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Greetings from our President

Ryan Liberty

Greetings MCTA Members!

What a difference a year makes! I recently looked at my farm log for June 2022 and it indicated I had taken 2 days off from work to water my freshly planted MCTA seedlings. It had only rained $\frac{3}{4}$ " over several weeks and my trees were in rough shape. This year I'm noticing on my older trees that my tops are a little behind in determining who's in control. The lack of sunshine can't be helping that situation. As farmers we're constantly experiencing a vast array of challenges. Last month it was a late frost. This month in some areas too much rain. Perhaps next month it's too little rain. August may find us dealing with the impact of Balsam Twig Aphid, Balsam Woolly Adelgid, or Fir Needle Cast. I think Will Rogers said it best when he said, "A farmer has to be an optimist or he wouldn't be a farmer!"

As a member of the MCTA executive team, I want you to know that I'm working hard to try to reduce some of the challenges that you face every day as it relates to growing Christmas trees. Whether it's creating meetings that are insightful and engaging or finding ways to collaborate with other community partners that share our synergies, we're doing our best to represent you and your needs. I'm looking forward to sharing many of these initiatives with you at our annual summer/fall meeting Sept 8th to 10th. An updated 2023 MCTA Fall Meeting agenda will be emailed to all of you within the next week or two.

Wishing you all a productive shearing season, and a safe and meaningful 4th of July holiday with your families!

All the best,

Ryan Liberty
 2023-2024 MCTA President



Mark Your Calendars for Sept 9-10!

The 2023 Summer/Fall Meeting will be held at Piper Mountain Christmas Tree Farm in Newburgh on September 9 and 10. Pre-meeting festivities will kick off the weekend on the evening of the 8th. (see page 3 for more information). Registration forms will be sent in August.

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SECRETARY'S CORNER

Joanne Bond

I hope this newsletter finds everyone happy and well. The Association is doing wonderful with over 140 members and better than \$64,000 in the bank. At the first of the year a lot of the members had not paid their dues and website fees but now only a few remain unpaid. As you all know, if your dues aren't paid by the end of the summer/fall meeting in September you get removed not only from the member list but the website also. I want to thank everyone who helped turn this around.

There are a couple of events coming up that need our attention. First is the summer/fall meeting being held at Piper Mountain Tree Farm in Newburgh. The dates are September 9 and 10. The new owners, Jesse and Molly Jimerson, are going to put on a real fun and informative time!

The second event that needs our attention is Fryeburg Fair in October. Well, I guess that's it. So take care and if you have any questions just contact me at 793-4658 or by email bondjoanne1947@gmail.com.

Thank you,

Joanne Bond
Executive Secretary/Treasurer

TREASURY REPORT

Joanne Bond

Summary of MCTA's account balances as of 6/28/2023:

Account	Balance 1/01/2023	Y-T-D Deposits	Y-T-D Expenses	Balance 6/28/2023
General	\$21,232.83	\$10,372.33	\$5,284.93	\$26,320.23
Marketing	\$2,093.29	\$0.00	\$13.30	\$2,079.99
Website	\$6,507.50	\$1,380.00	\$272.00	\$7,615.50
Seed Orchard	\$13,238.06	\$3,245.00	\$257.50	\$16,225.56
Meetings	\$8,327.82	\$1,062.00	\$2,775.69	\$6,614.13
Scholarships	\$7,210.88	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$5,210.88
Totals	\$58,610.38	\$16,059.33	\$10,603.42	\$64,066.29

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Summer/Fall Meeting

Matthew Quinn

2023 Annual Fall Meeting to be held at Piper Mountain in Newburgh

For a new tree grower, the Annual Summer/Fall Meeting could be one of the most important weekends of the year. A chance to talk trees with veteran growers, learn new techniques and skills, and meet new people and network are all vital for the success of a burgeoning farm.

For the hardened veteran farmer it is a chance to see old friends, share memories, and reassess what continues to work, what might need to change and what the newest trends are in the industry that everyone must be aware of.

This year, Jesse and Molly Jimerson of Piper Mountain Christmas Tree Farm will be hosting the Annual Meeting at 27 Trundy Road, Newburgh, on **September 9 and 10**, with pre-meeting festivities kicking off on the evening of the 8th. Onsite camping will be available.



