



Interconnecting
Forests, Science and People



1.01.13 - ECOLOGY AND SILVICULTURE OF CHESTNUT

Coordinator: Stacy Allison Byrd

Deputies:

Veronica Loewe-Muñoz, Maria do Sameiro Patricio and Enrico Marcolin

Nr. 11 / 2026 - October

Come and join us at: <https://www.iufro.org/science/divisions/division-1/10000/10100/10113/>

This is the newsletter from the IUFRO working party 1.01.13 '[Ecology and Silviculture of Chestnut](https://www.iufro.org/science/divisions/division-1/10000/10100/10113/)'. With this newsletter, we aim at sharing information, exchanging research ideas, and building a network among chestnut researchers.

The newsletter is published every 3 months or more - depending on the events or publications of the period (see here for previous numbers: <https://www.iufro.org/science/divisions/division-1/10000/10100/10113/publications/>).

If you have an item of interest to share, such as meetings, publications, research projects or job opportunities, please contact us.



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News from the working party



The International Fagaceae Conference 2027

13th – 18th June 2027
Rieti (Italy)

[WP 1.01.13 Ecology and silviculture of chestnut](#)

[WP 1.01.07 Ecology and silviculture of beech](#)

[WP 1.01.06 Ecology and silviculture of oak](#)

[WP 8.01.01 Old growth forests and forest reserves](#)

[T56 Forest-Water-Livelihood-Governance Nexus](#)

[WP 8.01.04 Hydrological processes and water quality](#)

[RG 1.04.00 Agroforestry](#)

Monitoring, Managing and Restoring Forest Ecosystems to Enhance their Role in a Changing World

An international IUFRO conference to explore the multiple roles of forests in present-day society, define the role of research and technologies in understanding their dynamics, assess up-to-date technical approaches to enhance their contribution to a safer World.

Conference Topics:

- Forest Response to Global Change
- Forest, carbon cycle and climate mitigation
- Forest, water cycle and natural disasters prevention
- Silviculture for optimizing forest products and ecosystem services
- Conservation and restoration of natural forests and their biodiversity
- Advances in field and remote monitoring of forest dynamics
- Applied Tree Genetics
- Urban Forestry
- The Human Dimensions of Forests

Abstract Submission: 1st December 2026 – 15th January 2027

The Conference will accept both oral and poster contributions.

See: <https://iufrofagaceae2027.org/>

Info: difilippo@unitus.it

News from the chestnut world



CASTANEA EXPO
December 11-13, 2026
Fortezza da Basso, Firenze (Italy)

The first exhibition dedicated to Italian chestnut cultivation

December 11-12, from 9:30 AM to 7:00 PM

December 13, from 9:30 AM to 6:00 PM

<https://www.castaneaexpo.it/en/>

A true "supply-chain trade fair" designed to connect the numerous players operating in genetic research, nurseries, agronomy, forest management and timber production, technology, processing, food product innovation, trade, tourism, and the promotion of sustainable economic models in mountainous areas. There is a widespread commitment from numerous Italian universities and research centers, which have invested heavily in genetic research, disease control, and the development of orchard and harvest management techniques through new technologies, machinery, and patents. A section dedicated to the Wood Supply Chain will also include the latest updates on timber-oriented chestnut cultivation in Italy.

Program highlights

- 11 December: Meeting & Discussion – “Castagno: Alimentazione e Nutraceutica”, addressing chestnut consumption, nutritional value and nutraceutical quality.
- 11 December: Workshop - “Dalla ricerca al piano castanicolo”, how interactions between researchers and stakeholders in the timber-oriented chestnut supply chain have implemented the Italian Chestnut Plan. Meeting sponsored by PEFC in collaboration with CREA – Foreste e Legno and Università di Padova (Dipartimento TESAF).
- 12 December: Meeting & discussion – “Castagno: Salute e Ambiente”, with contributions on chestnut landscapes, biodiversity and the role of chestnut orchards in food production.

