

**“GROWERS’ GATHERING”
COWARD TREE FARM
150 College Highway
Southwick, MA 01077
Saturday, June 23, 2018**

Hosts: Teresa and John Coward

(2 Pesticide Credits Applied for)

8 - 9	Arrival and set up	Coffee, donuts, socialize, set up Tree Growers’ Flea Market
9- 9:30	John Coward	Coward Farms introduction
9:30 – 10:30	Rich Cowles	Elongated scale, phytophthera
10:30-11:30	Dave Radebaugh	Calibrating and Using a Backpack Sprayer
11-:30- 1:00	Lunch/Flea Market	Lunch provided/ <u>BRING YOUR OWN CHAIRS</u>
1 – 2:30	Directors Meeting	All Members Welcome

Flea Market- Bring tools and equipment that you would like to sell. If the item is too large, bring photos with description.

Coward Farms is a diversified farming operation with 45000 trees growing Fraser, Canaan, Blue Spruce and Concolor. We added a gift barn and wreath making shop in 2007. We currently make about 1000 wreaths. We also make kissing balls, swags, garland and arrangements. The farms total acreage is just over 100.

Besides Christmas trees we also grow spring bedding plants, hanging baskets, vegetables, herbs and containers for spring. Broadleaf tobacco, fall mums, and pumpkins keep us busy for the remainder of the year.

Rich Cowles. Expert in the management of armored scales, white grubs, and spider mites. Experienced in the uses of conventional and new insecticides to control pests. Current research efforts are directed toward improved management of armored scales in Christmas tree plantations through basal bark sprays of systemic insecticides; improving the genetics of fir trees grown as Christmas trees.

Dave Radebaugh is the owner of Radebaugh’s Christmas Tree Farms in Belchertown and Wilbraham. With over 46 years of experience growing Fraser, Caanan, Concolor, Blue Spruce, White Pine and several exotic varieties of trees. He thoroughly understands the ins and outs of all aspects of applying pesticides using a backpack sprayer and emphasizes the importance of accurate calibration and safe use of such equipment.