusiasm by those passing by and introduced many to the work SilvoCulture is doing.



**Figure 2.** Volunteer preparing chestnuts for roasting at our 2nd Annual Chestnut Roast.

### Orchard Establishment

Since our inception we have established multiple small orchards in the region (Figure 3). These orchards will provide long-term food security for the surrounding community for generations. We expect them to begin bearing within the next few years, providing us with fruits and nuts to bring to our local markets and customers.



**Figure 3.** Orchard establishment of chestnut seedling with Plantra tree tubes for protection from rabbits and deer.

### Research

We are invested in furthering the body of knowledge of nut culture through research in planting, maintaining, processing, and marketing chestnuts.



**Figure 4.** With funding from a SARE grant, we are experimenting with different pruning and fertilization options in this 60-year-old chestnut orchard.

With a grant from Northeast SARE, we are researching the cost and effectiveness of pruning and fertilizing a neglected 60-year-old chestnut orchard (Figure 4), as well as organic methods to suppress chestnut weevils. We hope this will help other growers decide what investments in old orchards are worthwhile. We will be presenting our results in 2024 upon the completion of the project.

### POST-HARVEST PROCESSING & MARKETING

We recognize the need for local processing hubs where smaller growers can access post-harvest processing equipment and market their nuts (Figure 5). Having these hubs will encourage existing and new growers to plant more chestnut trees.

With a Maryland Department of Agriculture Specialty Crops Block Grant, SilvoCulture is mapping out potential

local hubs for aggregating, processing, and marketing chestnuts for growers in Maryland. If you have a few or a few hundred chestnut trees or are in the process of planting chestnut trees and are interested in partnering with a future hub, please contact Ryan Lambert (info@silvoculture.org) for more information and let us know about your chestnut trees. By seeing where the current and future chestnut orchards are we can start planning for processing and marketing hubs. 🍂



### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Taylor Logsdon, SilvoCulture's Operations Coordinator, has a passion for caretaking and working with the land. He has over a decade of experience in regenerative agriculture, reforestation, and land stewardship through working on organic farms and non-profits around the world. After settling in Maryland, he ran a CSA for 4 years in Westminster, where he continues to live behind an organic farm with his family. After years of working with vegetables, Taylor completed a PDC and turned his attention to tree crops and agroforestry. In addition to his work with SilvoCulture, he runs an edible landscaping business and nature connection programs for children.



**Figure 5.** Chestnuts from the SilvoCulture orchard.



Chestnut Growers of America  
2300 Bryan Park Ave.  
Richmond, VA 23228

# THE CHESTNUT GROWER

Spring 2023

## Chinese Chestnuts Proudly Grown by Family Farmers in America's Heartland!

Prairie Grove Chestnut Growers is an association of over 60 chestnut growers from Iowa, Illinois, and Missouri!

### Harvest



Our Chinese Chestnuts are harvested and brought in fresh by our growers

### Cleaned + Sorted



Next, our chestnuts are cleaned, sorted by size, bagged, and refrigerated to maintain peak freshness and flavor.

### Delivered for Your Enjoyment



Lastly, our chestnuts are delivered to you and over 1,800 other happy customers across 46 states and counting. No matter how you enjoy them, our chestnuts are guaranteed to satisfy!

**(563) 260-6333**