



Promoting Chestnuts and
Connecting Chestnut Growers

THE CHESTNUT GROWER

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CGA / NNGA 2024
Joint Conference Overview,
Schedule & Registration

July 21-24, 2024
Syracuse, NY



NORTHERN NUT GROWERS ASSOCIATION
EST. 1910



State University of New York College of
Environmental Science and Forestry

2024 Annual Conference/Meeting Highlights

OVERVIEW

The joint annual conference/meeting of the Northern Nut Growers Association (NNGA) and Chestnut Growers of America (CGA) will take place July 21-24, 2024 at the Collegian Hotel and Suites, 1060 E. Genesee St., Syracuse, NY 13210 with the SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry (ESF) co-hosting. The conference will include a show and tell session, two all-day technical sessions, and field tours to multiple sites along with a welcome dinner, auction, and social/

banquet. The Collegian Hotel and Suites is the conference center for all indoor events. Plan to take advantage of the group rate for lodging. In addition to a café and restaurant inside the hotel, there are several restaurants within walking distance of the hotel. A free shuttle is available from the Hancock International Airport eight miles away and the AMTRAK station three miles away. If you drive in, plan to use your own vehicle to participate in the Wednesday field tours. We will arrange on-site for carpooling or possible

bus transportation to the field sites on Wednesday for those coming without vehicles. Please contact nngacga2024@gmail.com if you have questions about the conference.

The conference is open to everyone with an interest in trees managed for nuts or native fruits. There are lots of new nut tree plantings being established in up-state New York to see and hear about. Expect to hear a lot about American and Chinese chestnuts, hazelnuts, and nut tree hybrids.

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THE CHESTNUT GROWER

Spring 2024

About Chestnut Growers of America, Inc.

The purpose of Chestnut Growers of America is to promote chestnuts, to disseminate information to growers of chestnuts, to improve communications between growers within the industry, to support research and breeding work, and generally to further the interests and knowledge of chestnut growers. CGA advocates the delivery of only high-quality chestnuts to the marketplace.

CGA began as the Western Chestnut Growers in 1996 in Oregon where about 30 or so chestnut growers understood the need to join forces to promote chestnuts in the U.S. Eventually they realized that they needed to be a national organization and solicited memberships from every grower in the country, which took the membership to over 100. The name of the organization was changed to Chestnut Growers of America, Inc., and it was granted 501(c)(5) status. Annual meetings take place around the country in an effort to make it possible for a maximum number of people to attend. A newsletter, *The Chestnut Grower*, is published quarterly and distributed by mail and/or email. CGA maintains an extensive resource site available only to members containing information helpful in growing and marketing. Visit chestnutgrowers.org for more information.

Board of Directors

<i>President</i>	Roger Blackwell Milford, MI	(810) 923-2954 rblackwel@comcast.net
<i>Vice President</i>	Sara Fitzsimmons University Park, PA	(814) 863-7192 sff3@psu.edu
<i>Secretary/Treasurer</i>	Jack Kirk Richmond, VA	(804) 357-1137 jackschestnuts@gmail.com
<i>Director</i>	Steve Jones Selah, WA	(509) 697-4160
<i>Director</i>	Greg Miller Carrollton, OH	(330) 627-3181
<i>Director</i>	Tom Wahl Wapello, IA	(319) 729-5905
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Committees

<i>Editor/Webmaster</i>	Rita Blythe	chestnutgrowersofamerica@gmail.com
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Annual Membership Dues

Single membership, \$45; Household membership, \$55; Associate membership, \$60. Members receive *The Chestnut Grower* quarterly. Emailed newsletters are included. Mailed newsletters are an additional \$5 per year. A \$10 late fee is applied to membership renewals submitted after April 1.

Advertising Rates

Full page	\$20.00
Half page	\$15.00
Quarter page	\$10.00
Business card (4 issues)	\$15.00
Classifieds	FREE

Email ads to chestnutgrowersofamerica@gmail.com. Send payment for ads to Jack Kirk, 2300 Bryan Park Av., Richmond, VA 23228. Make checks payable to Chestnut Growers of America, Inc. OR visit www.chestnutgrowers.org/paydues.html to submit payment online via PayPal.

Editorial Opinion

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Message from CGA President Roger Blackwell, Chestnut Grower

Hello Chestnut Growers of America,

This spring the weather has been in temperatures across the country. We are at least one or two weeks ahead in our growing season. I hope you are all safe and well.

I want to remind you that our organization will be having the Annual Membership Meeting Sunday, July 21 through Wednesday, July 24 this year in Syracuse, New York. This year's meeting will be a joint meeting with Northern Nut Growers Association (NNGA) and the Chestnut Growers of America. Each group has agreed to have this joint meeting which will save money and time with both meetings held together at the same place. We will be learning about the America Chestnut Tree research on eliminating chestnut blight.

Andrew Newhouse, PhD is the Director of the American Chestnut Research & Restoration Project at the SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry. Andy is our host for the meeting at the SUNY campus and has collaborated with members of NNGA and CGA to coordinate an exciting meeting for all of us. Between the two groups you will find a diverse group of speakers to educate and inform about chestnuts and other nut trees across the country and what is happening in New York State with chestnuts.

The newsletter you are receiving has all the information about the annual meeting and how to register for the meeting. Please help Rita Blythe, CGA Editor, in future months with new articles for CGA. She welcomes any information that can be for the benefit of our members.

Please see the list of CGA Directors in this publication and thank them for continuing for the next year on the CGA Board.

I am sure you all are looking forward to meeting this summer and seeing how everyone is doing.

