

Summer CONVENTION

BALANCING ACT

WHOLESALE AND CUT-YOUR-OWN ON THE SAME ACREAGE

Convention Chairmen:

Mike Martin
& Dean Lemke

Tree Contest Chairman:

Jon Andreas

Farm Tour:

Mike Martin
Highland Trees
Wausau

Mitchell Metal Products is offering facility tours on Thursday.

Book Your Hotel Room!

Hotels In Merrill:

AmericInn, (715) 536-7979,
ask for "tree producers" rate
Econo Lodge, (715) 536-9526
Cobblestone Inn,
(715) 536-6880
More hotels are in the Wausau
area, 20 miles south

Thursday and Friday events

will be at the Merrill Festival
Grounds on the corner of
N. Sales Street and E. 6th
Street, Merrill, WI 54452

Saturday farm tour host

is Highland Trees. We will
meet and park at the festival
grounds to board the buses.

Join your friends and peers in Merrill, WI for our convention
on August 25-27, 2022

Tentative Schedule

Thursday, August 25

10:00 Board meeting
10:00-3:00 Vendors set up
1:00-1:30 Mitchell Metal Products facility tours
2:00-2:30 Mitchell Metal Products facility tours
2:00 Registration is open
3:00-6:00 Vendors open (& cash bar)
5:30-7:00 Picnic with vendors

Friday, August 26

8:00 Registration Opens
8:00-11:30 Tree Contest entries register & set up
8:15 Vendors open
9:00 DATCP Update
9:30 CT Promotion Board Update
10:00 Break
10:15 Estate/Succession Planning
11:30 Visit vendors
12:00 Lunch, Visit Vendors
12:00- 2:00 Tree Judging
1:30 TBD
2:30 Panel: Cut-Your-Own farms
3:30 Annual Meeting
4:15 Board reconvenes
4:15 Social time with vendors
5:00 Vendors Close
5:30 Banquet

Saturday, August 27

7:20 AM Board buses
Park vehicle at festival grounds & board a bus for 15
minute ride south to Highland Trees. Farm tour and
demonstrations on tree painting (by Kirk Co.), and
making wreaths and garland. Return to Merrill by 12:30.



Wisconsin Christmas Tree Producers Association, Inc.
W9833 Hogan Road, Portage, WI 53901

Ph/Fax (608)742-8663 | info@christmastrees-wi.org | www.christmastrees-wi.org

DATCP Update - What's Bugging You?

Brooke Sanneh, Christmas Tree Program Manager, Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, 608-235-7861, brooke.sanneh@wisconsin.gov

Brooke & staff will update us on what the inspectors are finding, discuss current issues, and will answer questions you ask.

Christmas Tree Promotion Board Update

Marsha Gray, 517-242-1630 or Derek Ahl

Marsha or Derek will talk about this year's new campaign and how the program is reaching consumers.

Estate and Succession Planning

Business Attorneys at Ruder Ware: Mykayla A. Dado and Kelly T. Wilfert

Learn how the right legal instruments can help you, your family and your farm business in long-term planning. The team at Ruder Ware L.L.S.C. will share their expertise with estate and succession planning with a focus on agricultural enterprises.

Farm tour at Highland Trees

2022 marks the 50th year of operations for Highland Trees and the beginning of the second generation of a family farm. Learn how Highland Trees manages both wholesale and cut-your-own operations on the same acreage, how we manage traffic flow and how we produce both wreaths and garland in a small space. In addition, you can see some tools and methods for dealing with large trees, and get a tree painting demonstration from the Kirk Company.

Cut-your-own Panel Discussion

Our Member Panelists:

John Hagedorn, Smiling John's Christmas Trees, Merrill

Dan Hansen, Hansen Christmas Trees, Wild Rose

Greg Hann, Hann's Christmas Farm LLC, Oregon

Moderated by Mike Martin

Bring your perplexing questions about making your operation run smoothly as three operators representing small, medium and large cut-your-own farms tackle a wide range of topics, each from their own unique perspective.

Trees for Troops Presentation

Rick Dungey, Executive Director, Christmas Spirit Foundation, 314-416-2245,

This short presentation at the banquet will give you an idea of how the program works, who it benefits, and how appreciative the tree recipients are. Bring cash for a special donation.

Biographies

Mykayla A. Dado, Attorney

402 Graham Avenue

P.O. Box 187

Eau Claire, WI 54702-0187

Phone: 715.834.3425

Toll Free: 800.477.8050

At Ruder Ware, Mykayla will assist clients in planning for the transition of ownership and management of family or closely held businesses, including family farms. In addition, she will assist clients with drafting wills, trusts, and other planning documents, as well as probate and trust administration.

Family is central to Mykayla and her husband, whose family also operates a farm.

Kelly T. Wilfert, Attorney

130 N Adams Street

Green Bay, WI 54301-4223

Phone: 920.435.9393

Toll Free: 800.477.8050

Prior to joining Ruder Ware, she worked as associate counsel for a bank well known in ag lending circles. Kelly looks forward to returning to her roots in agriculture, and as a member of our team, she will continue developing her ag practice, working with producers on commercial contracts, business entity selection and formation, and farm succession planning.

In her free time, Kelly enjoys helping on her family's farm and spending time with her young nephew (quite possibly the sixth generation to take over the family farm).

