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2020 PERRY SWCD SPECIALTY TREE ORDER FORM

i Am. Chestnut	3"-6"	pack of 5, \$20.0	0	_ packs X \$20.	.00=
ı Black Walnut	2'-3'	pack of 5, \$15.00		_packs X \$15.00=	
 				TOTAL	\$
Name					
Address					
City			_ State	Ziړ	o Code
l Phone			_email		

Make checks payable to Perry Soil and Water Conservation District.

Trees may be picked up at 109 East Gay Street in Somerset on Friday, April 17th from 8:30 AM to 6:30 PM, along with the other orders.

"Under a spreading Chestnut, the village smithy stood"

So opens the iconic Hawthorne poem, "The Village Smithy". No American tree is more worthy of a lavish iconography than the native, American Chestnut? *Castanea dentata* was a large, shade tolerant, forest tree that dominated the eastern woodland. If you have ever tasted a *dentata* nut, you'll understand what all the fuss was about. The old folks always said it was the tastiest fruit of the forest and it was a reliable producer. The Hopewell, Adena and the first several generations of pioneers relied on the fruit for significant part of their diet. It is high in fiber, complex carbohydrates, unsaturated fats, vitamin C and B-6 and several trace minerals and it figures prominently in a famous poem and a Nat King Cole standard. That's quite a resume, but there's more. The wood was perhaps the most versatile of all the native species and was easy to work, was stable in dimension and good in contact with water and soil. I can still take you to fence posts deep in the woods that are as sound as the day they were put in, some seventy or eighty years ago.

The tree was decimated by the blight which arrived in New York on Asian Chestnuts and quickly spread throughout the range. Some few small pockets have survived the onslaught and some of that rootstock has entered the market as unwarranted 100% American Chestnut. The trees have the same vulnerabilities as its forebears had 120 years ago but folks continue to plant them. We offer small trees at cost because we believe that the rediscovery of the American Chestnut is worthy of our best effort and a great legacy for those yet born. The American Chestnut Foundation spearheads this movement and is developing a tree with all the good characteristics of *C. dentata* and the built-in immunity of the Asian varieties. We are hopeful that these new specimens will be available in the next few years. We understand that the project will take dozens of years and multiple generations of believers to restore the American Chestnut to its original grandeur. Our young offerings should be planted in areas where chestnuts were not growing when the blight hit, as the blight can remain in the soil. Examples would be village lots, strip mine ground, homesteads and low terraces.

In addition to *C. dentata* and the other offers through our partners at Licking SWCD, we also offer Black Walnut, *Juglans nigra*, at costs. Black Walnut is a highly prized hardwood for furniture and the fruits are eaten by many wildlife species. Spring is the season of renewal and nothing lifts the spirits like planting and nurturing in the soil.

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