



# IOWA CHRISTMAS TREE ASSOCIATION

June 8, 2024

## ICTA Board of Directors:

Robert (Bob) Moulds, President  
(319) 240 1338,  
[rmoulds@netins.net](mailto:rmoulds@netins.net)

Larry Isom, Vice President,  
(541) 757 9817,  
[isomlarry@yahoo.com](mailto:isomlarry@yahoo.com)

Korey Johnson, Secretary,  
(319) 361 9634,  
[wickiuptreefarm@gmail.com](mailto:wickiuptreefarm@gmail.com)

Diane Davis, Treasurer,  
(641) 672-2086,  
[scotchillettf@gmail.com](mailto:scotchillettf@gmail.com)

Mark Banowetz, (319) 361-7967,  
[banowetz1957@hotmail.com](mailto:banowetz1957@hotmail.com)

Reid Bermel, (515) 867-4926,  
[tallgreentowatrees@gmail.com](mailto:tallgreentowatrees@gmail.com)

Justin Pritts, (712) 261-0400,  
[countrypinestf@gmail.com](mailto:countrypinestf@gmail.com)

Megan Hill, (858) 344-3080,  
[meg.e.hill@hotmail.com](mailto:meg.e.hill@hotmail.com)

## Website:

<https://www.iowachristmastrees.com>

## JOIN US AT Wickiup Hill Tree Farm for our Annual Summer Meeting (Registration page 5)

**JULY 12-13, 2024**

Korey Johnson, Ryan Fisher, and families are readying the farm for our 2024 Summer Meeting on July 12-13. Mark your calendars and plan to attend. Wickiup Tree Farm near Cedar Rapids is a rather large tree farm situated in a very picturesque hilly setting. The Wickiup Hill Tree Farm was started by Ken and Shirley Andrews in 1980. Your Board visited the farm this spring and confirmed there is plenty to offer for all our growers.

### Friday July 12

4:00 p.m. Board meeting.

5:30 p.m. Registration opens.

6:00 p.m. There will be a burger cookout along with side dishes and dessert. Enjoy this time of fellowship, greeting new members and visiting our suppliers.

### Saturday July 13

8:00-9:00: Registration and visit Suppliers.

9:00-10:30: Introductions including self-introduction of all attendees plus annual business meeting.

10:30-11:00: Visit suppliers

11:00-11:30: Legal Considerations for Christmas Tree Growers, Ryan Fisher, lawyer and co-owner Wickiup Tree Farm

11:30-12:00: Wickiup Tree Farm presentation on history, stats, growing practices, selling process, etc. by Korey Johnson and Ryan Fisher.

12:00-1:00: Lunch and visit suppliers.

1:00-3:00: Demos and Field Program including Planting techniques, raising multiple varieties, shearing techniques, etc.

3:30-4:00: Board Meeting with new member

**IF YOU HAVE NOT DONE SO, PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES TO  
MAINTAIN YOUR MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS (Form pages 10-  
11)**

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## CONSIDER A POSITION ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors has now reached the number of members consistent with the bylaws. The nominating committee this year is **Megan Hill** and **Korey Johnson**. Please consider your participation on the Board. The term is four years with normally three Board meetings throughout the year. At least two are face to face, which are normally at the summer meeting and in the spring at the upcoming summer meeting location. Additional meetings are typically virtual.

## Great Lakes Christmas Tree Journal

We are also continuing our subscriptions to the Great Lakes Christmas Tree Journal through 2024. All members should receive this magazine quarterly. If you are not receiving the journal, please contact one of the board members. Megan Hill has agreed to be the editor for the Iowa Christmas Tree Growers section. She has done the last two additions and has submitted the third. We continue to request your input on this publication and ideas for the Iowa Christmas Tree Association articles.

## A word of caution to Scotch pine growers this year

This year has been a welcomed wetter than normal year for a large part of the state. With wet weather in many cases comes Brown Spot Needle Blight, especially on long established tree farms. If there has been a history of Brown Spot on your Scotch pines, then for sure you probably should treat with Chlorothalonil or Copper sulfate fungicide. The first treatment should be now when the needles are about half length and then again in 3-4 weeks. This disease sneaks up on you and by the time needle damage is visible it's too late to treat. It is usually not evident until late summer which again is too late to treat. You may want to talk to your state entomologist for advice.



