



Annual Conference Program

August 1-3, 2019

Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA

Wednesday July 31

4:00pm-6:00 pm VCTGA Board Meeting

6:30pm-8:00pm Board Dinner

4:00pm -8:00pm Vendor Setup

Thursday August 1

8:00am-12:00 **Vendor Setup,**
Tree and Wreath Contest Entries

9:00am-12:00 **Wreath Workshop**
Tommy Naylor and Elves

10:00am-12:00 **Spotted Lanternfly Inspection Certification**
Eric Day and Kyle Peer, Virginia Tech

12:00-1:00pm **Sandwich Buffet Lunch**
Catered by Hethwood Market

1:00pm-1:05pm **Welcome** *Jeff Gregson VCTGA President*

1:05pm-1:45pm **State of the Christmas Tree Industry,**
Trends and Opportunities- *Jeff Owen,*
North Carolina State University Extension

1:45pm-2:00pm **"Growing Your Small Business"**
Sandy Ratliff, Virginia Community Capital, Inc.

2:00pm-2:30pm **Break with Vendors**

2:30pm-3:30pm **"Transitioning Our Farms to New Owners:**
Unique Perspectives by VCTGA Member Panel:
Sue Bostic, Paris Rasnic, Dave Thomas, Virginia Carroll

3:30pm-4:30pm **VCTGA Business Meeting**

5:30pm-6:30pm **Social at Hahn Garden,**
Virginia Tech Campus

6:30pm-8:00 pm **BBQ Dinner Hahn Garden**
Catered by Hethwood Market

Friday August 2

8:30am-9:30am **"Advancements in Technology, Weed**
Management and Controlling Cones" *Jeff Owen, NCSU*

9:30am-10:00 am **Break with Vendors**

10:00am-11:00am **"Basics of Soil Structure/ Influences on**
Nutrient Availability" *Dr. John Galbraith, Virginia Tech*

11:00am-11:45am **"Practical Application of Soil Survey**
Information in Selecting Species for Your Farm"
Matt Carroll, Natural Resources Conservation
Service/ Claybrooke Farm LLC

12:00 **Awards Luncheon** Tree and Wreath Contest Awards
Catered by Country Kitchen

Our guest speaker: *Dr. Michael Evans, Director, School of*
Plant and Environmental Sciences, Virginia Tech

1:30pm-2:30pm **"So you want to Sell Preserved &**
Prepared Foods on Your Farm?" *Lisa Ramsey,*
Regional Food Safety Manager, VDACS

2:30pm-3:00pm **Christmas Tree Promotion Board**
Update and Q&A

3:00pm-3:30pm **Break**

3:30pm-5:00pm **Annual Scholarship Auction**
Danny Neel

Dinner on Your Own

Saturday August 3

9:00am-12:00 **Farm Tour to Spruce Ridge Farm**
Hosted by David and Drema Huffman

12:15-1:30pm **Lunch at a Local Church**

Travel Home!



2019 Annual Meeting Registration Form

August 1-3, 2019
Virginia Tech,
Blacksburg, VA

Name of Primary Attendee:			
Farm Name			
Address:			
City:	State:	Zip Code:	
Cell Phone number:			
E-mail:			
Additional Names Attending:			
I will be participating in: _____ Wreath Workshop on Thursday morning ***(see note on back)			
Events or Function	How Many?	Member Fee *	Total
Registration fee for members (includes lunch/dinner Thurs; lunch Friday and Saturday Farm Tour Lunch - per person)		\$159	
Registration fee for members (includes lunch/dinner Thurs; lunch Friday and Saturday Farm Tour Lunch - per 2 persons)		\$299	
Registration fee for members (does not include any meals, add a la cart below)		\$99	
Thursday Lunch only		\$20	
Thursday Social & Dinner at Hahn Garden		\$25	
Friday Luncheon/Awards only		\$ 20	
Farm Tour per person (includes lunch)		\$15	
Non-Member – Add \$50 to Registration fee		\$50	
Additional Late registration fee after July 12		\$20.00	
[] I have special food needs: _____		GRAND TOTAL	

***The primary member registration rates apply to members in good standing of the**
*Virginia Christmas Tree Growers Association
 Mt. Rogers Christmas Tree Growers Association
 West Virginia Christmas Tree Growers Association
 Tennessee Christmas Tree Growers Association
 Maryland Christmas Tree Growers Association
 And their guests and families*

Received in VCTGA office ____/____/2019, check # _____ Total Payment \$ _____



2019 Auction **to Benefit Scholarship Fund**

Please list all new and slightly used items you are donating to our annual auction.



