

TO: Greetings!

Virginia Evergreen eNews Journal

In This Issue

- Presidents Message
- VCTGA Annual Meeting
- Christmas Day at The Capital
- Welcome New Members
- Scholarship Recipients
- VA Tech News
- Website News
- **Additional Resources Below**
- VCTGA Facebook Group - How to Join
- **Support our advertisers** - hot links with each ad



Presidents Message

I write this message after attending the Virginia Forestry Association's annual meeting. Our association members have a common bond over conifers with one huge difference-their trees grow 20-30 yrs+ until they're harvested. Stewardship was a theme in every VFA session-taking care of the trees, taking care of the land and taking care of the people around you. When you keep the long view in mind, the day to day activities take on new importance. The busy world pushes our focus away from nurturing. We have to maintain a focus on the day-to-day nurturing to be good stewards for the long term.

One speaker shared this anecdote "Foresters, dentists and doctors are all professionals. They deal with making mistakes differently. Doctors can bury their mistakes. Dentists can pull their mistakes. Foresters watch theirs grow." So true when we look at the price of seedlings, fuel and labor. It's easy to let some trees grow in hopes they will make a marketable tree. In reality a little horizontal pruning was needed years before to alleviate the mistakes that continue to grow.

We as an association have a challenge ahead of us-new grower stewardship. Anyone who's harvested one crop will tell you it took more time and more money. It can be discouraging when there are so many factors new growers face. The Facebook group pages serve as a sounding board for/from growers across the country. Developing that strong relationship with your neighboring farm can make a huge difference in getting the harvests into successive years. We as the Christmas Tree industry want to grow marketable Christmas Trees not marketable saw logs. Those personal conversations amongst growers can make the difference in the quality of trees our growers harvest.

Annual meeting plans are being finalized now. We're excited to have tours scheduled with Haven Wood Farm in Berryville and Mountain View Christmas Tree Farm in Woodstock. You'll tour farms of one of our newest members and

also a farm from a veteran grower. Perspectives from each grower at different stages in their careers can provide just the right spark to address one of the challenges you're facing.

Cheers-
Ryan Clouse
President



VCTGA Annual Meeting August 3-5, 2023 Millwood Station Winchester, VA

It's been a while since we've met in Winchester and our program team can't wait to unveil our new format for 2023. Many of our members enjoy being on other member farms so this year we are planning two farm tours with a daylong meeting sandwiched in between the farm visits.

We will start off our agenda with a visit to Haven Wood Farm, LLC on Thursday afternoon, August 3 followed by a social and dinner at the farm. We are so grateful to Eric Biebighauser for hosting our meeting kickoff at their farm.

On Friday we will have an all-day meeting at Millwood Station in Winchester. The day will be packed with a great program, tree and wreath contest, a luncheon with Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry Matt Lohr, and our annual scholarship auction to conclude the day's scheduled events.

Our Saturday Farm tour will be generously hosted by the Rhoades family at Mountainview Farm in Edinburg. They are longtime growers and members of our association. We will conclude our three-day event there with lunch and travel home.

Please take a look at the program and registration information included in this newsletter for all the details. You won't want to miss this meeting!!

[*Click Here for Meeting Program*](#)

[*Click Here for Meeting Registration Form*](#)

[*Click Here for Tree Wreath Contest Entry Form*](#)

[*Click Here to register on website*](#)

If you are registering on the website paying with Square, please print out the Meeting Registration Form and mail to address below.

Please Mail Registration Form and check to VCTGA PO Box

Thank You!

Christmas Tree Day at the Capitol

On a unseasonably warm Thursday, February 16, 2023 an enthusiastic group converged on the Virginia State Capitol to promote the Virginia Christmas tree industry. The group marked the completion of a promotional endeavor partnering VCTGA (Virginia Christmas Tree Growers Association), MRACTGA (Mount Rogers Area Christmas Tree Growers Association), and FFA representatives from Grayson County. VCTGA president Ryan Clouse, Phil Woods, and John and Virginia Carroll were joined by three FFA students from Grayson county high school and their teacher Alice Cox.

In one day our four VCTGA grower members ,the Grayson County FFA students dressed in their distinctive royal blue jackets and their teacher, visited the offices of our state delegates and senators promoting the Virginia Christmas tree industry. The team members carried VIRGINIA GROWN bags filled with small tree stamped bags which included an “Experience A Real Christmas Tree” brochure, an informational “facts card” detailing the importance of the Virginia Christmas tree industry statewide and nationally, and a custom tree disc designed and created by the Grayson County FFA promoting real Virginia Christmas trees. Grower Robert O’Keefe connected VCTGA with teacher Alice Cox and her FFA students to create the ornament/coaster. Alice designed the disc and the students produced the finished product. Sample packets will be available for grower members at the August annual VCTGA meeting.