Young pine infected with brown spot needle blight

- Small, yellow-to-brown, resin-soaked spots

## IOWA CHRISTMAS TREE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING



Wickiup Hill Tree Farm

July 12-13, 2024

Message from Corey Johnson and Ryan Fisher

The Wickiup Hill Tree Farm was started by Ken and Shirley Andrews in 1980. They planted White Pine and Scotch Pine trees their first year. Kenny planted about 1200 trees a year for the first 7 years with hopes to sell about 500 trees a year to supplement his retirement. Ken was the first to give Fraser Fir trees a shot in the area and once they were tall enough to sell, customers bought **everyone**, and the farm began shifting its inventory to primarily Fir Trees.

Ken continued to plant and sell trees playing with variety until 2009 when Tim Andrews (Ken's Nephew) took over operations of the farm. He continued running the farm much like his uncle Ken did for 10 years planting several varieties of spruce trees, red, scotch, and white pine, as well as **Fraser**, balsam, **Canaan**, and **concolor** fir trees.

Korey Johnson and Ryan Fisher worked at the farm as high school kids for Kenny. While attending college and then into their careers as a teacher (Korey) and a lawyer (Ryan) were away from tree farming from 2007-2018.

We had a thought that turned into a dream (even if our wives didn't understand it completely) to run our own farm together some day. Land was difficult to find but we had the opportunity to work alongside Tim Andrews in 2018 in preparation for his retirement. After two full years of working and learning, in 2020, Tim decided he had **enough**, and our two families took over operations of the farm. Nothing like Covid and the Derecho in your first year of management to break **in with** a couple new tree farmers. The first year we planted 1500 trees. Since then, we have been planting about 3000 trees a year and expanding the farm.

We feel we have a very unique farm with a lot for farmers of any size and experience to learn from. We know through our **meeting** we will learn as much from many of you attending as you will from us. We look forward to sharing what we have learned in our first years of operation and what we are trying and changing in an effort to grow quality trees going forward.

## SCHEDULE FOR THE EVENT

### Friday July 12

4:00 p.m. Board meeting.

5:30 p.m. Registration opens.

6:00 p.m. Burger cookout with side dishes along with a dessert. Enjoy this time of fellowship, greeting new members and visiting suppliers.

### Saturday July 13

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3:30-4:00: Board Meeting with new members

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS AGENDAS

### July 12<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting

4:00 p.m. Call to Order and Roll Call, Bob  
Minutes of prior meeting(s), Korey  
Treasurers Report, Diane  
Summer Meeting Plans  
Other Business  
Adjourn by 5:30

### July 13<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting

3:30 (Approx.) Call to Order and Roll Call  
Introduction of New Members  
Election of Officers  
Other Business  
Adjourn

**IOWA SUMMER/ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION**

**July 12-13, 2024, Wickiup Hill Tree Farm,  
Toddville, IA**

**Directions: Enter the tree farm name into your  
GPS device as there is no street address for the  
farm**

***Please return this form with your check by July 7 for food count***

**Friday**

Activity	Number	Price	Total
Meal		\$8.00	

**Saturday**

Activity	Number	Price	Total
Registration (One per farm)		\$50.00	
Meal		\$15.00	

**Total** \_\_\_\_\_

.....  
**Make check payable to ICTA and mail to Treasurer Diane Davis, 2286 290<sup>th</sup> St.,  
Oskaloosa, Iowa 52577**

**Nearby Hotels and Accommodations:**

There are several hotels around the intersection of Collins Road and I 380 in Cedar Rapids. Some of the closer hotels in Cedar Rapids are listed. These are approximately 5-8 miles from the tree farm.

Hilton Garden Inn  
4640 N River Blvd. NE  
Cedar Rapids  
319-378-7404

Days Inn and Suites by Wyndham  
2215 Blairs Ferry Rd. NE  
Cedar Rapids  
319-378-3940

Hampton Inn & Suites Cedar Rapids North  
1130 Park Place NE  
Cedar Rapids  
319-832-1130

Best Western Plus Longbranch Hotel & Convention Center  
90 Twixt Town Rd.  
Cedar Rapids  
319-377-6386

# Minutes

## ICTA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Saturday July 15, 2023

MEETING: The meeting was called to order at 9:30 p.m. at Wapsi Pines Tree Farm, Fairbank, IA by the President John Beckwith.