As always, there will be pesticide credit courses available, updates on committees and MCTA operations and the Fall gathering of the Board of Directors. But wait, there's more!

- Field events will be scheduled for BOTH days, with a focus on irrigation, pest management and organic farming opportunities.
- Piper Mountain will also share a tour and overview of their gift shop, wreath business and e-commerce operation. Christmas Trees are but one aspect of the retail industry and Piper Mountain is a leader in the value-added benefits of a full farm experience.
- There will be a used equipment sales table again this year. Your trash may be someone else's treasure!

We are excited to announce our **Keynote Speaker**, Dr. Richard S. Cowles of Valley Laboratory in Connecticut. Dr. Cowles is an expert in the area of biology and management of spotted wing drosophila, hemlock woolly adelgids, armored scales, white grubs (Japanese beetle, oriental beetle, European chafer, Asiatic Garden beetle and black turfgrass atenioides), black vine weevil, and spider mites. He is experienced in the uses of conventional and new insecticides for the management of nursery, turf, landscape and small fruit pests.

His current research efforts are directed toward improved management of armored scales in Christmas tree plantations through basal bark sprays of systemic insecticides; improving the genetics of fir trees grown as Christmas trees; and finding alternative and more effective options for managing strawberry sap beetles and spotted wing drosophila, especially by including behavioral manipulation.

Stay tuned for more to come (registration forms will be sent in August), the **2023 Summer/Fall Meeting** aspires to be a must attend event for all those in the Maine Christmas Tree industry!

Trees 4 Troops Ornaments

Gary Fisher

On June 7th, Melba and her group of volunteers packed up 5000+ ornaments for the 2023 T4Ts project. These ornaments will be passed to Rob Mulvey to send with TFT trees at the end of November. The thousands of handmade ornaments were provided by ladies of the VFW POST 1605 in Lowell, ME. This is the culmination of a year of hard work by them for the Trees for Troops program. Without them it would be very hard to accomplish this huge task.

The small group of volunteers that help each year to pack are greatly appreciated. In addition to the work of packing ornaments, the day includes a wonderful lunch and lots of socializing. Again, it couldn't be done without these folks.

We are always looking for new helpers in June to do this task, so I encourage all MCTA members to think about joining us. Tree donations for the program should be brought to Rob's attention so he knows who he can count on to meet our 300 tree goal.



Fryeburg Fair Update

Gary & Melba Fisher

2023 Fryeburg Fair: OCTOBER 1 - 8

A very exciting spring to all of the Christmas tree growers. Melba and I, being the new Superintendents for the Christmas Tree exhibit, want to encourage as many growers as possible to start thinking about putting a tree and/or wreath in the exhibit this October. There is space for 40 to 45 trees and equally the same for wreaths to display. We had an amazing display of both in 2022 and would really like to see the same again in 2023. About 200,000 people attend making this an amazing opportunity to showcase your farms and products to the public, along with winning monetary awards and ribbons for your hard work.

This is where we need the help of our association members. The MCTA booth is manned by volunteers that talk to the public, sell seedlings to support our scholarship fund; and also sell retail products for wreath making and promo items for MCTA. As always we need tree judges, which is a Saturday afternoon task that takes 3-4 hours and requires 2 people prior to fair opening.

Fryeburg Fair Update (continued)

The exhibit booth for the Christmas trees is quite unique as it has two rooms, one with large bunk beds, coffee pot, refrigerator, heaters and microwave. There are many varieties of food and drinks on the grounds and lots to entertain you after the booth closes in the evening. There are various times still available to work, and passes are provided for workers.

Questions? Call or email Gary and Melba Fisher: 207-322-8716 / alonghere492@gmail.com

Integrated Pest Management

Ryan Liberty

On the evening of June 27th a workshop on Integrated Pest Management in Christmas Tree Production, was held at the Gooley's Christmas Tree Farm in Farmington. The presenters were Brett Johnson and Nick Rowley, who are both Sustainable Agriculture and Horticulture Professionals from the UMaine Cooperative Extension.

This focus of the workshop was on a systematic approach to pest management in Christmas tree production systems. Participants learned about weed management and control of smooth bedstraw at Gooley's Farm. Information was shared about two significant Christmas tree insect pests, Balsam Gall Midge and Balsam Woolly Adelgid, and some current research being carried out by UMaine Extension to control these pests. The workshop was worth 2 pesticide credits.

