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DRONES, THEOLOGY, AND THE END OF TOYS

Adapted from an interview on the chestnut industry podcast *Branching Out: Growing Together* where guest Caleb Canter of AeroAg joins host Melanie Jones

When most people think about drones, they still picture toys: the little quadcopter you buy the grandkids for Christmas and then fish out of a tree. Caleb Canter has spent the last decade proving that assumption wrong.

Born and raised in Hodgenville, Kentucky, Caleb is the president and founder of AeroAg, the first spray-drone company to be licensed in Kentucky. With a BS and MS in mechanical engineering from the University of Kentucky and drone experience dating back to 2013, he has watched the technology move from disposable foam airplanes to fully autonomous aircraft carrying serious payloads over serious acres.

FROM CHRISTMAS TOY TO WORKHORSE

Early drones really were closer to toys: short-lived batteries, manual controls, and very limited payload. What changed was battery technology—specifically the shift to lighter, energy-dense lithium-ion packs driven by the electric vehicle industry. That jump made it possible to lift real liquid volumes and fly long enough to matter, without relying on small, unreliable gasoline engines.

Today's spray platforms are closer to robots than model airplanes. The systems Caleb runs for AeroAg are almost entirely autonomous: he draws a field boundary,

sets the desired height and rate, and the drone flies the pattern on its own. New tree-focused models use LIDAR to “see” terrain and canopy, riding up and down over slopes, trees, and obstacles that would stop a ground rig cold.

WHY THIS MATTERS FOR CHESTNUT GROWERS

For chestnut growers, those capabilities speak directly to the realities of our orchards.

Chestnut blocks are often planted on steeper, more marginal ground. Caleb's team has flown trials on extremely steep

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THE CHESTNUT GROWER

Spring 2026

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.

2025-2026 CGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Roger Blackwell, President – *Chestnut Growers Inc. and New Era Chestnuts (MI)*

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Steve Jones, Director – *Colossal Orchards (WA)*

COMMITTEES

Communications: Davina Logan (Chair), Melanie Jones, Erin Lizotte, Roger Blackwell

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 Joel Hubbard, P.O. Box 445, Social Circle, GA 30025-0445. Make checks payable to Chestnut Growers of America, Inc. OR visit www.chestnutgrowers.org/paydues.html to submit payment online via PayPal.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello CGA Growers,

Annual Meeting Announcement

The CGA will hold its next annual meeting jointly with the Northern Nut Growers Association (NNGA) in 2026. The University of Massachusetts Amherst will host the conference from Friday, July 31 to Monday, August 3, 2026. Additional details about the conference will be provided in this issue and future newsletters to assist members with planning their schedules.

Newsletter Content & Contributions

This issue of the newsletter includes articles covering diverse topics such as drones, chestnut brown rot, and cultivating connections. CGA expresses gratitude to those who have contributed articles and we encourage more members to submit content for future editions. This ongoing sharing of knowledge helps all members learn the latest information about growing chestnut trees across the country. CGA is also undertaking enhancements to our website over the coming year to better serve our members.

Seasonal Reminder

Members are encouraged to prepare their chestnut orchards during the spring season to ensure successful cultivation.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Roger Blackwell'.

Roger Blackwell
CGA President

CHESTNUT BROWN ROT MANAGEMENT IN THE FIELD

By Erin Lizotte, Michigan State University Extension; Giorgia Bastianelli and Timothy Miles, Michigan State University Department of Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences

Chestnut rots pose a serious threat to the global production of edible chestnuts (*Castanea* spp.), significantly affecting their quality and marketability. In Michigan, various pathogens contribute to nut rots, but in recent years brown rot (Fig. 1), caused by the fungus *Gnomoniopsis smithogilvyi*, has become the leading cause of nut decay. *G. smithogilvyi* was first detected in Michigan in 2016. In a 2017 survey of orchards, 80% tested positive for the pathogen.

Since that time, the incidence of brown rot has steadily increased with as much as 9% of the chestnuts processed by the largest cooperative in Michigan showing symptoms of brown rot at harvest. The disease is characterized by a gradual browning of the kernel that develops in the field or after harvest. Recent research at Michigan State University has identified several preventive fungicide treatments that can effectively reduce infection rates and overall disease severity.