Wisconsin Christmas Tree Producers Association

Summer Convention Information for Attendees- Aug. 25-27, 2022

Deadline	Please register (mail postmark) by August 1st so that we can get the meal count in
Hotels	AmericInn, (715) 536-7979; Econo Lodge, (715) 536-9526; Cobblestone Inn, (715)536-6880;
Convention Site	Thursday and Friday events will be at the Merrill Festival Grounds, 2001 E. Second Street, Merrill, WI 54452 Vendors are open on Thursday (3-6 p.m.) and Friday (8:15 a.m. - 5 p.m.)
Pre-convention tour	Stop by Mitchell Metal Products at 905 South State Street, Merrill, WI 54452, for a tour of their facility. A 30-minute tour will be held on Thursday at 1:00 p.m. and again at 2:00 p.m.
Farm Tour Site	On Saturday, Highland Trees is hosting the farm tour and demonstrations. Attendees will park at the festival grounds to board buses. Buses will return around noon and we will not serve lunch.
Tree Contest Setup	We are having the tree contest on Friday. The contest rules are enclosed here. Register for the contests at the main registration table on Friday morning. Wahmhoff Farms from Gobles, Michigan is providing equipment to drill the tree stumps. Thank you to the Wahmhoffs for providing this service for us!
Registration	Please fill out the registration page and mail it back to us with your payment. We will provide you with a name tag and meal tickets.
For The Things That Bug You	Bring in your diseased tree specimens and consult with the experts. Brooke Sanneh or others from WI Dept. of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection and USDA will be available in the vendor area on Friday. USDA will plan to be there for USDA compliance agreements for interstate shipping.
Buy & Sell Boards	Bulletin boards will be available for you, the growers, to post notices of trees or equipment for sale or wanted. Pictures are welcome.
Pre-order your chemicals and supplies	Call your supplier and place an order so they can bring it with them to the convention for you to pick up.
Questions & Payment Type	If you have questions about any of the convention events, please contact Cheryl at the association office, 608-742-8663. WCTPA accepts cash and checks only. Vendors - some accept credit/debit cards along with checks.
Refreshments	Coffee, milk, and treats on Friday morning. Water and a variety of cold drinks will be provided each day. Cash bar is provided by the local hockey club on Thursday and Friday afternoon/evening.
Thursday Night	It's picnic time! Enjoy the time to catch up with other growers and vendors. The food will be catered: burgers, brats, buns, condiments, fresh veggies, fruit, milk, etc. Cash bar for beer & soda pop.
Friday Lunch	Variety of sandwiches/wraps, fresh veggies, fruit, Italian vegetable salad without pasta, drinks, and conversations amongst friends
Friday Banquet	Social hour starts early. At the banquet, we'll announce the tree contest winners, give out awards, hear a short presentation on Trees for Troops by Rick Dungey, and enjoy a delicious meal of beef tips, mashed potatoes with gravy, vegetable, salad, dinner rolls, dessert. Cash bar for beer & soda pop.
Photos and Video	Please be aware that photos and/or video may be taken at the convention. The pictures may be used in publications, on social media or websites.

WCTPA TREE CONTEST RULES - (Revised, 2018)

1. Contest is open to full active members of WCTPA. Trees must be grown in Wisconsin by the member. Full active members in good standing are those with dues paid in full for the current fiscal year.

2. Exhibitors will be responsible for placing their trees in the proper class and final location prior to judging. Note: Drilling assistance will be provided but placing the entry tag and positioning the tree in its proper class is the exhibitor's responsibility. Trees shall be in place by 11 A.M. on Friday, the first day of the summer meeting. The exhibit area will be closed to all but exhibitors during the set up period. No names will be visible on the trees.

3. The exhibit area will be open to members for judging at noon. Judging will be by membership only, a full active membership is entitled to one (1) vote for the tree of their choice in each class and one (1) vote for grand champion. Trees receiving the most votes in each class will be the first place winners.

4. Trees entered must be commercially cultivated and must be 6' to 8' in height from the bottom of handle to the top of the leader. The length of the handle shall be at least 6 inches but not more than 12 inches.

The tree shall not have been artificially colored. No wiring, tying, or inserting of limbs or branches is allowed. Any tree failing to meet these criteria shall be disqualified from competition.

5. Members may enter any or all classes but may not enter more than one tree per class.

6. There will be 5 classes:

- Balsam fir (which also includes Canaan fir, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Eastern or any other balsam mix that is not a Fraser)
- Fraser fir
- Any pine
- Any spruce
- Other (may include Douglas Fir, Concolor, Leeland cypress, Cork bark, Veitch fir or Korean)

7. Ribbons will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place winners in all classes. Grand Champion winner will receive \$100, a ribbon and a plaque and the reserve champion winner will receive a ribbon.

8. The winner of the grand champion tree will be allowed to provide a similar tree for the Wisconsin Governor's office in early December provided this tradition is still allowed by the Governor.

9. The growers of the two trees with the most Grand Champion votes in the current year contest will be eligible to enter a tree in the National tree contest per National rules. "For the 2009 contest and thereafter, each NCTA affiliated chartered association is eligible to enter two trees in the NCTA Christmas Tree Contest. Entrants are to be the first and second place winners of the most recent association contest".

10. In the event of a tie: The first consideration will be given to a tree that has won its class. This will break a tie with a tree that has not won its class. The second consideration will be given to the grower who has never won or the grower who has presented a tree to the Governor the most years ago relative to the other grower who entered the tying tree. If neither of these criteria break the tie, a coin will be flipped by the chairman of the tree judging contest.

11. The tree contest chairperson and the WCTPA Executive Committee have the final decision to resolve any other problems that may occur.

Winners of 2022 contest will provide a tree to the Wisconsin Governor's office in November.

You are also eligible to enter the national tree contest in 2023 to be held in Minnesota. The 2021 winners, Silent Night Evergreens and Happ's Home-grown Trees are already eligible to enter the 2023 national contest.