About the Speakers:

Brett Johnson is a Sustainable Agriculture and Horticulture Professional based out of Somerset County. Brett's work focuses on integrated pest management in vegetable, fruit, and Christmas tree systems. Brett is UMaine Extension's State Contact for Christmas tree production and is a member of the Woods Product Program Leadership Team.

Nick Rowley is a Sustainable Agriculture and Horticulture Professional based out of Franklin County. Nick's work focuses on integrated pest management in vegetable, fruit, and forage crops systems. Nick is UMaine Extension's State Contact for composting and is a member of the Woods Product Program Leadership Team.



NCTA Director's Report

Dugald Kell Jr.

In early August, I will be traveling to Minnesota for NCTA's 2023 Board Meeting & National Tree and Wreath Contest. The meeting will be held in conjunction with the MN CTA Summer Meeting at Wolcyn Tree Farms and Nursery in Cambridge, MN. The National Christmas Tree Association conducts the National Tree Contest every two years to promote the high quality of trees raised by NCTA members and to identify the tree growers who will provide Christmas trees to the White House and the Vice President's residence for the subsequent two Christmas seasons.

Seed Orchard

Calvin Luther

The Seed Orchard Committee met on February 7th. Todd Murphy reported that a cone harvest is expected this year but the details remain to be determined. Organization for the harvest will be done well in advance so that people have time to prepare. Todd also reported that the seed germination tests showed success in only the 2017 seed. Twenty pounds of this seed was sent to Larry Downey last December. Only 2 lbs remains in freezer storage at Kelco, although many pounds of other seed is also still stored there.

Len Price reported on needle retention test results. In October 2022 a second round of testing was done by Dr. Gary Chastagner's lab (Washington State University). Dr. Chastagner established a format for testing in 1993. The results identified 7 individual trees with good needle retention. Two are from mother tree #1, two from #4, one from #14, and two from #15. Three others that were close contenders in needle retention. Two from tree #2 and one from #43. None of the MCTA samples performed as well as the typical fraser for needle retention, but they are much better than the run-of-the-mill balsam.

Calvin Luther will reach out to Ellis Sprague to see if he has interest in grafting scion from the above trees, and if so, request an estimated cost. Todd will prepare rootstock for the project at an appropriate time to be determined. Calvin will also approach a greenhouse that he's familiar with to see about availability for this project. *[An update on this project is reported separately in this newsletter]*

Rob Mulvey reported that Downey Nursery can potentially take orders out to 5 years in advance of delivery. Rob will put together a call with Downey to discuss this further.

The Committee reviewed information on establishing a second seed orchard site.

Ashland site: Ashland has become dormant, is far away, older, has genetics and cones that we want. It was decided to continue to nurture its development. We need to get people up there to work on it show that we care about the site and that we are invested. Steve Higgins will approach Ann to signal our interest, as well as possibly offering a financial contribution to offset any inconveniences. A team of people should be coordinated to make a trip up there for maintenance after planting season is over. Anne Chase (owner of Ashland site) needs liability insurance from us. Ryan to investigate this.

Hartland site: the Committee approved to move forward with Dave Schaible engaging with Keith Kanoti from UMaine about our interest in collaborating for a new seed orchard there.

Ed Buschmann site: It was decided that Ed's site along with Len's and potentially Steve's may be part of a longer-term plan for multiple mini progeny testing sites throughout the state.

Steve Higgins site: Steve has asked that he put his potential site on hold until he works through some details.

Following the February meeting, some members of the Seed Orchard Committee initiated further discussion with the University of Maine about the Hartland site. These efforts resulted in a written agreement for MCTA to establish a seed orchard on one acre of land at the University of Maine Huff Hill property in Hartland, Maine. The document was reviewed by the MCTA Board of Directors, who voted and approved the signing of this agreement by Ryan Liberty on behalf of the Association.

Seed Orchard 2023 Grafting Project

Calvin Luther

The board of directors have provided permission for the seed orchard committee to proceed with establishing new grafted planting stock for the next seed orchard planting.