Best regards,

Roger P. Blackwell

Register Today!

For the 2024 Annual Meeting, a joint meeting with the Northern Nut Growers Association (NNGA).

July 21-24, 2024

Syracuse, New York

Register Here:

bit.ly/nngacga2024

Book Your Hotel Room at the Group Rate:

bit.ly/grouprate2024

Have you renewed your CGA membership?

Your 2024 membership dues are now past due. For members who have not yet renewed, you have two options:

Renew Online

Download a fillable form from the CGA website at www.chestnutgrowers.org/2020_CGA_Membership_Application_fillable.pdf. Complete the form and email it to Jack Kirk, CGA secretary/treasurer, at jackschestnuts@gmail.com. You can then pay your dues through the CGA website by visiting www.chestnutgrowers.org/paydues.html. **Please make sure you submit both your application and payment at the same time!**
~OR~

Renew by Mail

Please fill out, detach, and return the membership renewal form included in the Winter 2024 issue. Send the form with a check made payable to Chestnut Growers of America, Inc. to Jack Kirk, 2300 Bryan Park Ave., Richmond, VA 23228.

Note: If you are a new member who joined after August 1, 2023, your dues are already paid for 2024. A \$10 late fee has been applied to renewals submitted after April 1.

2023 - 2024 CGA Slate of Officers:

President: Roger Blackwell

Vice President: Sarah Fitzsimmons

Secretary/Treasurer: Jack Kirk

Directors: Steve Jones, Greg Miller, Tom Wahl, Rick Hartlieb

According to the bylaws, the slate shall be considered to have been elected unanimously if no written petitions are received.

Grower Report

Submitted by John & Jennifer Shank, Chestnut Acres Farm, Coos Bay, OR

Castanea Dentata Still Alive -- Some of you were surprised that we had live *C. dentata* in our orchard. While elk hunting about 40 years ago, I spotted bright foliage which is unusual here on the Oregon Coast in the autumn. On closer inspection, it was a small grove of chestnut trees which are not a native species. In the middle of this grove was a huge chestnut tree, had to be over 100 years old. Turns out I'd stumbled

on an abandoned pioneer farm. Being a former Pennsylvania boy, I love chestnuts which are hard to find in local stores as most Oregonians have never seen or eaten them. I dug up some smaller seedlings and planted them on my farm. Obviously, some early pioneer carried a chestnut tree across the plains before the blight.

We are still looking for info on, recommendations for, and product

descriptions of bulk chestnut peelers. Have looked online, but not a lot of info, especially the ones made in China (which we really don't want to buy). By bulk, I am looking at 25 to 200 pounds at this time. Any advice or help appreciated. Also seeking recipes/techniques on canning chestnuts.

Contact John & Jennifer Shank of Chestnut Acres Farm at jenohn@charter.net.

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CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Sunday, July 21, 2024

Conference attendees can pick up their registration packets after 3:30 pm in the lobby of the Collegian Hotel and Suites outside the Genesee Ballroom. Easels will be available to set up posters and skirted tables for exhibits in the hall outside the ballroom. Auction items should be set on the skirted tables in Genesee Ballroom A. During the day, the NNGA will hold their annual Board of Directors meetings from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm in the Capital Club. The Chestnut Growers of America will hold their Board of Directors meeting in the Capital Club from 3:00 to 4:00 pm.

A welcome dinner with cash bar is planned for Sunday evening in the Genesee Ballroom from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. The cost of the welcome dinner is included in the full, companion, and student registration. Following the dinner, we will have our first poster session from 5:30 to 6:30 pm. We are asking exhibitors and poster presenters to be available to answer questions during this session. The member-sharing Show and Tell session will start around 7:00 pm in Genesee Ballroom with a welcome followed by a series of short or lightning talks. This ever-popular event will include presentations from individuals who want to introduce themselves, who have built or tried new equipment, new techniques, promising selections or cultivars, or had some recent successes or failures.

Monday, July 22, 2024

The NNGA will have their annual business meeting from 8:30 to 9:00 am in Genesee Ballroom. The CGA will have their annual business meeting at the same time in Genesee Ballroom A and B.

After the business meetings, we will begin the first day of presentations with a keynote presentation by Andy Newhouse, ESF Director, American Chestnut Research & Restoration Project, on using biotechnology to restore threatened trees. After the morning refreshment break, we are planning a series of 15- and 30-minute presentations before lunch. After lunch, we have scheduled another series of 15- and 30-minute presentations followed by three concurrent panels or round table discussions on Chestnuts, A Beginning Nut Grower, and the Nut Growing Business.

Coffee, tea, and ice water will be available all day starting at 7:30 am till around 9:00 pm. A buffet lunch from 12:15 to 1:10 pm is included in a full and student registration. The buffet lunch will be served in Genesee A and B, and we will eat in the Genesee Ballroom. Dinner will be on our own Monday evening.

A companion (CAPS) program is being planned from mid-morning to mid-afternoon. Syracuse has multiple tourist attractions to choose from.

Plan to return early from dinner to participate in the second poster and exhibitor session and viewing of the auction items from 6:00 to 7:00 pm. The auction should start around 7:00 pm.

All are welcome to attend – bring your checkbook, cash, or credit card! Proceeds go to support the NNGA and CGA research grants programs.

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Tuesday session will open at 8:30 am with a keynote presentation by J. Hill Craddock, Davenport Professor of Biology - University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, on conservation of *Castanea* genetic resources. The rest of the morning will be presentations covering various aspects of all the temperate nut growing trees and general interest topics. In the afternoon, we will have a mix of technical presentations before ending the afternoon with three concurrent panels or round table discussions on Hazelnuts, Grafting, and Walnuts.