Wreath Workshop

Thursday, August 1, 9:00 am-Noon
by Tommy Naylor

Bring your hand clippers.
Greenery and wreath rings provided.

Hotel: The Inn at Virginia Tech

901 Prices Fork Rd., Blacksburg, VA 24061

Reservation Deadline: July 1, 2019

Online Reservations: <https://reservations.travelclick.com/75607?groupID=2456282#/guestsandrooms>
(Short version: <https://bit.ly/2If2aLi>)

Or call The Inn at Virginia Tech 1-844-763-1407

\$119.00 per room/per night based on single occupancy plus applicable tax. Includes Breakfast for one in Preston's Restaurant. \$10.00 each additional person, per day, plus tax

Meeting Location: Alphin Stuart Arena

500 Plantation Rd., Blacksburg VA 24061



Hotel: The Inn at Virginia Tech

901 Prices Fork Rd., Blacksburg, VA 24061



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Hahn Horticulture Pavilion and Garden

200 Garden Lane, Blacksburg, VA 24061

Directions: <https://www.hort.vt.edu/hhg/>



Virginia Christmas Tree Growers Association

Experience a Real Tree™

383 Coal Hollow Rd, Christiansburg, VA 24073-6721
Ph: 540-382-7310 secretary@VirginiaChristmasTrees.org

Virginia Christmas Tree & Wreath Contest Entry Form

Entrant's Name: _____

Farm/Business Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Note: Rules state that each VCTGA farm may enter up to four (4) trees in the contest, but no more than one tree in any one category. Rules state that each VCTGA member may enter up to 2 wreaths in the contest, but no more than one wreath per category. In no case shall one person, family or farm enter more than four trees and two wreaths. Entrant must be present during the time of setup and enter his or her own tree(s) or wreath(s). The tree(s) must be Virginia grown and the wreath(s) must be made from fresh Virginia grown material.

Previous winners and their immediate families are not eligible to participate in the contest at the Convention immediately following the one in which they won, but are eligible to participate after that.

Which class are you entering? Check all that apply All-fir__ Pine__ Spruce__ Other__

Which wreath category are you entering? Check all that apply. Undecorated__ Decorated__ (MUST be on a 12" ring)

I certify that I am a 2019 current member in good standing in the Virginia Christmas Growers Tree Association and was a member of the VCTGA in 2018.

_____/_____/_____/2019
Entrant's Signature Date

Please complete this form and bring it with your entry.

Questions? Contact Robert O'Keeffe Phone: (540) 651-8440; Cell: 540-580-3528 rifton@swva.net
See complete rules and regulations on the VCTGA website at www.VirginiaChristmasTrees.org

VCTGA Christmas Tree Contest

The 2019 Virginia Christmas Tree Contest will be held at the Virginia Tech Alphin Stuart Arena. Trees will be set up and judged on Thursday, August 1, 2019. Setup will begin at 8 a.m. and must be completed by noon.

Eligible participants should complete the following form and submit it with their entry(s). Delivery, setup and responsibility for the tree's condition will remain with the entrant until the tree is set up in the judging area.

It is the responsibility of the entrant to remove and dispose of the entries after 3 p.m. on Friday.

Questions? Contact: Robert O'Keeffe, (H) 540-651-8440; (cell) 540-580-3528, Email: rifton@swva.net

Additional details, scoring forms on trees and wreaths are on the website at www.VirginiaChristmasTrees.org

PURPOSE OF CONTEST:

- To establish an opportunity for VCTGA to encourage and promote the use of Real Christmas Trees.
- Select a grand champion winner to receive the honor of presenting a Real Christmas Tree to the Governor of Virginia.

RULES AND JUDGING GUIDELINES

These rules and guidelines establish the procedure to be followed in selecting the grand champion. To ensure the greatest possible media coverage of the presentations, cooperation between the winner and VCTGA is extremely important. All media coverage is to be coordinated with the VCTGA office.

General

- The tree contest will be held at a site selected by the host association and will be convenient to the convention site.
- The four contest classes will be: (A) all firs (B) all pines (C) all spruce and (D) all other species.
- Trees entered must be commercially cultivated and be 6-8 feet in height from bottom of the handle to top of leader. The length of the handle shall be at least 6 inches but no longer than 12 inches. The tree shall not have been artificially colored. No wiring, tying or inserting of limbs or branches or other artificial means will be permitted. Any tree failing to meet these qualifications will be disqualified by the tree contest committee.