Our association, through the efforts of Len Price, have obtained and sent cuttings from trees that have been in the most recent progeny test of our best seed orchard trees for a needle retention study. Based on 2 years of needle retention study work performed by a laboratory in the Seattle, WA area, we selected the best 10 trees

Seed Orchard 2023 Grafting Project (continued)

from the needle retention study. The goal is to have 70 good transplants (7 versions of each of the 10 best trees) to install in a new seed orchard to be located in Hartland on land owned by the University of Maine.

Scion Collected:

Len kept good records for the trees he planted in the progeny test on his land in Newburgh. He and I collected scion from the 10 trees which exhibited the best needle retention from the study. We need 7 samples from each superior tree, so in late February 2023 we collected 10-13 samples per tree to allow for rejects. The trees from which we collected scion are as follows and are located on his plantation off of Rt. 9 in Newburgh:

1.3, 1.9, 4.1, 4.2, 14.5, 15.3, 15.6, 4.8, 4.10, 43.4 (For each tree number: the clone # . tree # of that clone.)

We have 10 trees which were superior in the needle retention study and we will graft scion from those trees onto root stock to be provided by Todd Murphy, for a total of 70 grafted transplants.

Root Stock:

Todd Murphy, Trees to Please, has already potted 40 balsam fir seedlings for use in this project and has available an additional 30 transplants to be potted this spring. We want 70 good grafts, so we should provide 75 root stock to allow for some mistakes and still get 70 good grafted trees.

Todd will charge \$9.00 per potted transplant, for 75 plants totaling \$712.12 with tax.

Grafting Plans:

We have an agreement with Ellis Sprague, for him to graft 70 balsam fir transplants with scion collected in late February 2023. Ellis owns Green House Supply company and he lives in Brewer, near Len and I. He grafted the last bunch of successfully grafted planting stock that we planted in the Norridgewock seed orchard. I believe we had very good survival of the trees grafted by Ellis, and we have confidence that he can repeat the previous success. His costs to us will be:

Original grafts = \$20/grafted transplant, Payable upon completion of original grafts.

Viable grafts = \$15/viable grafted transplant 90 days after the grafting. Payable 60 days from completion of original grafts.

He succeeds 70-80% of the time. For budgeting we should count on 100% success, \$35/tree x 70 trees = \$2450.

I have looked in the area around where Ellis lives for a greenhouse operator who might have a 10'x10' space to graft seedlings, with no luck. Ellis thinks he can do it at his house in Brewer. He is in Florida, returning to Brewer in mid-April. I'll meet him after he arrives and we can finalize the location for the work.

Following grafting the potted transplants should stay where they are for 60 days. Don't want to shake a graft apart by transporting them. So we will need a short term storage location. Then we need long term protected storage location for the potted plants until next spring planting season, with watering capabilities and someone to do the watering.

Timing: Ellis indicated that when the potted plants start to break bud, that they should be grafted within a week. He generally expects this in mid-May, but may be earlier this year, not sure. The scion is currently in a refrigerator at my friend's house in Orrington, and I will transport it to Ellis in Brewer when he needs it. We should be able to set up the grafting station at his house by the first of May.

Budget:	Root stock from Trees to Please:	75 x \$9.00 plus 5.5% tax =	\$712.12
	Original grafts from Ellis Sprague:	70 x \$20.00 =	\$1,400.00
	Viable grafts budget estimate Ellis Sprague:	70 x \$15 =	<u>\$1,050.00</u>
		Total Estimated Cost =	\$3,162.12

Christmas Spirit Foundation

Rick Dungey, Executive Director

*Trees for Troops Heads for Milestone in 2023***Update on Trees for Troops 2022**

We expected around 15,300 total trees last year, based on the estimates from the farms and retail centers that gather donated trees and load them into the FedEx trucks. But all the participants came up with about a thousand more! 16,391 total trees in 2022. This puts the grand total through 18 years of the program at 293,392 trees donated to the military by Trees for Troops and FedEx.