Again, coffee, tea, and ice water will be available all day from 7:30 am till the end of banquet and a buffet lunch is included in each full and student registration. A second companion (CAPS) program is being planned for mid-morning to mid-afternoon.

On Tuesday evening, we will have the traditional social and banquet followed by a program with announcements, elections, sponsor recognition, and awards. The social and banquet are included in the full, companion, and student registration, but not the Tuesday one-day registration. Tickets can be purchased for the banquet only if you want to bring a guest. The social with cash bar is scheduled from a little after 6:10 to 7:00 pm. Anticipate being called together for the annual group photo around 6:00 pm – the cash bar does not open until the group photo has been taken. The buffet style banquet will be served in Genesee Ballroom A and B with seating in Genesee

Ballroom C. The banquet should start around 7:00 pm with the evening's program to begin around 8:00 pm. Some highlights of the program include recognition of our sponsors, presentation of awards, and the roll call of states.

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Wednesday has been set aside for laboratory and field tours. We anticipate maintaining an information desk in the lobby of the Collegian Hotel from 7:00 to 9:00 am to provide maps and assistance in removal of posters and exhibits if not already done. The morning tours are included in the full, companion, and student registration. The optional off-site afternoon tours require an additional registration. Attendees will be asked to drive their own vehicles to these sites or help arrange carpooling once we are on-site. Those on the companion tours may want to sit and socialize under the shade of a chestnut or walnut tree, but you may need to bring your own lawn chair. We are asking those who drive to the conference to stash a few lawn chairs in their trunk before leaving for the conference.

The ESF research laboratories are less than a 10-minute drive from the Collegian Hotel. Try to carpool as parking space is limited and we have been issued only 50 campus parking passes. Plan to pick up a pass at the information desk on Wednesday morning. Graduate students and faculty should be present from 8:15 to 9:30 am to show us around.

Following the laboratory tours, we will take a short drive to the ESF's Research Station (452 Lafayette Road, Syracuse, NY 13205) less than a 15-minute drive away from the laboratories. Expect a short welcome around 10:00 am and to break up into small groups for a half mile long walking tour through the farm. We have been asked to bring our own water bottles; however, bottled water will be available. Those registered for the afternoon off-site tours should refill their water bottles and pick up a lunch before departing for the off-site field tours.

If you plan to participate in the off-site field tours, you will need to add a field tour registration to your full, student, or companion registration. When registering, choose one of the following three off-site field tours.

Z's Nutty Ridge Orchards and Nursery,
5296 Town Line Road, McGraw, NY 13101

The Chestnut Grower

to see Jeff and Dawn Zarnowski's hazel/chestnut orchards and nut tree seedling nursery. The farm is on a hillside that overlooks a beautiful valley with a view that is worth the visit alone. The farm started out with thousands of hazelnut seedlings 30 years ago, then a program of hazelnut cross breeding, and now has hazelnut cultivar offerings from these crosses. Expect the program to begin around 1:30 pm for about two hours before moving to The Nut Hub Processing facility in Cortland.

In anticipation of the tour, explore Jeff and Dawn Zarnowski's website at znutty.com. Plan to take a 41-minute, 37-mile drive from the Lafayette Experimental Station south on Lafayette Road until the road ends at Route 20. Turn right, go straight through the traffic light and then take I-81 south for 20.7 miles to exit 11. Turn left and go north on Route 13 about 8 miles and turn right onto Youngs Crossing. Continue straight onto Town Line Road about 1 mile and take the first driveway on the left. This is the easy route!

Finger Lakes Nut Farm is located at 5287 Booth Hill Road, Locke, NY 13092. Located in Owasca Valley, there are 1200+ Chinese and Chinese hybrid trees from fourteen mother trees. Of the trees, 1000 trees were planted in 2017 and are situated on 13 acres with a deer fence and are fully irrigated. There is a small-scale processing facility that includes a dip tank, sorter, walk-in coolers and a Hasastan vacuum harvester located in the barn. Expect the program to begin around 1:30 pm and last for about two hours before moving on to the Nut Hub Processing Facility in Cortland.

Explore their website at www.fingerlakesnutfarm.com. The farm is about 50 minutes away from the conference center, first taking I-81 south to the Homer exit and then west on route 90 for 15 minutes. Parking is at the top of the driveway beside the garage and along the deer fence up the driveway.

Black Squirrel Farms, [590 State Route 14, Penn Yan, NY 14527](http://www.black-squirrel-farms.com). Participate in a tree to table black walnut experience. Black Squirrel Farms grows and processes black walnuts, sells black walnut products, and manages a regional black walnut collection which serves over 150 individual tree owners. Expect the program to begin around 2:00 pm. Before the event, explore their website at www.black-squirrel-farms.com.

[net](http://www.net.net). Plan to take a 70-minute, 65-mile drive from the conference center taking I-690 to I-90 west to NY State Route 14. Then 15.5 miles south on NY 14 through Geneva to the farm.

POSTERS, EXHIBITS, & FLIERS

Posters and exhibits will be set up in the lobby of the Collegian Hotel outside Genesee Ballroom B. Poster presenters are expected to register for the conference and be present by their posters during the two scheduled poster sessions on Sunday and Monday from 6:00 to 7:00 pm each evening. Exhibitors should plan to staff their exhibits during these times as well. If you need to ship materials for displays or exhibits before the conference, please contact Andrew Newhouse (aenewhou@esf.edu, 315-470-6744) to make arrangements to receive and store your materials for the conference.