PRODUCT CATEGORIES

- | | | |
|--|---|------------------------------|
| ○ Agronomic Services | ○ Food Production | ○ Food & Nutrition Education |
| ○ Machinery & Equipment | ○ Nutraceuticals | ○ Natural Cosmetics |
| ○ Sector-Specific Craftsmanship | ○ Kitchen Equipment | ○ Publishing & Printing |
| ➤ <u>Education & Training</u> | ➤ <u>Innovation & Startups</u> | ○ Food Industry |
| ➤ <u>Wood Supply Chain</u> | ○ Technologies | ○ Tourism |



European Chestnut Days 2026 held in Portugal



The European Chestnut Days 2026 took place in Carrazedo de Montenegro, Portugal, bringing together researchers, producers, technicians and stakeholders from across the European chestnut sector.

The programme highlighted current challenges and innovations in chestnut cultivation, including adaptation to climate change, orchard management, irrigation and water-use efficiency, restoration of traditional chestnut orchards, and the management of pests and diseases.

Materials from the event, including the Book of Abstracts, posters and an event video, are available through EUROCASTANEA.

More information and materials: EUROCASTANEA – European Chestnut Days 2026.



The European Chestnut Days 2027 will take place in France / Region Ardèche

Ardèche, France [15–18 September 2027]

<https://www.eurocastanea.eu/>

From the U.S.: Department of Agriculture (USDA) has deregulated transgenic chestnut

The United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has issued a deregulation was by the State University of New York (SUNY) after years of research on creating a genetically modified *Castanea dentata* tree designed for blight resistance. Transgenic chestnuts are now one step closer to being publicly released into the wild and sold commercially. This follows a labelling mistake at the SUNY lab when researchers discovered that they were unknowingly experimenting with the wrong, but closely related, genomic strain. After years of collaborating with SUNY, The American Chestnut Foundation, the lead organization in North America dedicated to developing blight resistant chestnuts, decided to discontinue collaborations with SUNY on development of the transgenic lines, called 'Darling 59'. TACF claims that Darling 58 trees have inferior blight resistance and field performance, and they are not aligned with SUNY's goal to commercially market the trees once released. Darling 54 chestnut will still have to clear regulations from two other agencies: The USDA Food and Drug Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency before it can be publicly released.

For more information: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/news/program-update/usda-deregulates-american-chestnut-engineered-enhanced-blight-tolerance>

News from The American Chestnut foundation:

<https://tacf.org/news/>

Chestnut Chat Series:

- Rescue and Restoration of the American Chestnut.
- The Transgenic Darling 58 American Chestnut Tree

All Chestnut Chats are LIVE via Zoom, so you can attend from anywhere!

[Chat series registration web-page](#)

2026 American Chestnut Symposium & Fall Meeting: Restoration Now!

November 6–7, 2026 | Greenbelt, Maryland, USA

The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF) will bring together researchers, practitioners and partners working on American chestnut restoration. The programme includes restoration-focused scientific sessions, a threatened-species expert panel, poster presentations, a Chestnut Growing Round Table, and orchard and breeding field tours.

More information: <https://tacf.org/2026-american-chestnut-symposium/>

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Chestnut News
Global Voice of the Chestnut Industry & Expo

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USDA Approval Advances Efforts to Restore the American Chestnut

Efforts by researchers at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF) to restore the American chestnut tree to the American landscape took a significant leap forward with an approved designation from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) that ESF's genetically modified Darling chestnut trees are unlikely to pose a threat to other plants.

ESF's American Chestnut Research and Restoration Project announced that the USDA Animal and Plant Inspection Service (APHIS) has completed its review of blight-tolerant Darling 54 American chestnuts and determined the trees are unlikely to pose a plant pest risk.

See more: https://www.esf.edu/news/2026/usda_approves_american_chestnut_project.php

WEBINAIRE | Châtaigniers résistants à la maladie de l'encre: participez à la recherche!

Webinar (French language) | Chestnut trees resistant to ink disease: take part in the research!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yus7d0s-UIA>

La maladie de l'encre constitue l'une des principales menaces pour les châtaigneraies. Existe-t-il des châtaigniers *Castanea sativa* naturellement plus résistants? Comment les identifier? Et comment les castanéiculteurs peuvent-ils contribuer à faire avancer la recherche?

Retrouvez le replay du webinaire organisé par la **Chambre d'agriculture de l'Ardèche**, en partenariat avec INRAE unité BIOGECO, le Syndicat National des Producteurs de Châtaignes (SNPCC), la Chambre d'agriculture d'Occitanie dans cadre des projets MatCha et Prosper, avec le soutien du plan Parsada-Ecophyto.

