

IOWA CHRISTMAS TREE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING



July 14-15

Wapsie Pines Christmas Tree Farm

Message from Bob Moulds

We planted our first trees at Wapsie Pines Tree Farm in 1980. I had purchased this farm in 1971 and it is very near other farms in the family. After several years of trying to produce something on the very sandy portion of the farm and after being very disappointed in the quality of trees and the experience at local tree farms, I decided this might be an opportunity.

After consultation with Lee Aldrige, Mel Pacovsky, and our local forester I ordered 3000 trees and started. The original plan was to have about 10,000 growing trees and that expanded to something in excess of 30,000 growing trees. Approximately 15 years ago, youngest son Danny acquired Kris Kringle tree farm near Cedar Falls. Since then we have been working to bring up the level of that tree farm in both quantity and quality. As a result we are now managing approximately 60,000 growing trees

between the two farms. We consolidate ordering supplies, spraying, shearing, wreath making, some wholesaling, and operate our retail selling separately.

As with most Iowa growers, I started with pines (scotch, white, and red) and after experimenting with Fraser fir in the 80's I began moving more toward firs which now account for approximately 2/3 of all trees. For the firs we are close to equally split between Fraser and Canaan and about 10 percent Concolor. For the pines we are essentially evenly split between scotch and white with a few hundred reds used mainly for greenery.

Because I was a full time engineer with John Deere and travelled significantly, I had to devise equipment and processes to get things done as fast as possible since only weekends and a few vacation days were available to do everything.

We welcome you to our farm and hope you can pick up a couple ideas. Even though we operate on a larger scale, the trees grow the same and need the same attention. We just have to do things a little faster and save as much as we can on labor costs.

There is a major focus on the quality of the trees and our greenery products. This requires some special attention and hopefully we can provide you with some ideas to help everyone with continuous improvement in what we all do.

SCHEDULE FOR THE EVENT

Friday July 14

4:00 p.m. Board meeting.

5:30 p.m. Registration opens.

6:00 p.m. Wapsie Pines will cook burgers and brats and provide side dishes along with a desert. Enjoy this time of fellowship, greeting new members and visiting vendors.

Saturday July 15

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

11:00-11:20: Information on Exotic Christmas Tree research and suggestions by Mike Laine, Northern MN Nursery

11:20-12:00: Wapsie Pines presentation on history, stats, growing practices, selling process, etc. by Bob Moulds.

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

1:00-3:00: Demos and Field Program including: Sharpening serrated shearing knives, air cylinder system for wreath tables, sales setup, shaker pits, netting and racking, fertilizer application and test rows, mulching and watering, testing temperature, pH, and moisture, matching species to soil conditions, shearing and pruning of firs.

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AGENDAS

July 14th Board Meeting

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

July 15th 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 14-15, 2023, Wapsie Pines ChristmasTree Farm, Fairbank, Ia

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 290th St., Oskaloosa, Iowa 52577

Nearby Hotels and Accommodations:

There are two hotels in Oelwein approximately 15 miles east and north from the tree farm. This is really the closest accomodations.

Cornerstone Inn & Suites (15 miles east and north from farm)
Rock Island Road
Oelwein, IA
319-238-8194

Super 8 by Wyndham Oelwein (15 miles east and north from farm)
210 Southeast 10th Street
Oelwein, IA 50662
319-283-2888

There are several hotels on the east side of Waterloo near hyway 20.

Days Inn by Wyndham Evansdale Waterloo (19 miles south and west from farm)
450 Evansdale Drive
Evansdale, IA 50707
319-427-2954

Isle Casino Hotel Waterloo (27 miles south and west from farm)
777 Isle of Capri Blvd.
Waterloo, IA 50701
877-475-3946

Hotels near Crossroads Shopping Center Waterloo include Fairfield Inn and Suites, Holiday Inn Express, Comfort Inn and Suites, and others. Just search hotels near Crossroads Shoppng Mall, Waterloo. This group of hotels are near 25 miles south and west of farm.

Oelwein is definitely the closest and easiest to get to. The Isle Casino may be of interest to some members.