



MNCTA.com

Minnesota Christmas Tree Association 320-743-4657 phone
12519 37th Street SE, Clear Lake, MN 55319

Save the Date.....MARCH 9-11th
MNCTA Winter
Convention & Trade show

WHEN March 9-11th 2017

WHERE Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Reservation- 800-222-8733 with MNCTA Hotel reservation link

: <http://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/M/MSPBSDT-MXT-20170309/index.jhtml>

2017 Winter Meeting Speakers and Program

Larry Downey from Quebec, one of Canada's largest growers of Christmas trees will be giving two presentations. One will focus on growing Korean fir and what he has learned about this increasingly popular tree. The other presentation will be a general presentation about his farm and growing and marketing fir's across North America. Larry has presented at the NCTA and several State association meetings.

Vera Krischik (University of Minnesota extension entomologist) and **Michelle Grabowski** (University of Minnesota extension plant pathologist) will have presentations on with insect and disease problems. They will be focusing on pests we can expect to be having more problems with especially related to a wetter than normal growing season like many of us had last year, new pests that are showing up in our area and what to expect in the future.

Carl Vogt (long time grower, MNCTA member and retired University of Minnesota extension forester) has a great presentation on the history of Minnesota Christmas tree farming and the MNCTA.

Elizabeth Wemeier (Associate Representative, Thrivent Financial) and an estate-planning attorney will have a 45-minute presentation "Keeping the Farm in the Family" and be available for consultation both days. Elizabeth is passionate about helping farmers and their families and seeing the local agricultural economy grow.

Andy Jenks (University of Minnesota, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) research and extension specialist. Using QGIS, a free GIS systems and how it can fit into Christmas tree operations. Applications could include mapping fields and keeping track of things like herbicide, insecticide, fertilizer, mowing, planting and other operations and tracking costs on a per acre or per tree basis. Other aspects of the presentation will include using drone imagery to inventory and track fields and individual trees, making pretty handouts with maps for choose and cut customers and other non-Christmas tree applications you may be interested in. There will also be a presentation on using Google maps and what it can do –vs- a true GIS like QGIS

Esultants will be doing sessions on "Get the most out of Google Analytics" and "Getting the most bang for the time and effort out of Facebook, Google My Business, Yahoo, Bing, Instagram and other sites"

Annual Meeting for MNCTA. Committee Opportunities.

Open discussion between MNCTA members and representatives from the University of Minnesota related to our needs and/or desires in all areas of research and extension at the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences (CFANS) and the U of M as a whole.

Open Discussion with growers covering topics from planning, planting, shearing, marketing, equipment uses, pricing, sales and more! Pizza Night/ Social hour- Thursday night! Fun learning! Networking with the best in the industry! Vendors with new products! UMGA will be at the hotel same time!