The students also had an impromptu opportunity to meet the Governor Glenn Youngkin for a brief photo op, and met with and were later introduced by Delegate O’Quinn and were recognized in the opening session of the House.

A highlight of the day was meeting with Matt Lohr, Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry. Secretary Lohr, a longtime friend of agriculture and our industry, listened to the students and growers and shared something of his global activities as secretary on behalf of ag and forestry. VCTGA is fortunate to have Secretary Lohr scheduled as our keynote luncheon speaker at our upcoming annual meeting in August.

All in all, this endeavor was a success demonstrating what might be accomplished through the partnership of VCTGA, MRACTGA, and the Grayson county FFA and their teacher Alice Cox. The support and financial support of the Mount Rogers area growers made the trip a reality. The efforts of Brad Copenheaver of Meadowview Strategies, LLC, was instrumental in orchestrating and implementing the activities and appointments of the day. His support, knowledge and practical knowhow as an industry friend and legislative insider was invaluable.

Virginia Carroll
Claybrook Farm



Alice Cox, FFA Grayson County Teacher, FFA Grayson County Students, Matt Lohr, VA Secretary of Ag and Forestry, Ryan Clouse, VCTGA President



Governor Youngkin and Grayson FFA Students



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CONGRATULATIONS Scholarship Recipients Each Recipients receives a \$1500.00 Scholarship

Jacob Rak of Vienan VA will be a senior at Mountain Gateway Community College in Clifton Forge. Attracted to forestry and the natural resource management, has led him to study Forest Management Technology.

Conveniently, his family has forestry ties and manages over 7500 acres of forest land throughout Maryland and Virginia. The family business was founded over 75 years ago. Through his great-great grandfather's expert management, he quickly regenerated the forest land, which was over harvested, during the Second World War, returning it to a healthy, productive state, which continues to flourish to this day. However, the current generation of the family lacks the talent and expertise of his great-great grandfather, which Jacob hopes to remedy.

Moriah Mess of Blacksburg, VA is going into her senior year at Virginia Tech, majoring in Forest Resource Management.

Moriah's love and curiosity for nature started as a child and was nurtured further in high school when attending Envirothon, a club that teaches students

about Virginia soils, aquatics, wildlife, forestry and agriculture. Her goals are to obtain her Bachelor's degree, and work as an environmental consultant.

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Virginia Tech News

News Release: Calling all canines: Help sniff out the dangerous spotted lanternfly

April 12, 2023 -- From New York to North Carolina and as far west as Illinois, the invasive spotted lanternfly is causing chaos in many states where agricultural and forestry industries are essential to the economy. It has been estimated that crops and forest production losses caused by insects and pathogens are close to \$40 billion a year.

Spotted lanternflies, native to mainland China, prey upon 70-plus host plant species, stealing their nutrients with their piercing snouts, called stylets. They are often characterized as “hitchhikers” for their ability to move long distances through human-assisted movement. Envision logging trucks traveling back and

forth across the country with a few unwelcome pesky passengers braced to the back.

Officials in infested states have brainstormed different approaches to stop the spread of this deadly leafhopper.
Stomp, squash, or smash the dastardly bug, they say.

WATCH VIDEO: https://video.vt.edu/media/1_imqwyzfl/

Now, researchers in Virginia Tech's *College of Agriculture and Life Sciences* are experimenting with a new approach and calling upon dogs in the fight against the spotted lanternfly.

Click below to read entire article

Online Link: <https://vtx.vt.edu/articles/2023/04/cals-spottedlanternfly-dogdetection>

For more info

Contact: *Max Esterhuizen* | max.esterhuizen@vt.edu | 540-231-6630



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Website News

For those who still may have questions on navigating their website, please click on the link below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v2QWjYCR3vw>

Greenbug recommends to email them for any updating to your page. admin@greenbugmarketing.com if you need any help or edits, especially for those that are not tech savvy. We will complete those edits within 48 hours.

You can also reach Rodrigo at the contact info below.