Registration packets will be assembled on Sunday between the Board meetings. If you have fliers or other items you would like included in the registration packet, arrange to have them in Genesee Ballroom A and B before 2:00 pm on Sunday. If you need to ship your fliers and other materials, please contact Andrew Newhouse (aenewhou@esf.edu, 315-470-6744) to arrange to receive and store them.

AUCTION

The traditional NNGA auction is scheduled on Monday evening. **Please consider donating items to the auction regardless of which organization you belong to.** You can specify on the donation sheet which organization should receive the proceeds. Both the NNGA and CGA use the proceeds to support their research grants program for tree-related research. In the past, auction items have included artwork, handmade donations, plant material, nut products, baked goods, and/or gift certificates. If you donate baked goods, please label your treats as to whether they are nut, dairy, or gluten-free. If you are an exhibitor, consider adding items, especially the items you have for sale, to the auction to increase your exposure at the conference.

COMPANION OR CAPS PROGRAM

We anticipate half day Companion (CAPS) program on Monday and Tuesday from mid-morning to mid-afternoon planned in conjunction with the Syracuse visitors center. The companion registration covers

the welcome dinner, social and banquet, ESF tour, and normal conference fixed expenses, but does not include entrance fees and lunch for either day.

MEALS

We will be on our own for breakfast each morning and dinner on Monday night. The Salt Restaurant and Bar in the Collegian Hotel is open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner from 7:00 am to 9:00 pm. You can find their menus at www.scholarhotels.com/scholar-hotel-syracuse. Room Service is available from 11 am to 9 pm. The Starbucks café in the lobby has beverages only and is open from 7 am till 11 am. A variety of beverages and snacks are available in the Collegian Marketplace directly behind Starbucks. Only the suites have kitchenettes in the Collegian Hotel.

There are multiple locally-owned restaurants within a half mile walking distance that include vegan, Mexican, Asian, and American cuisine. We plan to compile a list of local options to be distributed at the conference. Although it is safe to walk alone in downtown Syracuse, it would be best if we walked as small groups to these restaurants.

LODGING & PARKING

The Collegian Hotel and Suites (1600 E. Genesee Road, Syracuse, NY 13210) is a smoke-free double tower hotel in downtown Syracuse. We have booked a block of rooms with a discounted rate of \$115 plus 15% tax (single or double) through July 5, 2024. Choose from a room with two queen-sized beds and no refrigerator, with a king-sized bed and mini-refrigerator, or studio with king-sized bed and kitchenette.

To book a room, reserve online at bit.ly/grouprate2024. The block code is 072124NOR. Book as early as possible, the block of reserved rooms expires on July 5th. We have guaranteed the Collegian Hotel more than 60 sleep nights from Sunday through Wednesday. Reservations made through the front desk and online booking groups will not count toward the sleep nights. Check-in is at 3:00 pm and check-out is at noon.

Parking is self-parking and free at the Collegian Hotel if registered for the conference; otherwise, it is \$10 per night. There is no valet parking.

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The Collegian Hotel & Suites Syracuse is pet friendly. They accept up to two pets each less than 30 pounds and \$50 for the first pet and \$25 for the second pet per stay. Guests will be required to sign their [Guest Pet Agreement](#) at check-in. These fees do not apply to service animals.

OFF-SITE LODGING

Other hotels within a mile of the conference site include the Hotel Skyler (0.2 miles), Crown Plaza (0.3), Parkview Hotel (0.3), Sheraton (0.4), Clarion Point (0.7), Marriott (0.8), and Best Western (0.9).

The nearest RV/camp ground is in Green Lakes State Park (7900 Green Lake Road, Fayetteville, NY 13066) about 9 miles (24 minutes) from the Collegian Hotel. Sites start at \$18. Call 315-637-6111 for availability and pricing.

TRANSPORTATION

The Collegian Hotel and Suites is conveniently located off I-81 taking the Genesee (Hwy 5) exit east. Hancock International Airport, located 8 miles north of the Collegian Hotel is served by nine airlines and six car rental agencies. The Collegian Hotel offers a free shuttle between the airport and hotel. Call the front desk to arrange for pickup or drop off.

Syracuse is also served by AMTRAK on the Empire Service with multiple departures daily between New York City and Niagara Falls. Trains operate out of the William F. Walsh Transportation Center located 3 miles north of the Collegian Hotel. Free shuttle service is available if arranged through the Collegian Hotel's front desk.

REGISTRATION

Online registration with credit card is available at bit.ly/nngacga2024. Alternatively, complete the registration form on pages 9-10 and mail to Northern Nut Growers Association, %Debbie Milks, PO Box 1166, Lawrence, KS 66044 along with a check made payable to the Northern Nut Growers Association. **Register by June 15 for the early bird rate.** Full refunds will be available through July 5, full refund less a \$50 processing fee through July 16, and no refunds after July 16 with few exceptions.

Full and student registrations include registration packet; printed program with abstracts; favor; Sunday's welcome reception and Show and Tell session; Monday's technical sessions, lunch, breaks, and auction; Tuesday's technical sessions, lunch, breaks, social, and banquet; and Wednesday's SUNY-ESF laboratory and field station tours. Companion

registrations do not include Monday and Tuesday's technical sessions, lunches, or breaks. None of the registrations include transportation or lodging.

CONFERENCE FIELD TOURS

Field tours are scheduled on Wednesday to the ESF laboratories on campus and the research station on Lafayette Road as part of the full and companion registration. In the afternoon, choose one of three off-site field tours with an additional registration. Plan to drive your own vehicle or carpool on Wednesday morning to the ESF laboratories and field research station. We will have a signup list at registration for you to sign if you need to carpool and which off-site field tour you are registered for. If carpooling cannot be arranged for everyone, the plan is to rent vans or buses and ask riders to pay a proportionate share of the rental fees.