Intervenants :

- Cécile Robin et Fanny Robledo-Garcia, chercheuses INRAE – UMR BIOGECO
- Hélina Déplaud, conseillère à la Chambre d'agriculture de l'Ardèche
- Cédric Portal, conseiller à la Chambre d'agriculture d'Occitanie

Au programme :

- Les espoirs de la recherche sur les châtaigniers *Castanea sativa* résistants à la maladie de l'encre.
- Comment repérer les plants potentiellement résistants.
- Comment participer à cette démarche collective.
- Point d'étape sur les premiers résultats obtenus.

Call for Papers

[Forests] (IF: 2.5, ISSN: 1999-4907) - Forest Management: Silvicultural Practices and Management Strategies

This special issue belongs to the section “Forest Ecology and Management”.

This Special Issue aims to provide an integrative overview of current advances in silviculture, forest ecology, and forest management with a particular focus on tree adaptation, efficient resource use, and sustainable provision of ecosystem services under changing conditions.

Potential topics include, but are not limited to: Innovative silvicultural systems and stand treatments; Forest management for resilience, stability, and multifunctionality; Tree adaptation, assisted migration, and genetic resources; Resource use efficiency (water, nutrients, light) and productivity; Impacts of climate change and disturbances on forest dynamics; Decision-support tools and modelling for adaptive forest management.

The submission deadline is 31 October 2026.

https://www.mdpi.com/journal/forests/special_issues/BKR47428SB

[Forest Ecosystems] (IF: 5.4, ISSN: 2197-5620) - Forest Sustainability

While the foundational debate stems from European contexts, achieving true global forest sustainability requires exploring diverse regional pathways and questioning traditional preservation paradigms. Emerging evidence suggests that the common "fence and forget" approach—simply converting forest to protected tenures without additional staffing, funding, or active management—often leads to land neglect. Such passive strategies completely ignore past disturbance histories, surrounding development pressures (e.g., weeds, pests, altered genetic exchange), and the escalating impacts of climate change.

The submission deadline is 31 December 2026.

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/special-issue/10QXS8MNJQX>

Featured Newly Published Papers and Books

We ask for your cooperation in case you want to report news (see the section Newsletter contributions).

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Os Produtos Florestais Não Lenhosos de Portugal Continental
Coordenadores:
Margarida Tomé & Tiago Lima

SA Press

New book: *Non-Wood Forest Products of Mainland Portugal*

A new book entitled *Os Produtos Florestais Não Lenhosos de Portugal Continental* [Non-Wood Forest Products of Mainland Portugal], edited by Margarida Tomé and Tiago Ferreira Lima, will be officially released in its printed version during the 10th Portuguese National Forestry Congress, to be held in Coimbra, Portugal, from 5 to 9 October 2026.

The book brings together contributions from 81 authors and covers more than ten non-wood forest products in Portugal.

Of particular interest to the chestnut community is the chapter:

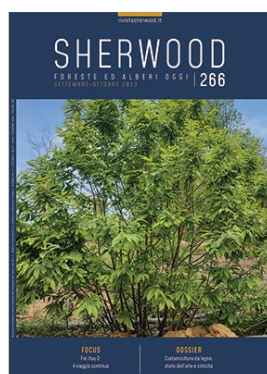
Gomes-Laranjo, J. (Coord.), Patrício, M.S., Almeida, A., Martins, A., Rodrigues, P., & Gaspar, M.J. Castanha – Produtos Diretos com Fileira Estabelecida [Chestnut – Direct Products with an Established Value Chain].

The chapter provides an overview of the chestnut tree and chestnut production, addressing the multifunctional role of chestnut, production systems and the chestnut value chain.

The book and its individual chapters are available in open access.

ISBN: 978-989-36590-7-6

Open-access chapter: <http://hdl.handle.net/10400.5/95824>



DOSSIER - Castanicoltura da legno: stato dell'arte e criticità
(Chestnut cultivation for timber production: state of the art and critical points).

Sherwood nr. 266

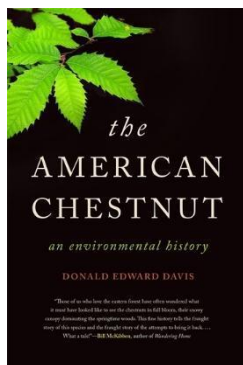
An Italian journal of forestry (in Italian) presenting a special issue on chestnut silviculture & techniques for timber production.