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Spruce					Pine, Other Evergreens				
Species	Size	Age	Per 100	Per 1000	Species	Size	Age	Per 100	Per 1000
Colorado Bl. Spruce <i>Picea pungens 'glauca'</i> Kaibab, San Juan Misty Blue *	9-15" 10-18" 12-18" 18-24"	2-0 2-1 2-2 * 2-2 *	\$44 \$96 \$120 \$184	\$230 \$600 \$750 \$1,025	White Pine <i>Pinus strobus</i> Lake States	4-8" 8-12" 10-18" 18-30"	2-0 2-0 2-1 2-2	\$39 \$54 \$116 \$256	\$205 \$285 \$725 \$1,600
Norway Spruce <i>Picea abies</i> Lake States	10-18" 14-20" 16-24" 24-36"	2-0 2-1 2-2 2-2	\$46 \$98 \$136 \$184	\$240 \$610 \$850 \$1,150	Red Pine <i>Pinus resinosa</i> Lake States	7-10" 8-12" 10-16" 16-24"	2-0 2-1 2-2 2-3	\$44 \$96 \$124 \$148	\$230 \$600 \$775 \$925
White Spruce <i>Picea glauca</i> Lake States	10-18" 12-18" 20-30"	2-0 2-1 2-2	\$44 \$94 \$148	\$230 \$590 \$925	Austrian Pine <i>Pinus nigra</i>	4-7" 7-10"	2-0 2-0	\$35 \$47	\$185 \$245
Serbian Spruce <i>Picea omorika</i> Germany	9-15" 12-24"	2-1 2-2	\$106 \$152	\$560 \$950	Scotch Pine <i>Pinus sylvestris</i> Scots Highland, Guadarrama, French, East Anglia	6-10" 10-18"	2-0 2-0	\$35 \$44	\$185 \$230
Black Hills Spruce <i>Picea glauca 'densata'</i> Black Hills, SD	7-12" 14-20"	2-1 2-2	\$100 \$144	\$625 \$900	Ponderosa Pine <i>Pinus ponderosa</i> Black Hills N.F.	6-12"	2-0	\$48	\$250
Fir					American Larch <i>Larix laricina</i> Ontario	12-18" 18-30" 30-42"	2-0 2-0 2-0	\$94 \$128 \$200	\$585 \$800 \$1,250
Fraser Fir <i>Abies fraseri</i> Roan Mountain	7-12" 12-16"	P+1 P+2	\$128 \$192	\$800 \$1,200	Green Giant Arb's <i>Thuja plicata 'Green Giant'</i>	7-14"	RC+1	\$192	\$1,200
Balsam Fir <i>Abies balsamea</i> Nova Scotia, Lake States	6-12" 8-12" 12-16"	P+1 P+2 P+2	\$116 \$136 \$164	\$725 \$850 \$1,025	White Cedar <i>Thuja occidentalis</i> Michigan	7-12" 8-14" 18-24"	2-0, 3-0 2-1 2-2	\$55 \$104 \$200	\$290 \$650 \$1,250
Concolor Fir <i>Abies concolor</i> San Isabel, Cibola	10-15" 8-14" 10-18"	2-0 2-1 2-2	\$67 \$100 \$148	\$350 \$625 \$925	<p>Write today for complete price list!</p> <p>Note: Other evergreen species available.</p> <p>In addition, we grow 200 species of broadleaves.</p> <p>25% deposit due with order.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Jeff Busscher, Manager</p>				
Canaan Fir <i>Abies balsamea var. phanerolepis</i> West Virginia	8-16" 10-18"	P+1 P+2	\$132 \$172	\$825 \$1,075					
Douglas Fir: <i>Pseudotsuga menziesii glauca</i> Lincoln, Rio Grande	10-18" 10-20" 20-30"	2-0 2-1 2-2	\$45 \$100 \$152	\$235 \$625 \$950					
Korean Fir: <i>Abies koreana</i>	8-14"	P+2	\$148	\$925					

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Click here to go to their website

Exclusive New VCTGA Facebook Group for Members Only

A new VCTGA membership benefit was introduced at our annual conference in Natural Bridge by Ryan Clouse - a VCTGA Facebook Group!

This is different from a regular Facebook page, in that what you post only goes to other VCTGA Group members. Ask a question, offer tips, new resources, post photos, etc.

Ryan is also setting up a resource clearinghouse page for Extension Publications, PowerPoint presentations from VCTGA meetings, and other information that will help you be a more successful/profitable Christmas tree business.

To Join:

1. Log into your Facebook profile.
2. Enter "Virginia Christmas Tree Growers" in the search box at the top left of the page.
3. Click the Groups tab to see a list of groups related to your search term.
4. As above, click on the name of the group to learn more, or click Join to become a member of the group.
5. You will have to wait for your membership request to be approved.

For additional info or help, contact Ryan Clouse rclouse@mafvc.com or LeeAnn Seeley, secretary@VirginiaChristmasTrees.org

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