Thank you to all of you for your commitment and dedication to making this program happen. We're often asked, "Where do all the trees come from?" When we total the pick-up locations and list them by state, here's what we had last year:



Rank	State	# Trees
1	Oregon	4,000
2	New York	3,486
3	Michigan	1,186
4	North Carolina	1,030
5	Pennsylvania	1,023
6	Massachusetts	800
7	Wisconsin	765
8	Georgia	732
9	New Jersey	703
10	NH/VT combined	390
11	Illinois	380
12	Washington	350

Rank	State	# Trees
13	Ohio	304
14	California	300
15	Virginia	250
16	Maine	228
17	South Carolina	150
18	Indiana	130
19	Minnesota	100
20	Kansas	90
21	Texas	60
22	Florida	25
23	Tennessee	13
24	Missouri	6

And where do they end up? Here's our military base distribution from last year:

Branch	# of bases	Delivered
Air Force	16	3,585
Army	25	7,158
USCG	11	442
Marines	9	2,636
Navy	23	2,570
TOTALS	84	16,391

Christmas Spirit Foundation (continued)

Sometimes we're asked about the impact the program has. There are a lot of ways that can be answered, but it may be easiest to just share straight from a military family who received a tree. I'll share this email from a family stationed at Naval Construction Battalion Center Gulfport:

Thank you for our tree!

We are stationed on NCBC Gulfport where my husband serves with the Seabees. Our family received our tree last night at the base tree lighting event. What an amazing gift! These four kiddos are very excited to start decorating a real tree instead of an artificial one, something we didn't expect to be able to do this year.

Thank you so much for this generous gift. We feel so blessed and grateful.

Merry Christmas, Heather E.

Probably made a Real Tree customer for life!

Planning Trees for Troops 2023

We are in the planning stages now for a ceremonial presentation of the 300,000th tree in the program's history in 2023. We have had ceremonies for the 100,000th and 200,000th tree given away. These milestones can garner a lot of extra attention. Ideas being explored include showing the entire process of "THE tree" from farm to base and the family who receives it.



We continue to expand the ability to help farms move small numbers of donated trees to the handful of pick-up locations to get them on a FedEx Freight truck at the designated time. We plan to open an online store this year to sell items branded with the program, including Christmas cards using the artwork submitted by youth and adults in a creative contest. The Spirit Award recognition has become formalized and allows the Foundation to highlight individuals and organizations who go above and beyond to support Trees for Troops each year.

The Board of Trustees has been expanded (3 seats are reserved for NCTA appointment) to 12 individuals from varied backgrounds. Many are tree farmers, but also include those in banking, health care and others. If you have any questions or ideas to share with the Foundation about Trees for Troops, please contact a Trustee or Rick Dungey, the Executive Director, at 314-416-2245 or info@christmasspiritfoundation.org.

Minutes of the Spring 2023 Board of Directors Meeting

Heidi Watson

March 31, 2023 6:29 pm - Ryan Liberty called the meeting to order. Directors Present were Ryan Liberty, Matt Quinn, Dugald Kell, Matt Lacasce, Joanne Bond, Gary Fisher, Calvin Luther, Lee Skillins, Jim Corliss, and Heidi Watson. Margaret Schmidt was absent. Guests present were Rob & Tammy Mulvey (Trees for Troops), Melba Fisher (Fryburg Fair), and Norma Corliss.



Minutes of the Spring 2023 Board of Directors Meeting (continued)

Ryan Liberty recommended the appointment of Heidi Watson as a Director to the Board, and a vote on the recommendation was called. It passed by unanimous vote and approval.

Approval of the minutes from the January meeting. Jim Corliss stated they are more like notes and not minutes, he did read that and submitted to each director a copy. Dugald Kell made a motion to approve the actions of the board as described in the notes. 2nd: Matt Quinn. Voted and approved all in favor.

Joanne Bond - Treasurer's Report

Sent 74 dunning letters. 59 have paid memberships on time. Ryan suggested we go through the membership list and weed out inactive members or members that don't pay their dues. Dugald stated unless we knew something specific about farms we should wait until Fall to talk about the list of members that are inactive and haven't paid or simply sold that farm.

145 members. A couple more coming in. 2 Lifetime members.

We received 500 member cards for free due to an error made by the printing company.

Joanne reported on behalf of the scholarship committee. We awarded 2 students with \$1,000 scholarship each: Isabelle Higgins (Steven Higgins' niece) and Sarah McNeil (Tom McNeil's daughter).