<https://www.rivistasherwood.it/t/pubblicazioni/dossier-castagno.html>



THE CHESTNUT R&D CENTER MAGAZINE
News about R&D concerning *Castanea sativa*
(in Italian and English)

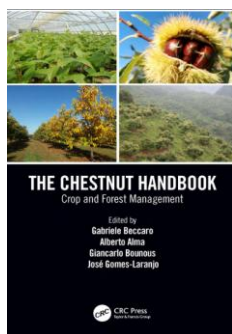
<https://centrocastanicultura.org/magazine/>



The American Chestnut: An Environmental History. 2021, University of Georgia Press.
Athens, Georgia, USA. ISBN: 9-780-8203-6045-4.

Davis, D. E

<https://ugapress.org/book/9780820360454/the-american-chestnut/>



The Chestnut Handbook. 2020, CRC Press.

Beccaro, G., Alma, A., Bounous, G., Gomes-Laranjo, J. (Eds.).

<https://doi.org/10.1201/9780429445606>



Manual de Boas Práticas do Castanheiro.

Manual de Buenas Prácticas del Castaño.

Bento, A. and Ribeiro, A. C. (Eds.).

<http://esa.ipb.pt/pdf/ManualBoasPraticasCastanheiro.pdf>



Le selve castanili della Svizzera italiana. Aspetti storici, paesaggistici, ecologici e gestionali. Memorie della Società ticinese di scienze naturali, 13, 249 p.

Moretti M., Moretti G. & Conedera M. (eds.).

Multimedia

- A traditional song dedicated to the chestnut leaf with a new twist. “The chestnut leaf of the Botanica Album by Abe Rábade”: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Adwf90oNiGQ>
- A series on the American chestnut. These are fun and entertaining short videos: <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/tullws1xH9U>
- A captivating and informative documentary-style video that delves deep into the fascinating world of the American chestnut tree: <https://youtu.be/Es4W0OBjmcA?si=07uNm7eTjics5tZ>

Le projet SPNA-Diff, financé par l’Union Européenne (FEADER) et la région Nouvelle-Aquitaine, vise un transfert de connaissances et de compétences autour de nouveaux savoirs et technologies, auprès des gestionnaires et propriétaires forestiers de Nouvelle-Aquitaine: <https://www.cnpf.fr/actualites/projet-spna-diff-les-videos-et-fiches-techniques-sont-disponibles>

- La méthode ARCHI pour le Châtaignier: the ARCHI method is a tool for the visual diagnosis of tree decline and resilience capacity. It is based on an analysis of the trees' aerial architecture and allows them to be characterized according to their physiological state: <https://youtu.be/olgawuiWBkA?si=RhR-N33HLReEhiQf>
- BioClimSol: quel avenir pour le châtaignier en Nouvelle-Aquitaine? BioClimSol is a method for assessing forest stands at the plot level. It incorporates climate—including extremes—and site conditions that either exacerbate or mitigate climatic effects, such as soil, topography, and aspect. Ultimately, it offers potential silvicultural recommendations in the context of climate change: <https://youtu.be/82DJ-WFD2EI?si=6Qn080Vkb LXWrh>
- Télédétection et suivi du Châtaignier en Nouvelle-Aquitaine: Using remote sensing models to assess and monitor the health status of chestnut trees across the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region: <https://youtu.be/0sE1LyCrSMo?si=w1Qrl4zbYRLahlse>
- The Vigil'encre mobile app, designed to improve understanding and diagnosis of chestnut ink disease: <https://youtu.be/nRGPu5Z5uQU?si=pVm2ZxUkBXbwU Cl>
- Châtaignier training sites in Dordogne: 11 demonstration sites aimed at owners of chestnut coppice stands, designed to help them understand dieback issues and consider silvicultural options for each reference plot. <https://youtu.be/OJ5nuFlxIRQ?si=4uEJl6qnLvoVjXbq>

Newsletter contributions

Do you have news for us? Newsletter contributions are welcome (i.e. upcoming Seminars, Scholarships, Workshops, Conferences, Blogs, Websites...).

If you would like to contribute to the newsletter, please contact Stacy Byrd (sbyrd@utk.edu), Veronica Loewe-Muñoz (vloewe@infor.cl), Maria Patricio (sampat@ipb.pt) or Enrico Marcolin (enrico.marcolin@unipd.it).