MINUTES FROM SATURDAY JULY 09, 2022: Sandra Hunter read the minutes from the 2022 general membership meeting. The minutes were also included in the Winter Newsletter. Reid Bermel motioned to accept the minutes as read, seconded by Mark Fisher.

TREASURERS REPORT– Diane Davis read the “Cash Flow YTD” for 10/1/2022 through 6/30/2023 and the “Income/Expense Comparison by Category” for 10/1/2021 through 6/30/2023. The Cash flow report was as follows:

Beginning Balance _____	6,987.50
Income _____	3,472.00
Expenses _____	2,167.36
Ending Balance as of 6/30/2022 _____	8,292.14

Motion was made to approve the report as written and the motion was seconded. Motion approved.

REPORT OF AUDIT COMMITTEE: Heather Isom and Tanya Pritts did an audit of the Treasurers books and reported that all seemed in order.

IOWA STATE FAIR: Sandra informed membership of the need for donation of 12 trees for the Fair’s display and volunteers to help set-up (August 9<sup>th</sup>) and tear down the display (August 21<sup>st</sup>). Also, requested members to sign up for volunteering to handout ICTA brochures at the fair. The signup sheets are at the registration desk.

CAPITAL TREES COMMITTEE: Reid Bermel explained the situation with the current supplier, Mike and Deb White, who will provide these trees in 2023, but ICTA will need to obtain a new supplier after this year. He asked if any grower would be interested to contact him.

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS: Two open Board positions were available. The nomination committee consisting of Mark Fisher and Ryan Fisher nominated Korey Johnson and Megan Hill to fill the two open positions. John Beckwith asked if any other members wanted to be considered for the open positions, as no other member expressed an interest, motion was made to cease nominations and approve Korey Johnson and Megan Hill to fill the open positions, this was seconded and motion carried. The nominees were elected by unanimous consent.

GREAT LAKES CHRISTMAS TREE JOURNAL: John Beckwith talked about the need for help in providing articles to Great Lakes Christmas Tree Journal and reminded membership that paid members are receiving this publication and the association can provide up to 2 pages per quarterly issue for Iowa news.

UPDATE ON NATIONAL ASSOCIATION: Reid Bermel will not be able to attend the National Conference this year and asked that Joe Heintz be his proxy for August 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> meetings.

IOWA AG TOURISM BILL: Mark Banowetz explained the new IA Code 673A Chapter regarding signage that should be placed on Choose and Cut farms at the entrance to the farm. He has signs available with the required verbiage at \$55 for a corrugated sign and \$88 for a metal sign.

AWARDS PRESENTATION: John Beckwith made the following awards presentation: Sandra Hunter – Presidential Merit

2024 SUMMER MEETING: Meeting will be at the Wickiup Hill Tree Farm, Toddville, IA

2025 SUMMER MEETING: Request was made that anyone interested in hosting the meeting in 2025 to talk with a board member.

ADJOURNMENT: Bob Moulds moved that the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Justin Pritts. The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Minutes taken by Sandra Hunter, Secretary



MINUTES  
ICTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
Friday July 14, 2023

MEETING: The meeting was called to order by Pres. John Beckwith, at 10:20 a.m. at Wapsie Pines Tree Farm in Fairbank, Iowa

PRESENT: Reid Bermel, John Beckwith, Larry Isom, Bob Moulds, Diane Davis, Mark Banowetz, Justin Pritts and Sandra Hunter

ABSENT: All present

SECRETARY'S REPORT: John asked if any additions or correction were needed to the secretary's report dated Saturday, April 29, 2023. Being none, the minutes stand approved as provided.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Diane had previously emailed copies of the "Income/Expense Comparison by Category" for 10/1/2021 through 06/30/2023 and the "Cash Flow YTD" for 10/01/22 through 06/30/23 The reports were as follows:

Beginning Balance	6,987.50
Income	3,472.00
Expenses	2,167.36
Ending Balance as of 6-30-2023	8,292.14

Reid made motion to accept the reports as read. Mark seconded. The motion carried.