Joanne handed out the following:

- MCTA Summary Account Balances for 2023

- MCTA Summary of Deposits 2023

- MCTA Detailed Deposit Record for 2023

- MCTA Expenses for 2023

- MCTA Detailed Expense Report for 2023

We'd like to move a portion of money into something that brings in more of a yield. Ryan is on the accounts now with Joanne. Ashley at Key Bank made a paper for us to bring to the board. Move money to a savings account to earn interest on it. Current rates: 6-month CD 1.75%; 12-month CD 3.25%. Lee Skillin asked about the cash flow needed for a year. Matt Lacase asked about a money market that could be cashed in easily. General consent to get more information on rates. Ryan and J. Bond getting information on rates.

Big E - MCTA received an invitation to partake in the fair. Dates are Sept 15 to Oct 1. No interest from board members. Also noted this does run into the Fryeburg Fair as that begins Sept. 30th.

Thank you Notes presented by Joanne Bond:

Maine School Garden Network has a big meeting on May 13th. Asked us to donate trees, but the directors decided against it.

Ellsworth Rotary Club in reference to scholarship donation in memory of Dugald Kell Sr.

Sarah McNeil for her Scholarship

J. Bond - proposal 7 boxes of 1,200 ornaments in her basement. We use 300 a year for Trees for Troops. Sticker for the back; give them out to people we sell trees to at the Fryeburg fair. Nobody disagreed. J. Bond to look into a sticker that will fit the ornament.

NCTA Update - Dugald Kell

Meeting this summer at Wolcyn Tree Farms in Cambridge, MN. Board meeting Aug 3rd. NCTA tree contest Aug. 4-5 during the MN CTA summer meeting. Contest winners to provide trees for the White House the next 2 years. Jim stated that about 10 to 12 years ago Finestkind put a tree into the National Meeting and placed 2nd. He thinks this is the only tree from Maine that ever placed in a National contest. Early August 2024 the NCTA Board meets in Nova Scotia

Minutes of the Spring 2023 Board of Directors Meeting (continued)

Legislative Update - Gary Fisher

Mike Tipping Maine Senator - Labor issues coming up in bills 6-8. Will put it on the MCTA Website (<https://www.mainechristmastree.com/news/>).

University of Maine - Farm Survey 30 min.

Free Farm Business advertising.

Maine Farmland Trust hiring.

Maine Flower Show is not happening in Portland. L.Skillin gave an update regarding the flower show.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Scholarships - already completed by J.Bond.

Seed Orchard - Calvin Luther Report submitted and read.

Minutes read by R. Liberty from the Seed Orchard Committee's last meeting. They are making great strides working together. Hartland site is managed by the state forester, and owned by the University of Maine. UMaine could potentially provide internships to help do the work at this location. D.Kell - gave a brief update on seeds in freezers. 2019 harvest - 30lbs.

Marketing - Ryan Liberty

Biggest is Fryeburg Fair. Historical Signage and videos. Interview with Max McCormick. Talked about having a video that plays continuously, and having a banner on the poultry barn outside wall with history and photos of the Association.

Blaine House Christmas Trees - exposure in a positive way. Still happening this year!

Push Fall Meeting with VT, NH growers.

Mentioned that we need to have more going on. This is the goal for our meetings to meet the needs and interests of small growers and larger growers. We think this year we will be able to accomplish that, Ryan said. M. Quinn is in charge of the Fall meeting this year.

Media Coverage - UMaine collaboration seed orchard in Hartland. We want to jump on that.

Fryeburg Fair - Gary Fisher

H. Watson talked about finding pricing on logo wear that we could sell. T-Shirts and sweatshirts.

A comment was made that we do not have MCTA cups.

Book - Children's story hour. Talked about reading the Ben and Molly's Christmas Tree Farm.

Ryan asked if Heidi would be part of that committee and she agreed.

Historical - Ryan trying to get our history collected and interviewed Max. They left there with journals, books, and notes of MCTA history. Build an archive of our history.

Gary Fisher & Melba are officially Superintendents of the Christmas tree exhibit as of April 1, 2023.

Melba has each day scheduled with volunteers. Good Shape. Trustees meeting April 1 in Fryeburg. Purchased a used tree drill for \$100. Brochures for the association as a handout is desired by Gary. Also a sheet or card that we can give with the seedlings we sell (How do you plant a seedling?). Make the door a dutch door, so the bottom can stay closed. Tammy last year made a sign for her trees laminated - ask everyone to bring a sign for their trees. T-shirts; no MCTA cups. Raffle a fire pit - donate to use for a raffle... 501 C6 - (Ryan has a donation if we can). Discussion on if we can raffle or not. We haven't used an accountant in many years was



noted in the midst of conversation of if we can raffle or not.