As the prevalence of this disease has increased around the world, researchers have been studying its life cycle and disease cycle to understand how and when the pathogen infects chestnuts. There are two types of infections in the disease cycle. The primary infection is caused by sexual spores that overwinter protected by a reproductive structure on dead plant material on the orchard floor. In spring

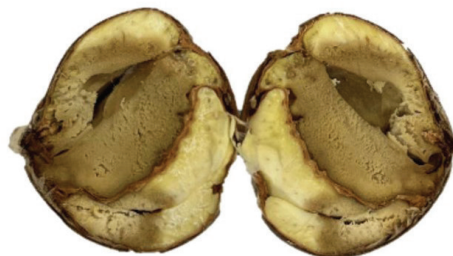


Figure 1. Symptoms of brown rot in chestnut. Photo by Giorgia Bastianelli, MSU.

and summer, these sexual spores are released from the understory and create secondary infections that develop asexual spores which are spread by rain splash, wind, and insects and cause new infections in a repeating cycle during the growing season. In the fall, cool temperatures again trigger the development of overwintering spores, which then persist into the following growing season and start the cycle all over again.

The spores from the secondary infection cycle can infect flowers, leaves and branches. It is also important to note that the fungus can exist as an endophyte, not causing disease or symptoms—simply surviving on plant parts and debris. However, these endophytic populations become pathogenic when optimal conditions and opportunities for infection occur. When conducive temperature,

rainfall and humidity levels coincide with female flower bloom, spores can move to and germinate on female flower parts, entering the plant through the flower and establishing infection in the developing nut embryo.

Fifteen different fungicides were tested in the lab to determine their ability to reduce fungal growth. The fungicides were selected based on research regarding the infection cycle of *G. smithogilvyi* and related fungi. Under lab conditions, FRAC 3 fungicides (e.g., propiconazole, difenoconazole and mefentrifluconazole) and *Bacillus*-based products were most effective at suppressing *G. smithogilvyi*. Seven fungicides were also tested under field conditions with a series of bloom-time applications. **The results of these trials indicate that two applications, one at early bloom (Fig. 2) followed by a second application two weeks later, are critical to suppressing disease.** There is evidence that a third application when the nut is ripening may further decrease disease levels in orchards experiencing high disease pressure from wet/warm weather conditions or historically high infection rates.

Inspire Super (active ingredients difenoconazole and cyprodinil) and Tilt (active ingredient propiconazole) were the most effective at suppressing brown rot in the field trials. *Bacillus subtilis* fungicides and zinc or potassium phosphonate also significantly reduced disease levels. Despite phosphorus acid products showing lower fungicidal activity in the lab trials, they performed well in the field. This disparity between lab and field efficacy is likely because phosphorus acids work as defense inducers, which improve tree health and resistance to biotic factors and invitro trials were performed on petri plate colonies that don't have the ability to replicate the chestnut tree's response to the product. **Because of the risk of resistance**



Figure 2. Left: Chestnut bloom, when the first fungicide application should be made. Right: Chestnut kernel development, when a potential third application may be made. Photo by Giorgia Bastianelli, MSU.

Continued on page 5...

terrain in eastern Kentucky—“straight-up mountains with trees”—with the drone autonomously climbing and descending through the canopy. In chestnuts, that same terrain-following ability could turn unreachable rows or hillsides into sprayable, manageable acres.

The application strategy for chestnuts is also different from corn and soy. On row crops, AeroAg flies low and as fast as possible to cover thousands of acres at modest gallons per acre. For tree crops, Caleb anticipates slower speeds, higher spray volumes, and smaller droplet sizes to fog the canopy rather than just strip-spray the top. That makes flight speed and swath width less critical than coverage quality—exactly where drones shine.

The tool is not limited to pesticides. Caleb sees a growing list of uses on farms:

- Herbicide, insecticide, and fungicide applications
- Spreading seed and fertilizer, including cover crops and native species
- Moving material: flying baskets of chestnuts or other loads out of hard-to-reach plots
- Land management on inaccessible acres, such as seeding desirable species in river bottoms without ever driving a tractor in

For a chestnut orchard moving into commercial production, the same machine that handles summer insecticide could also lay down fall cover crop, spot-treat problem weeds, or help manage steep banks and edges that never see a ground rig.

