

Massachusetts Christmas Tree Association

60th Annual Meeting

September 15, 2018

Chestnut Mountain Tree Farm

www.chestnutmountaintreefarm.com

126 Mountain Road

Hatfield, MA 01038

Hosts: Robert and Jake Schrader

(2 PESTICIDE CREDITS AVAILABLE)

Chestnut Mountain Tree Farm is a family owned 130 acre farm located on an upland plain above the Connecticut River in Hatfield and Whately, Mass. The property was purchased in 2010 and previously was owned and used for growing Christmas trees by the Kogut family. The entire property is protected by a USFS Forest Legacy Program conservation restriction, keeping the property in forestry in-perpetuity. Historically known as Swift Plantation, the farm produced shade tobacco on 75 open acres prior to Christmas trees. A new crop of 3,000 trees, primarily Fraser, Balsam, Canaan and Concolor Fir has been planted annually since 2011, adding to the existing inventory of taller, older trees. 2017 marked the first year of primary sales for farm grown trees. A gift shop sells wreaths and related products.

Tall trees are a specialty, with Fraser and Balsam fir up to 40 feet available. Hay is also produced and sold throughout the year. The farm is owned and operated by Bob and Jake Schrader with family help during the holiday season. Bob is retired from UMass Extension and son Jake works for Berkshire Gas.

8:00 - 9:00	Registration	Coffee, pastries - socialize, visit vendors. Farmers' Market – Bring your equipment to sell.
9:00 - 9:30	Welcome	Introductions, meeting agenda and farm history
9:30 – 10:00	Annual Meeting	MCTA Annual Business Meeting
10:00 – 10:50	Weed Management	Dr. Todd Mervosh

An agricultural weed scientist, Todd Mervosh is General Manager of TM Agricultural & Ecological Services, LLC based in Suffield, Ct. His primary areas of expertise are weed control methods and diagnosis of plant problems.

A native of Illinois, he earned a B.S. degree at the University of Illinois, an M.S. in Agronomy/Weed Science at the University of Wisconsin, and a Ph.D in Agronomy/Weed Science at the University of Illinois. From 1994 to 2014, Dr. Mervosh was a scientist for The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in Windsor. He conducted weed management experiments in a variety of crops, especially Christmas trees and nursery plantings. He also did extensive field research on control of non-native invasive plants including Oriental bittersweet, Japanese knotweed, shrub honeysuckles, pales swallow-wort, Japanese stiltgrass and mile-a-minute weed.

Dr. Mervosh provides information to growers and property managers about effective and environmentally sound weed management strategies, including proper use of herbicides in vegetation management programs. He is licensed in Connecticut as a supervisory pesticide applicator.

11:00 - 11:50	Field tour with Todd Mervosh	
12:00-1:30	Lunch and Visit Vendors	Deli wrap sandwiches, salads, dessert, cold beverages
1:30 – 2:30	Social Media and Your Farm	Using social media platforms to promote your farm. Panel discussion led by members Megan Krugger, Cynthia Cranston and Bob Schrader.

BRING YOUR OWN CHAIRS

Registration Annual Meeting Saturday September 15, 2018

Deadline: for meal count September 10, 2018

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Cost \$20 per person (includes lunch) No. of persons _____ X \$20.00= \$ _____ total enclosed

Maximum \$50 per family (children under 12)

Make checks payable to MCTA & send to: MCTA, Jim Colburn, 104 West Main Street, Merrimac, MA 01860 or

Email name and number of attendees to: jas.colburn@verizon.net, pay at registration desk.