

MCTA, CTA Meeting September 13 - 14, 2025

SCHEDULE

Fox Brand, Inc.
Richmond Corner, NB, Canada

Saturday

- 8:30 AM - 9:00 AM** Registration (Donuts and Coffee)
- 9:00 AM - 9:30 AM** Business meetings for separate associations
- 9:45 AM - 11:00 AM** **Keynote Presentation: “A Gift Seed” Project Overview and Update.**
Justin Whitehill, Assistant Professor at North Carolina State University, NCSU Christmas Tree Genetics Program and Co-Director of the Forest Biotechnology Group

This major tree improvement program will involve major universities and researchers from the United States, Canada and Denmark. Major industry challenges such as root rots, insects and other biotic or even abiotic (for instance, drought), will be studied through the objective lens of genomics.
- 11:00 AM - 11:45 AM** **Panel: Tree Seed Orchard and Grafting.**
Matthew Wright (CTA), Len Price, Calvin Luther (MCTA) Larry Downey (Downey Trees), Ron Smith (CFS/UMB)
- 11:45 AM - 1:00 PM** LUNCH
- 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM** **Field Presentations**

Presentation #1: Conifer Root Aphid and Phytophthora - Mike Cunningham, Rose Enterprises

Presentation #2: Diseases of Christmas Trees - Brett Johnson, Univ. Maine Coop Extension

Presentation #3: Tree Plantation Tour - Brian Fox, Fox Brand, Inc.

Presentation #4: Wreath Decorating, Porch Pots, and More!
- 5:00 PM - 7:30 PM** **Social Hour and Dinner** - The Shiretown Inn & Suites [event room](#)

Sunday

- 8:30 AM - 9:00 AM** Registration (Donuts and Coffee)
- 9:00 AM - 9:45 AM** **Needle Abscission Prevention**
Rich Cowles, scientist with Valley Laboratory at The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

Rafaella Mayrinck, TransX research initiative research lead at University of New Brunswick <https://unb.ca/domore/rafaella.html>

9:45 AM – 10:30 AM	Developing Exemplary Orchards - What's Been Learned <i>Ron Smith, Canadian Forest Service/University of New Brunswick</i>
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Key Pest Prevention with the "Gift Seed" Project <i>Justin Whitehall, Assistant Professor at North Carolina State University, NCSU Christmas Tree Genetics Program and Co-Director of the Forest Biotechnology Group</i>
11:30 – 12:15	LUNCH
12:15 - 12:45	Trees for Troops/US Federal Policy Update - Rick Dungee,
12:45 – 2:45	Field Presentations <u>Presentation #1</u> Emerging and Changing Pest Dynamics - Rich Cowles, Valley Laboratory at The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station <u>Presentation #2:</u> Managing Root Disease, Water Issues, and Heat - Brian Fox, Fox Brand, Inc. <u>Presentation #3:</u> Wreath Decorating, Porch Pots, and More!
2:45	Depart