

Massachusetts Christmas Tree Association

59th Annual Meeting

August 26, 2017

Mistletoe Acres Tree Farm

www.mistletoeacresfarm.com

296 Whitman Street

On route 106 near intersection of Routes 18 and 106

East Bridgewater, MA 01237

Hosts: Megan, Matt and Rick Krugger

(2 PESTICIDE CREDITS AVAILABLE)

The Krugger Family purchased the farm formerly known as “Riverbank East Trees” in 2012. Operated by Megan and Matt Krugger and Matt’s father Rick, the Kruggers have doubled the size of the farm, planted an evergreen nursery and today have nearly 7,000 trees in various stages of growth. Megan teaches 7th and 8th grade science, Matt runs Krugger Construction, and Rick tends the farm. Matt puts his construction business on hold between Thanksgiving and Christmas when tree sales consume his time. The farm primarily sells pre-cut Balsam and Fraser fir trees as well as small farm grown trees. There is a gift shop offering wreaths, roping, and ornaments. The farm tour will include a look at the farm’s specialized potted tree nursery operation including equipment, irrigation and use of composted material.

8:00 - 9:00	Registration	Coffee, donuts, socialize, visit vendors.
9:00 - 9:30	Welcome	Introductions, meeting agenda and farm history
9:30 – 10:00	Annual Meeting	MCTA Annual Business Meeting
10:00 – 10:50	Laurie Rocco	Worker Protection Standards (WPS)

Laurie will review the 2017 WPS and its application to both licensed and unlicensed operators. What to expect when selected for a field audit, record keeping requirements, training requirements for farm workers and PPE issues and changes to the new respiratory regulations. What do you need to do to comply?

Laurie Rocco is an Inspector of Pesticides for the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources and a Public Fire and Life Safety Educator for the Palmer Fire Department.

11:00 - 11:50	Larry Dapsis	Deer Ticks: “One Bite Can Change Your Life”
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Lyme Disease is the most prevalent infectious disease in Massachusetts and is now considered to be a public health crisis. In addition to Lyme, deer ticks can carry the pathogens which cause Babesiosis, Anaplasmosis, Relapsing Fever and Powassan virus, all of which can be very serious and are on the increase. This program will review the basic life cycle and ecology of deer ticks, incidence rates and distribution of tick-borne illnesses in addition to a database under development on infection rates of ticks. A three-point protection plan will be presented. Protect Yourself, Protect Your Yard and Protect Your Pet. Tick-borne Diseases are preventable.

Larry holds an B.S. in Environmental Science & Biology from Fitchburg State University and M.S. Entomology from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. He has thirty-five years of professional pest management experience including vegetables, cranberries and household insects. He joined Cape Cod Cooperative Extension in 2011 as Deer Tick Project Coordinator and Entomologist and is a member of the Barnstable County Task Force on Lyme and other tick-borne diseases.

12:00-1:30	Lunch and Visit Vendors	Catered luncheon by Italian Kitchen of Brockton.
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1:30 – 2:30 Tree Talk and Farm Tour Join Larry Downey, owner and operator of Downey Tree Farm & Nursery in Cookshire-Eaton, Quebec as he talks about running a successful wholesale tree farm as well as current trends in the business. Walk with Megan, Matt and Rick as they talk about their operation, gift shop and how they use social media.

BRING YOUR OWN CHAIRS

Registration Annual Meeting Saturday August 26, 2017

Deadline: for meal count August 16, 2017

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Cost \$20 per person (includes lunch) No. of persons _____ X \$20.00= \$ _____ total enclosed

Maximum \$50 per family (children under 12)

Make checks payable to MCTA & send to: MCTA, Jim Colburn, 104 West Main Street, Merrimac, MA 01860