POST-CONFERENCE TOUR OPTIONS

On your way home on Wednesday afternoon or Thursday you may want to participate in a post-conference tour. A more complete list is planned for the printed program in your registration packet.

The Nut Hub Processing Facility, officially the New York Tree Crops Alliance Cooperative (NYTCA Coop) Processing Center, Cortland Commerce Center, 839 NYS Rt 13, Cortland, NY 13101. The facility will be open all day Thursday July 25 to accept visitors. The processing center features a NYS certifiable kitchen with all the equipment needed to process hazelnuts and chestnuts (mainly) in shell and then crack and process into value added products. Products include flours, pancake mix, roasted nuts, and oil from nuts like bitternut hickory. Cornell Agritech provides the needed safe processes and procedures for staff and equipment.

The **Cornell Botanical Gardens** (124 Comstock Knoll Dr, Ithaca, NY) is approximately 1.5 hours or 60 miles south of Syracuse adjacent to the Cornell University campus. It features 25 acres of specialty gardens and the 150-acre F. P. Newman Arboretum which specializes in trees and shrubs native to New York. It has a small collection of grafted chestnuts. The walnut collection is the oldest collection and includes black walnut, butternut, and heartnuts. The grounds and welcome center are open 7 days a week from 6 AM to 6 PM. Suggested route take I-81 south to NY-281 west to NY-13 into Ithaca.



Conference Schedule of Events

SUNDAY, 21 JULY 2024

Today's program starts with board meetings for both organizations in the Capital Room of the Collegian Hotel and Suites. Mid- to late afternoon you should be able to pick up your registration packet and set up posters, displays, or exhibits for the conference. In the evening, we planning a get acquainted buffet dinner, a short poster/exhibitor session followed by our traditional Show and Tell Session with short 10-minute (lightning) talks.

10:00 – 12:00	Northern Nut Growers of America Board of Directors Meeting – Capital Club
12:00 -- 1:00	Lunch on your own
1:00 -- 2:00	Northern Nut Growers of America Board of Directors Meeting (continued) – Capital Club
3:00 -- 4:00	Chestnut Growers of America Board of Directors Meeting – Capital Club
3:30 -- 7:00	Set up Posters and Displays , hotel lobby outside Genesee Ballroom.
3:30 -- 7:00	Set up Exhibits and Auction items display , Salon B
3:30 -- 7:00	Registration – Lobby outside Genesee Ballroom
5:00 -- 6:00	Welcome Social with cash bar in Salon A
5:30 -- 6:30	First Poster/Exhibit Session (expect presenters and exhibitors to be with their material) -- Salon B and Lobby
6:00 -- 7:00	Welcoming BBQ Dinner – Setup in Salon A and B, sit down in Genesee Ballroom
7:00 -- 9:00	Show and Tell Session -- Genesee Ballroom, Jerry Henkin, Moderator
7:00 -- 7:05	Jerry Henkin, NNGA/CGA Welcome and Introductions
7:05 -- 7:10	Andy Newhouse, SUNY-ESF and Upper New York Welcome
7:10 -- 7:20	Louise Bugbee, <i>An Update on NNGA Plantings in Pennsylvania</i>
7:20 -- 7:30	Buzz Ferver, <i>Searching for Zone 4 Hardiness in Persimmon</i>
7:30 -- 7:40	Jeff Zarnowski, <i>Deer and Rodent Protection for Your Trees</i>
7:40 -- 7:50	Hans Spalholz, <i>Lighting for Indoor Nut Tree Nurseries</i>
7:50 -- 8:00	Alex Tanke, <i>Hurdle Jumping: The Case of the Hickories</i>
8:00 -- 8:10	Erick Carlson, <i>Allegheny Chinquapins</i>

8:10 -- 8:20	Sawyer Clark, <i>Propagating Chestnuts via Tissue Culture</i>
8:20 -- 8:30	Jonathan Bates and Jeff Piestrak, <i>What is New York Tree Crop Alliance Cooperative?</i>
8:30 -- 8:40	Sawyer Clark, <i>Propagating Chestnut via Tissue Culture</i>
8:40 -- 8:50	TBD
8:50 -- 9:00	Dan Lafever, <i>Using Boron to Control Plum Curculio, Chestnut Weevil and Pecan Weevil</i>
9:00 – 9:10	Announcements and Housekeeping

MONDAY, 22 JULY 2024

Today's program includes our business meeting for the NNGA and CGA, a CAPS program, our first keynote presentation, the technical side of the conference, and the auction. Coffee all day and a light lunch are included in the full registration. The day will start with short business meetings by both associations. The CAPS program will begin right after the business meeting. The technical session will open with a keynote presentation. In the evening after dinner on your own, plan to participate in a second poster session and examine the auction items followed by the auction. Proceeds from the auction go to support the NNGA or CGA research grants program.