APPOINT AUDIT COMMITTEE: John appointed Tanya Pritts and Heather Isom to serve as the Audit committee to audit the books and report at the General meeting on July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

JASON DOWIE CONTRACT: Mark made motion to renew the website maintenance contract with Jason Dowie. The motion was seconded by Diane.

STATE FAIR LEADERSHIP: Sandra will discuss the need for volunteers to provide trees and work at the ICTA booth in the Ag Building at the State Fair during the General meeting on Saturday July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

NATIONAL MEETING PROXY FOR REID: Reid made motion that Joe Heintz could proxy for him in his absence this year at the National Christmas Tree Association meeting. Motion was seconded by Diane. Motion carried.

WAPSI PINES TREE FARM MEETING AGENDA REVIEW: After the board reviewed the agenda of the General Meeting, Larry made motion to accept the agenda as provided. Sandra seconded the motion.

ADJOURNMENT: Adjourned by John at 5:26 p.m. Minutes taken by Sandra Hunter (Secretary ICTA)



**Minutes**  
**ICTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**Saturday July 15, 2023**

**MEETING:** The meeting was called to order by Pres. John Beckwith, at 2:55 p.m. at the Wapsi Pines Tree Farm in Fairbank, IA.

**PRESENT:** Reid Bermel, John Beckwith, Larry Isom, Bob Moulds, Diane Davis, Justin Pritts, Mark Banowetz and Sandra Hunter

**ABSENT:** All board members present as well as Korey Johnson and Megan Hill

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS:** Korey Johnson and Megan Hill agreed to serving on the Board as the term for Sandra Hunter and John Beckwith have expired.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** John made a motion for nomination of President. Reid nominated Bob as President, seconded by Justin. Larry made motion made to cease nomination and cast a unanimous ballot, this was seconded. Motion carried.

John made a motion for nomination of Vice President. Mark nominated Larry Vice President, seconded by Justin. Bob made motion made to cease nomination and cast a unanimous ballot, this was seconded. Motion carried

John made a motion for nomination of Treasurer. Reid nominated Diane as Treasurer, Justin seconded. Motion was made to cease nomination and cast a unanimous ballot, this was seconded. Motion carried.

John made a motion for nomination of Secretary. Korey Johnson nominated himself as Secretary, Bob seconded. Motion was made to cease nomination and cast a unanimous ballot, this was seconded. Motion carried.

**SUMMER MEETING 2024:** The Wickup Hill will host the 2024 Summer meeting. SUMMER MEETING

**2025:** Country Pines offered to host the 2025 Summer meeting **ADJOURNMENT:** Bob moved to adjourned, seconded by Diane. Adjourned 3:19 p.m. Minutes taken by Sandra Hunter (Secretary ICTA)

## 2024 Iowa Christmas Tree Association member information and dues

PLEASE PAY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Partner or Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Name of business \_\_\_\_\_ County of your farm \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

Physical address of business (if different from mailing address) \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred phone number \_\_\_\_\_ Email (print plainly) \_\_\_\_\_

Webpage, Facebook page or other social media addresses \_\_\_\_\_

To help the ICTA Board better understand your business needs, check each box that describes your operation:

- ☐ We only sell trees grown on our farm
- ☐ We buy and re-sell pre-cut trees
- ☐ We sell wreaths and other greenery creations we make ourselves
- ☐ We buy and re-sell wreaths and other greenery made by others
- ☐ We sell additional Christmas decoration and gift items

List three specific topics you would like to learn more about from ICTA in the coming year:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a New Member? \_\_\_\_\_ No. of years Planting \_\_\_\_\_ No. of years Selling \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like a mentor? \_\_\_\_\_

### MEMBERSHIP DUES

Associate member (related business) .....\$40 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Active member

Not selling trees .....\$50 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Selling 1 to 500 trees .....\$70 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Selling 500 to 1,000 trees .....\$85 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Selling more than 1,000 trees .....\$95 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Annual fee to have your website URL listed and linked on ICTA website      \$5      \$\_\_\_\_\_

**Total enclosed for MEMBERSHIP DUES .....**      **\$\_\_\_\_\_**

**Make check payable to ICTA, Mail to:** .....Diane Davis, ICTA Treasurer  
2286 290<sup>th</sup> St.  
Oskaloosa, IA 52577