Contest Procedures

- Eligibility will be cross-checked with VCTGA membership records before judging begins.
- Trees shall be ready for judging by noon the first day of the convention. Under no circumstances will trees arriving after this time be allowed into the contest. The judging area will be clearly described by a map showing location of site and will indicate times and person(s) to contact and phone number(s) for those bringing trees early.
- Securely tied to each tree will be a blank sealed envelope, containing a card with grower's name, address, telephone number and location of tree farm. The species of the tree must be clearly printed on the outside of the envelope.
- No contestant shall have entry to the judging area to view competitive trees prior to submitting their entry to the tree contest chairperson.

Eligibility of Entrants

- Each Virginia Christmas Tree Association 2019 member in good standing and a prior member in 2018, is eligible to enter four trees in the VCTGA Christmas Tree Contest. In no case shall one person, family or farm enter more than one tree per class.
- Entrants must be United States residents and the tree(s) must be Virginia grown.

Previous winners and their immediate families are not eligible to participate in the contest at the Convention immediately following the one in which they won, but are eligible to participate after that.

Judging

- The grand champion winner from the preceding convention will be asked to serve as a judge of contest trees. In addition, a non-member and a VCTGA member will be chosen to serve as a judge. If a grand champion winner declines, another qualified judge from the association will be selected.
- Each judge will prepare a score sheet on each contest tree. See current guidelines for judging for scoring criteria. Score sheets will not be provided to an entrant.
- Winners will be selected by judges in each class for the four classes based on the total number of points awarded for each entry.
- The grand champion will be selected from among the first-place winner of the four categories. The tree that scored the highest overall will be the Grand Champion winner.

Wreath Contest Rules and Judging Guidelines

The 2019 Virginia Wreath Contest will be held at the Virginia Tech Alphin Stuart Arena, Blacksburg, Virginia. Wreaths will be set up and judged on Thursday, August 1, 2019. Setup will begin at 8 a.m. and must be completed by noon.

Eligible participants should complete the attached form and submit it with their entry.

Responsibility for the wreath's condition will remain with the entrant until the wreath is set up in the judging area.

Questions should be directed to the Wreath Contest Chair: *Robert O'Keeffe, Phone: (H) 540-651-8440; (cell) 540-580-3528, rifton@swva.net*

PURPOSE OF CONTEST:

To establish an opportunity for the VCTGA to encourage and promote the use of Real Christmas Tree evergreens.

RULES AND JUDGING GUIDELINES

These rules and guidelines establish the procedure to be followed in selecting the national champion wreaths.

General

- Wreaths are to be made of Real Christmas Tree evergreens (no princess pine), grown within the state of the contest entrant. No colorant may be applied. Wreaths may be single or double faced. They will be judged either hanging on a wall or on an easel. All wreaths must be made on a 12-inch diameter ring only.
- Both decorated and undecorated wreaths can be made of mixed evergreens. On decorated wreaths, natural or artificial decorations may be used. Decorated wreaths must have a bow.
- The wreath contest will be held at a site selected by the chair and will be convenient to the convention site.

Contest Procedures

- Prior to the contest, or with their entry, each entrant will provide a signed two-part "qualification statement" to the contest chairperson. Part one should state that the entrant is eligible to enter the contest as a representative of his or her farm. Part two should state that the entrant is a member in good standing of VCTGA and be signed by the entrant. Eligibility will be cross-checked with VCTGA membership records before winners are selected.
- Securely tied to each wreath will be a blank sealed envelope, containing a card with wreath maker's name, address and telephone number. The card should also contain the name and location of the grower of the evergreen materials if it is different than the entrants.

Eligibility of Entrants

- Each Virginia Christmas Tree Growers Association member is eligible to enter two wreaths per class in the VCTGA Wreath Contest. In no case shall one person, family or farm enter more than two wreaths, one decorated and one undecorated. Entrant must be registered for the Convention to enter the contest.

Awards and Recognition

- The top three places in each class will receive ribbons: First place – blue ribbon; second place – red ribbon; and third place – white ribbon.
- Award ribbons will be placed on wreaths the day of the judging. All contest wreaths will be identified with the name of the entrant.
- The Grand champion will receive a purple ribbon, plaque and the honor of furnishing a wreath for the Governor's Mansion as a representative of VCTGA for the current year. Presentation of a wreath to the Governor's Mansion is subject to approval and permission granted by the Governor's Mansion.
- After the judging, an "Avenue of Virginia Christmas Trees" will be maintained throughout the convention at a convenient location in the Convention Center. Non-winning wreathes may be used for other functions at the convention, such as decorating. The name of the entrant will be prominently displayed on each wreath after the winners are announced.