7:30 -- 9:00 pm	Coffee, tea, and water available -- Back of the Genesee Ballroom all day
8:30 -- 9:00	NNGA Business Meeting – Genesee Ballroom
8:30 -- 9:00	CGA Business Meeting – Salon A and B
9:00 --	CAPS
9:00 – 12:15	Monday Morning Technical Session , Shawn Mehlenbacher and M.J. Oviatt, Moderators
9:05 -- 9:45	Keynote Presentation – Andy Newhouse, <i>Using Biotechnology to Restore Threatened Trees</i>
9:45 -- 10:15	Kelly Springer, <i>The Nutritional Benefits of Nuts</i>
10:15 – 10:30	Joe Hietter, <i>Use of the NNGA's Annual Reports Thumb Drive</i>
10:30 – 11:00	Break – Salon A and B
11:00 – 11:30	Albert E. Fulton, <i>Holocene Paleoecology of Mast Tree Taxa in the Northeast and Great Lakes Regions</i>
11:30 – 11:45	Andew Faust, <i>Food Forests of the Future</i>
11:45 – 12:00	Robbie Coville, <i>Agroforestry Opportunities in Pennsylvania: Updates and Broader Horizons</i>
12:00 – 12:15	Adam Howell, <i>How NY FarmNet Helps State Farmers</i>

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12:15 -- 1:10	Light buffet lunch – Setup in Salon A and B, sit down in Genesee Ballroom
1:10 -- 4:00	Monday Afternoon Technical Session , Genesee Ballroom, Ray Rusmisl, Moderator
1:15 -- 1:45	Dick Winkel, <i>Effect of Late Spring Frost on Chestnut Crops</i>
1:45 -- 2:00	Maya Niesz Kutsch, <i>Effective Pollination Distance of Transgenic American Chestnuts</i>
2:00 -- 2:30	Sasha Sherman, <i>The Great Chestnut Experiment – Direct Marketing Added Value Chestnut Production in NYC</i>
2:30 -- 3:00	Greg Turner, <i>Addressing the Decline of Allegheny Woodrats in Pennsylvania</i>
3:00 -- 3:30	Break
3:30 -- 3:40	Introduction of Concurrent Panels or Discussion Groups , Joe Hietter, Moderator
3:40 -- 5:00	Concurrent Panels or Discussion Groups (choose one) <i>The Business of Nut Growing</i> : Panelists – Harry Greene, Jono Neiger, Russell Wallach, Frank Cetera, and Jonathan Bates <i>Beginning Nut Growers</i> : Panelists – Nancy Newbury and Peter Haarmann <i>Chestnuts</i> : Panelists – Andrew Newhouse, Hill Craddock, Sandy Anagnostakis, Greg Miller, and Roger Blackwell
5:00 -- 6:30	Dinner on your own
6:00 -- 7:00	Second Poster/Exhibitor Session – Collegian Hotel lobby and Genesee Salon B
6:30 -- 7:00	Viewing of the Auction Items and Distribution of Numbers – Ballroom
7:00 -- 9:00	Auction – Genesee Ballroom
9:00 -- 10:00	Pay for and Remove Auction Items

TUESDAY, 23 JULY 2024

Today's program features the second CAPS program, another keynote presentation, morning and afternoon technical session, and a second set of concurrent panels or discussion groups. Coffee all day and a light lunch are included in the full registration. In the evening, we will have the traditional social and banquet.

7:30 -- 9:00 pm	Coffee, tea, and water available all day -- Back of the Genesee Ballroom
Time TBD	CAPS
8:25 -- 8:30	Welcome to Morning Session , Genesee Ballroom. Roger Blackwell and Sara Tyler, Moderators

8:30 -- 9:15	Keynote Presentation – James Hill Craddock, <i>Conservation of Castanea Genetic Resources: American Chestnut Breeding for Disease Resistance in the Southeast</i>
9:15 -- 9:45	Carl Albers, <i>Growing English Walnuts in the Northeast</i>
9:45 -- 10:15	Ernie Grimo, <i>Hot Callous Pipe Grafting in Ontario</i>
10:15 -- 10:45	Break
10:45 -- 11:15	Ron Powell, <i>Pawpaws: Success Begins and Ends with Good Planning</i>
11:15 -- 11:30	R. J. Brison, <i>The Versatile Honey Locust</i>
11:30 -- 12:00	Gabe Smith, <i>Facilitating Regional Hazelnut and Chestnut Industries through Identification of Improved Genetic Materials and Management Practices</i>
12:00 -- 12:15	Andrew Vander Yacht, <i>Roasted Nuts: Past and Future Relationships Between Wildland Fire and Native Hard-Mast Producing Trees of the Northeastern US</i>
12:15 -- 1:05	Light Buffet Lunch – Set up in Salon A and B, Sit down in Ballroom
1:05 -- 1:10	Welcome to Tuesday Afternoon Session – Genesee Ballroom, Debbie Milks and Jeff Jensen, Moderators
1:10 -- 1:30	Lou Marie Judge, <i>Nuts for the Next Generation</i>
1:30 -- 2:00	Giulio Neri, <i>Nut Production in Quebec</i>
2:00 -- 2:30	Erick Carlson and Jim McKenna, <i>Comparing and Contrasting Chestnut Blight and Butternut Canker Disease</i>
2:30 -- 3:00	Dan Gilrein, <i>What Bugs Nut Growers: Pest Management Issues in Northeast Nut Production</i>
3:00 -- 3:30	Break
3:30 -- 3:45	Thomas Molnar, <i>Eastern Filbert Blight of Hazelnuts: An Update and Approaches to Manage this Devastating Disease in the Long Term</i>
3:45 -- 4:00	Don Knezick, <i>Propagation of EFB Resistant Hazelnut Cultivars</i>
4:00 -- 4:10	Introduction of Concurrent Panels or Discussion Groups , Genesee Ballroom, Jeff Jensen, Moderator
4:10 -- 5:00	Concurrent Panels or Round Table Discussion Groups (choose one) <i>Hazelnuts</i> : Panelists – Tom Molnar, Don Knezick, Shawn Mehlenbacher, Jeff Zarnowski, and Lois Braun <i>Grafting</i> : Panelist – Jim McKenna

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2024 Joint NNGA/CGA Conference Registration Form

The 2024 Joint Conference of the Northern Nut Growers Association (NNGA) and the Chestnut Growers of America (CGA) will be held July 21 – 24, 2024 at the Collegian Hotel and Suites in Syracuse, New York 13210. To register, complete this form with payment to the Northern Nut Growers Association, and send it to Debbie Milks, PO Box 1166, Lawrence, KS 66044. Register by June 15 to avoid the \$50 late fee. To download and print additional copies of this form or to register online, use the links on the NNGA website (nutgrowing.org) or the CGA website (chestnutgrowers.org).

