

Not-so-Twilight Meeting
Sugarledge Farm, Christmas Tree Plantation
West Hill Rd, Plainfield, MA
Saturday, July 13, 2019

Rain or shine. Outdoor event.
Lunch will be moved to nearby indoor location in event of rain.
Otherwise, only natural shade provided.
Please dress accordingly.

Hosts: Jonathan and Carrie Cranston

8:30-9:00	Arrival	Coffee, doughnuts, networking
9:00-10:00	Introduction to the Farm	Jonathan Cranston <i>Tree tour with discussion of challenges in starting a new plantation including: varied soil conditions, tree species, effects of elevation, wildlife challenges, shearing demo, nursery stocks, pest/weed management, community relations, employee concerns</i>
10:00-12:00	Speaker	UConn Entomologist Richard Cowles <i>Cryptomeria, elongated hemlock scale, phytophthora root rot, spotted lantern fly and western pine moth.</i> (*2 Pesticide Credit Available)
12:00-1:00	Lunch	Provided. <u>BRING OWN CHAIRS</u>
1:00-2:00	Quarry Tour	Jonathan Cranston
2:00-3:00	Directors Meeting	All members welcome

Jonathan Cranston is the son of Thomas and Cynthia Cranston, and co-owns Cranston's Tree Farm in Ashfield with his brother, Seth. This is not his only endeavor. He and his wife, Carrie, have owned and operated Sugarledge Stone Quarry for 15 years on property formerly owned by Carrie's parents. In 2012 they inherited her 450 acre family farm in Cummington and Plainfield and began rehabilitating it, bringing it back to production as Sugarledge Farm. The farm has been in Carrie's family for over 200 years. Most of the farm, about 350 acres, is forested. The farm produces firewood, timber, Christmas trees and has a herd of Angus cattle. Future plans include sugarbush redevelopment.

The Christmas tree plantation is located in Plainfield and currently has about 6000 trees of several varieties, including Fraser, Balsam and Korean Corkbark. The first round of trees went in in 2013 and there have been 2 years of wholesale harvest.

Directions

For GPS/Mapquest: enter 5 W Hill Rd, Cummington, MA. This will bring you to the quarry. The meeting will be held in a field just over the Plainfield town line (North) from the quarry on the same side of W Hill Rd. **IF USING GOOGLE MAPS**, enter Sugarledge Stone Quarry. If you enter the address in Google maps it will take you to THE WRONG PLACE! For clarity: The field is about 2.5 miles South of Rte 116 on West Hill Rd. From Rte 9 it is about ½ mile on Stage Rd, then left onto West Hill Rd. The field is approx.. ½ mile on the left. There will be signs from 116 and Rte 9 that day.