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This is the newsletter from the IUFRO working party 1.01.13 '<u>Ecology and Silviculture of Chestnut</u>'. 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 (see here for previous numbers: <u>https://www.iufro.org/science/divisions/division-1/10000/10100/10113/publications/</u>).

If you have an item of interest to share, such as meetings, publications, research projects or job opportunities, please see the Newsletter contributions section below.



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News from the working party

Report from the IUFRO All-Division 1 Annual Business Meeting (7 May 2025).

Our working party Deputy, Stacy Clark, provided a brief report for the IUFRO Division 1 Business Meeting held on May 7, 2025. Highlights from the presentation included updates on:

- Special issue in Forest Ecology and Management (Elsevier) (<u>https://www.sciencedirect.com/special-issue/10RX05B62LH</u>)
 - The Special issue featured 22 publications from 12 different countries, including <u>the first ever</u> <u>silvicultural interspecies synthesis of Castanea</u>

(https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S037811272300275X).

- Special session at XXVI IUFRO World Congress in Stockholm in June 2024
 - Eight oral presentations and eight poster presentations from European, Asian, and North American authors constituted the special session.
 - The working party also held our first ever in-person business meeting!
- In the last two 2024 newsletters, we have provided 80 scientific references for our readers on topics related to Castanea species.

News from the chestnut world

In the United States, the Department of Agriculture (USDA) is considering deregulation of transgenic chestnut.

The deregulation is being sought by the State University of New York (SUNY) after years of research on creating a genetically modified tree designed for blight resistance. If approved, transgenic chestnuts could be 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 tree. 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. The USDA is now seeking public input on the deregulation.

For more information: <u>https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAAPHIS/bulletins/3e3c2be</u>

WORKSHOP: "Production and supply chain of TIMBER from CHESTNUT FORESTS - present and prospects:

17-18 June 2025 in Arezzo (Italy)

The workshop will cover four different topics:

- Timber procurement: what are the factors that limit the valorization of locally-sourced chestnut timber?
- Valorization of chestnut timber and supply chain integration. Some experiences of the operators.
- Differentiation of timber production: opportunities and limitations of silviculture.
- Critical issues in the supply chain: what are they and how are the various sectors of the supply chain affected? Forest management, Harvesting, Innovation and Marketing.

Who is this event aimed at?

Owners, Managers, Regulatory Bodies, Researchers (Forestry and Ecology, Pathology, Economy), Forestry companies, Trade associations, Processing companies, Wood Market (Local companies, Associations of companies, certifiers, importers).

Each section is coordinated by a chairman (an expert in the sector), with the participation of stakeholders who will present their experiences, the problems encountered and the solutions they have developed. Active participation of those interested in the sector will be encouraged at each session.

Workshop Filiera della CASTANICOLTURA DA LEGNO_ProgramDetails

The workshop is in Italian. Information: enrico.marcolin@unipd.it









The 5th National Chestnut Symposium – V Simpósio Nacional da Castanha – will take place in Sabugal, Portugal, from July 3 to 5, 2025.

Organized by the Portuguese Chestnut Association (RefCast), the Regional Coordination and Development Commission of the Center (CCDR Centro), the Portuguese Society of Agricultural Sciences (SCAP), and the Municipality of Sabugal, the event is aimed at technicians and producers, and will focus on the latest advances in chestnut cultivation and sustainable management practices.

https://simposio.online/www/inscricao

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

Call for Papers

[Forests] (IF: 2.9, ISSN: 1999-4907) — Special Issue "Multiple-Use and Ecosystem Services of Forests—2nd Edition"

Guest Editors: Dr. Susete Marques, Prof. Dr. Emin Z. Başkent and Dr. Brigite Botequim.

The <u>submission deadline is 31 May 2025</u> and papers may be submitted immediately or at any point from 25 October 2024, as papers will be published on an ongoing basis.

For more information on this Special Issue and submission guidelines, please visit the following page: https://www.mdpi.com/si/forests/2CZFLTNFHF.

[Forest Ecology and Management] (IF: 3.7, Print ISSN: 0378-1127Online ISSN: 1872-7042) — Special Issue "Special Issue from presentations at the 2024 International Oak Symposium"

Guest Editors: Drs. Steven Brewer, Stacy Clark, Peter Spathelf, and Cornelia Wilson.

Attendance at the 2024 International Oak Symposium is not a requirement for submission.

<u>The submission deadline is 31 July 2025.</u> Papers will be published on an ongoing basis as they are submitted, reviewed, and pending acceptance. No submission fee is required. Page charges are not required for publication, but open access requires a payment.

For more information, please visit: <u>https://www.sciencedirect.com/special-issue/318219/special-issue-from-presentations-at-the-2024-international-oak-symposium</u>

Featured Newly Published Papers and Books

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

Abdelwahab, S. I., Taha, M. M. E., Aljahdali, I., Oraibi, B., Alzahrani, A., Farasani, A., ... & Babiker, Y. (2024). Exploring the potential of chestnut (Castanea sativa Mill.): a comprehensive review and conceptual mapping. Bulletin of the National Research Centre, 48(1), 82. https://doi.org/10.1186/s42269-024-01238-7

Akyüz, B. (2025). Effect of different carbon sources and concentrations on in vitro propagation of chestnut. Plant Cell, Tissue and Organ Culture (PCTOC) 160(2): 25. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11240-024-02960-w

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Aouali, S., et al. (2025). First report of Cryphonectria parasitica causing dieback on Sweet Chestnut (Castanea sativa Mill.) in Algeria. Plant Disease(ja). https://doi.org/10.1094/PDIS-01-25-0071-PDN

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Chen, T., et al. (2025). Impact of ectomycorrhizal symbiosis on root system architecture and nutrient absorption in Chinese chestnut and pecan seedlings. Plant and Soil: 1-17. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11104-025-07332-7

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Heinz, M. and S. Prospero (2025). A modeling approach to determine substitutive tree species for sweet chestnut in stands affected by ink disease. Journal of Forestry Research 36(1): 1-17. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11676-024-01805-8

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Nasiaras, I., et al. (2024). A study of spatial variability in a chestnut orchard (Castanea sativa) for precision agriculture purposes. Annals of the University of Craiova, Biology, Horticulture, Food products processing technology, Environmental engineering 29(65). https://doi.org/10.52846/bihpt.v29i65.158

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Yussif, T. S., et al. (2025). "A Reliable Molecular Diagnostic Tool for CA90 (Castanea sativa× Castanea crenata) Hybrid Identification Through SSR." Agronomy 15(3): 543. https://doi.org/10.20944/preprints202501.1863.v1

Zhang, H., et al. (2025). Draft genomes and assemblies of the ectomycorrhizal basidiomycetes Scleroderma citrinum hr and S. yunnanense jo associated with chestnut trees. Journal of Genomics 13: 6. https://doi.org/10.7150/jgen.103481



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



THE CHESTNUT R&D CENTER MAGAZINE News about R&D concerning Castanea sativa (in Italian and English) https://centrocastanicoltura.org/magazine/

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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/



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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": <u>http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Adwf90oNiGQ</u>
- A series on the American chestnut. These are fun and entertaining short videos: <u>https://www.youtube.com/shorts/tullws1xH9U</u>

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 Clark (<u>stacy.l.clark@usda.gov</u>), Veronica Loewe (<u>vloewe@infor.cl</u>), Maria Patricio (<u>sampat@ipb.pt</u>) or Enrico Marcolin (<u>enrico.marcolin@unipd.it</u>).