Who is this registration for?

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Name(s) for your name tag: _____

Organization for your name tag (optional): _____

Email Address _____ Mobile Phone Number _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____ Zip Code: _____ Country _____

Registration Type and Options

_____ Full \$245/person before June 15 (after June 15 add \$50 late fee below)
Full registration includes program packet, printed program with session abstracts; favor; Sunday's welcome dinner and Show and Tell; Monday's sessions, lunch, breaks, and auction; Tuesday's sessions, lunch, breaks and social/banquet; and Wednesday's ESF tours.

_____ Companion \$110/adult or child before June 15 (after June 15 add \$50 late fee below)
Companion registration includes program packet; printed program; favor; Sunday's welcome dinner and Show and Tell; Monday's auction; Tuesday's social/ banquet; and Wednesday's ESF tours. **Costs for admission fees and lunch on Monday or Tuesday are not included because these programs are still to be determined.**
List name(s) of accompanying children: _____

_____ Student \$145/student before June 15 (after June 15 add \$50 late fee below)
Student registration includes the same as a full registration: Enrolled at _____
One Day Student Registrations are \$50/person on Sunday or \$75/person Monday or Tuesday (banquet not incl.)

_____ Exhibitor Table \$50/6' table w/o conference registration, \$25/table w/ conference registration
Tables will be provided, limit of 2 tables per exhibitor.

_____ Off Site Field Tours Add \$20 if joining the Z's Nutty Ridge, \$20 if joining the Finger Lakes Nut Farm or \$30 if joining the Black Squirrel Farms tour. SUNY ESF tours included in full and companion registrations.

_____ One Day Registration (if more than one day, please complete a full registration)
\$50 Sunday \$110 Monday (Technical) \$110 Tuesday (Technical w/o banquet) \$25 Wednesday (AM tour)

_____ Extra Banquet Tickets Add \$45/person. Ticket(s) for (name) _____

_____ **For registration after June 15, add \$50 to full, companion, student full conference registration.** Conference organizers start making non-refundable commitments to vendors after June 15 based on expected attendance.

_____ Voluntary Donation / Sponsorship: Any amount is welcome. Donations above \$100 are considered a conference sponsorship. Sponsors will be recognized at the conference and in *The Nutshell*.
Sponsorships thresholds: Tree (\$500) Sapling (\$200) Seedling (\$100) Donation \$ _____

_____ **Member Discount (subtract \$10 if you are a NNGA, CGA, or NYNGA member and circle which one(s))**

\$ _____ Total for Registration and Other Options

Please turn over and complete the second page

Multi-person registration: If registering more than one person, what tickets are you purchasing for whom?

Restrictions: Please list any dietary restrictions (vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free, etc.) you have. We want to accommodate your needs:

Accessibility: Activities may require attendees to stand for 20 minutes or more, walk short or moderate distances, and sit in classroom chairs for periods of up to 60 minutes or more. We recognize not all attendees are comfortable or able to complete these tasks without assistance. If you will need assistance with any of these activities, please list here so we are prepared to accommodate your needs:

Volunteering: Are you willing to volunteer during the conference? We need help with activities like check-in, hospitality, monitoring display/exhibit area, session moderators, bringing homemade snacks, etc. _____

Transportation: For the Wednesday field tours you will be asked to drive your own vehicle or arrange to carpool with someone going the same offsite field tour you choose. If flying, plan to fly into the Syracuse Hancock International Airport (8 miles from the hotel) and take the shuttle to the Collegian Hotel and Suites. The Collegian Hotel also offers a free shuttle from the AMTRAK station (3 miles from the hotel) when arranged with the front desk.

Field Tour Preference: The Wednesday morning tours of the SUNY-ESF laboratories and the chestnut research farm are included in the full, companion, student or exhibitor registration. The afternoon off-site field tours are separate tickets. Choose one of the following offsite field tours: [Z's Nutty Ridge \(5296 Town Line Road, McGraw, NY; https://znutty.com/\)](https://znutty.com/) to see their hazel/chestnut orchards and seedling nursery; [Finger Lakes Nut Farm \(5287 Booth Hill Road, Locke, NY; https://www.fingerlakesnutfarm.com/\)](https://www.fingerlakesnutfarm.com/) to dig into the operational details of a producing orchard of cold hardy Chinese/Chinese hybrid chestnuts for zone 5b; or [Black Squirrel Farms \(590 State Route 14, Penn Yan, NY; https://www.blackquirrelfarms.net/\)](https://www.blackquirrelfarms.net/) to participate in a tree to table black walnut experience.

Housing – All indoor activities will be held in The Collegian Hotel & Suites, 1060 E Genesee St, Syracuse, NY 13210. A group rate for accommodations is available at the hotel. The group rate (single or double occupancy) is \$115 plus 15% taxes per night. To book, use this link: <https://bit.ly/grouprate2024> with the block code 072124NOR. Book as early as possible; the block of reserved rooms expires on July 5th.