Minutes of the Spring 2023 Board of Directors Meeting (continued)

Trees for Troops - Rob Mulvey

Get the most out of it. Rick Dungey is the Executive Director of the Christmas Spirit Foundation which oversees the Trees for Troops Program. Get more media there to talk about the great story that it is. Not enough trees were donated in 2022. Rob & Tammy Mulvey donated 80 trees alone in order to keep our numbers up. We thanked the Mulvey's for their generous donation to stand the gap of our goal.

The Goal is 300 trees for 2023. Already have commitments for 72 trees from members. Non-members 30 trees donated. Add in the next newsletter.

Suggest a bulletin board at the Fryeburgh Fair for past farms that have donated, and donation box for cash donations. Use the money to buy trees if we are short and or send money to TFT. Gold Stars for farms that donate over 15 trees. Information for people to have.

New pick-up point for 2023: Searsmont, ME.

Ornaments for Troops - Gary & Melba Fisher

June 7th at 9am the Fishers are hosting a get-together of volunteers to put ornaments in bags. Goal is 7,000 ornaments--we have 5,000. Norma is buying bags and cards. Place is the Fisher's residence, 324 Augusta Rd., Belmont, ME.

Newsletter - D.Kell

Next issue to come out in May. Articles or things to submit get to him in two weeks. Jim says to list the officers and directors properly in the newsletter.

Website - D.Kell

Hit some snags with updates that make parts of it not work so well. Snag last fall - people couldn't update their own profiles. The developer (Ben Greely) helped fix the issues and billed \$225 for few hours work. Still a small residual issue with the Google Captcha. R. Liberty suggested we improve our website.

Do we have videos of the Blaine house - Tammy asked. Facebook/IG - Matt Quinn & Ryan post to it.

Talked about forming a website committee.

Nominating Committee

Heidi is now a Director. Ryan stated that if we knew anyone that would be a good addition or wanted to join to let Jim Corliss know. Bret Mitchell said he would be on any time - J. Bond

Old Business -

New Business -

Fall Meeting - Matt Quinn Piper Mountain. Jess & Molly. Give a different spin to it. The goal is to get different places and how they operate. Wreath and gift shop are rather large. Topics - irrigation, environmental changes. Dates: September 9, 10.

Ryan asked if March was best for the Spring meeting. We decided to wait until Fall/Winter to decide if we would make changes to the meeting schedule.

Motion made by L. Skillin to adjourn. Seconded by D. Kell. Meeting adjourned by Ryan 9:38PM.



Application for Membership Maine Christmas Tree Association, Inc.

Date _____ Business/Farm Name _____

Owner's Name _____ Telephone _____

Physical Address _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Website _____

Do you wish to receive the MCTA newsletter by email? ☐ Yes ☐ No
(for the foreseeable future, a hard copy will also be mailed to your mailing address)

Please check the items that describe your operation:

- ☐ Wholesale Grower ☐ Choose & Cut Grower ☐ Wreath Maker
☐ Retail Grower ☐ Tree Retailer ☐ Related Products

Membership Class (check one):

- ☐ Regular (\$75)
☐ Sustaining (\$100) *Upgrade your membership to help keep MCTA strong*
☐ Junior (under age 18 - enter birth month/year: ____/____)

Total Amount for
this Section:

\$ _____

MCTA Website Application and/or Renewal

To be listed on the website, you must be a member of the MCTA and grow/produce Christmas evergreen products in Maine.

Once you have paid the appropriate fee, a website account will be created for you. You will be sent the information to log on and set up your listing. Features include listing in any of three categories, customizable links to your own website and/or Facebook pages, as well as your own web page on the site where you can describe your product offerings, hours, location, etc.

Total Amount for
this Section:

\$ _____

Website Fees (check one): ☐ New Listing (\$60) ☐ Renewal (\$30)

Send completed application with a check to the treasurer at the following address:

Joanne Bond
174 Bond Spring Rd
West Newfield, ME 04095

Payment Due:

Check # _____ Amount \$ _____
Payable to: **MCTA** Add 2 Amounts above

Membership Application can be done online at mainechristmastree.com. Payment can be made by PayPal

Signature _____ Date _____



If undeliverable, return to:

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