Please share some information about you and your interests with us!
Is this your first NNGA/CGA conference you have attended? Yes No

What is your principal background and interest in nut trees?
 Grower – Commercial Production Grower -- Hobbyist Other _____
 Research – Academia, Natural Resources Consumer – Marketing, nutrition, uses,

Which tree crops are you most interested in (select up to three)?
 Chestnut Hazelnut Pecan Other hickories Chinquapin
 Black walnut Butternut Heartnut Persian walnut Nut pines
 Pawpaw Persimmon Low tannin oaks Other _____

Which nut culture topics most interest you (select up to three)? Will help the Publications Editor choose content.
 Orchard Establishment – site selection, site preparation, planting designs, planting stock, weed control
 Vegetative Propagation – tissue culturing, budding, grafting, rooting cuttings
 Cultivar Selection – genetics, breeding, nut evaluation
 Damaging agents – insects, diseases, herbicide injury, climate change, squirrels, deer
 Orchard Management – pruning, thinning, fertilization, cover crops, etc
 Harvesting and Processing – nut harvesting equipment, nut crackers, oil extraction
 Marketing – On-line sales, farmer markets,

Send completed form with payment to:
Debbie Milks, PO Box 1166, Lawrence, KS 66044
Make checks payable to the Northern Nut Growers Association
If you have questions or want to check on cost or status of your registration, please call or email:
Debbie Milks at 785-766-8849, milkdeb@gmail.com

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	<i>Black Walnuts</i> : Panelists – John Kelsey and Sara Tyler	10:05 – 12:00	Small group walking tours. Expect to break up into small groups for a half mile walking tour.
6:00 – 6:10	Group Photo – Location to be announced on Sunday evening	12:00	Conference ends for those who did not register for one of the afternoon field tours.
6:10 -- 7:00	Social with cash bar – Bar opens after group photo taken, Back of Genesee Ballroom	12:00 – 12:15	For those registered for an afternoon field tour, pick up bottle water and a box lunch before departing on your chosen off-site field tours. If in a carpool, make sure your driver is going to the same place you want to go. Restroom facilities should be available at all three locations.
7:00 -- 8:00	Banquet with cash bar – Set up Salon A and B, Sit down Genesee Ballroom, Shawn Mehlenbacher, MC.		
8:00 -- 9:00	Banquet Program , NNGA and CGA Officers and Board members		
WEDNESDAY, 21 JULY 2024			
Today's program features opportunities in the morning to visit the SUNY-ESF laboratories and research field station, afternoon field tour at one of three locations (separate registration for afternoon field stops), and maybe a post-conference tour on your way home. Transportation is on your own for field tours; however, we will try to help arrange for carpooling with someone who has an extra seat and going to the same afternoon field site and returning to the Collegian Hotel at the end of the day. Afternoon field tour registration includes a box lunch to be picked up at the research field station as we depart. The conference will adjourn in the field at the end of the morning session or at the end of the afternoon field site visits.			
7:00 -- 8:00	Meet in the Collegian Hotel lobby to make final arrangement to pick up maps and one of 50 campus parking passes, and arrange for carpooling.	12:15 -- 1:30	Travel to Z's Nutty Ridge Orchard and Nursery (5296 Town Line Road, McGraw, NY 13101)
			OR
		12:15 -- 1:30	Travel to Finger Lakes Nut Farm (5287 Booth Hill Road, Locke, NY 13092)
			OR
		12:15 -- 2:00	Travel to Black Squirrel Farms (590 State Route 14, Penn Yan, NY 14527)
		1:30 -- 3:45	Z's Nutty Ridge Orchard and Nursery , Jeff and Dawn Zarnowski, see description below
		1:30 -- 3:45	Finger Lakes Nut Farm , Rusty Russell, see description below
		3:45 – 4:00	Travel to the NYTCA Nut Hub (Commerce Center, 839 NYS Rt 13, Courtland, NY 13101)
8:00 -- 8:15	Travel to the SUNY ESF campus	4:00 – 5:00	NYTCA Nut Hub Processing Plant , Jeff Zarnowski, see description below
8:15 -- 9:45	SUNY-ESF laboratory tours	2:00 – 4:00	Black Squirrel Farms , Sara Tyler, see description below
9:45 – 10:00	Travel to the SUNY-ESF research field station	5:00	The conference ends at the off-site field tours or the Nut Hub tour.
10:00 – 10:05	SUNY – ESF Field Research Station Welcome, Andy Newhouse		

For Sale / Seeking

80-Acre Piece of Land with Chesnut Farm in Moscow, IA

Wears Auctioneering in Solon, IA is auctioning off an 80 acre piece of land with a chestnut farm in Moscow, IA. Reach out to Lynn Pinneke (wearsofficecoordinator@gmail.com) with questions. Details here: www.wearsauctioneering.com/auction/80-acre-oasis-in-cedar-county---live-public-real-estate-auction-69072/details.

Looking for Information on Bulk Chestnut Peelers

Looking for info on, recommendations for, and product descriptions of bulk chestnut peelers. Have looked online, but not a lot of info, especially the ones made in China (which we really don't want to buy). By bulk, I am looking at 25 to 200 pounds at this time. Any advice or help appreciated. Contact John & Jennifer Shank of Chestnut Acres Farm at jenohn@charter.net.

Seeking Torakuri, Kaibutsu, and Jenny Scion Wood

I am searching for Torakuri, Kaibutsu, and Jenny scion wood. If you can help, please contact Davor Juretic at juretic.davor@gmail.com.



Chestnut Growers of America
2300 Bryan Park Ave.
Richmond, VA 23228

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Spring 2024

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