OWNERSHIP, CO-OPS, AND ROI

From a business perspective, chestnut growers have two basic options: hire a custom operator like AeroAg or own a drone outright.

On the service side, AeroAg has already sprayed tens of thousands of acres, primarily row crops, at typical rates in the mid-teens per acre. For high-volume orchard work, the per-acre rate is higher than for low-volume row-crop applications but still competitive, given the terrain and access issues many orchards face.

Caleb is clear that renting a spray drone isn't practical because of liability and

“The message is simple: drones are no longer a toy or a distant promise. They are a working, flexible platform that can give us access, precision, and options.”

regulatory requirements; either you buy or you hire. The industry trend he sees, however, is toward grower ownership. A 40,000–45,000-dollar drone sounds expensive until you compare it to a self-propelled sprayer; in that context, it is relatively inexpensive capital that can be used for dozens of tasks across the farm.

For growers willing to spray commercially, the payback can be fast. At current service rates, AeroAg tells customers they should be able to earn back several times the purchase price of a drone in a year under the right workload. Even for smaller specialty growers, Caleb points to options like:

- Co-ops or clusters of member orchards sharing a unit
- Growers with 50–200 acres using a drone on their own chestnuts plus offering services to neighboring farms
- Starting with a smaller, lower-cost platform carrying a smaller tank at a lower price point

AeroAg also helps match buyers and sellers for used drones—often one- or two-year-old units being traded in as larger operators upgrade—giving smaller growers a more affordable entry.

LEGAL, ELECTRIC, AND REAL-WORLD LOGISTICS

The less glamorous part of this revolution is the paperwork and power.

When Caleb first pursued FAA approval for his spray-drone operation in 2022, he became the first licensed spray-drone company in Kentucky. That process took about six months of evaluations and flight tests. Since then, the FAA has standardized the pathway, and AeroAg now tells customers that 12–14 weeks is a typical timeline, depending on season and workload. With most drones the company sells, AeroAg includes an FAA consulting package to help new owners navigate the legal steps and avoid operating off the books.

On the power side, the machines AeroAg deploys are fully electric. The company's

flagship tree-drone uses a large battery and a high-output field charger powered by generators. To keep up, AeroAg typically runs two generators for redundancy, cycling batteries continuously so that one is flying, one is charging, and one is cooling at any given moment. Under typical conditions, charging a battery takes about seven to eight minutes—about the same time it takes to empty the spray tank.

These are industrial systems with real logistics attached, but they are working, every-day tools in Caleb's business, not science fiction.

PEOPLE, VALUES, AND WHERE THIS IS HEADING

Technology alone doesn't change an industry. People do.

Caleb's day job at AeroAg is split between sales, service, and building out a national dealer network, but his life is also anchored in service roles: youth pastor at a large local church, assistant wrestling coach at LaRue County High School, and dad to two young daughters. Those commitments shape how AeroAg operates.

He talks about a “whatever it takes” service mentality: meeting customers at the shop late at night, fixing drones, and sending them back out to spray the next morning during peak season. That same connection to youth ministry and coaching gives him what he jokingly calls a “never-ending labor force,” as students from his youth group and wrestling team work as ground crew, earning good money while getting hands-on exposure to modern agriculture.

From the vantage point of chestnuts—a young specialty crop industry in the U.S.—drones can still feel futuristic. Caleb's view is that, at least in row crops, we're already beyond the early-adopter stage. Millions of acres are being sprayed by drones globally, and drones are now a widely accepted application method rather than a research project.

Looking ahead, he expects to see just about every grower using a drone in some capacity, often one they own themselves. AeroAg is already expanding beyond



Member Spotlight

East Texas Chestnuts | Shake Rag, Texas

Nestled in the heart of Rusk County, East Texas Chestnuts is a family-owned farm spanning 12.5 scenic acres. Rooted in sustainable agriculture, the farm reflects a deep appreciation for God’s creation and the fruitful harvests found in the soil of East Texas. What was once pastureland for cattle has been thoughtfully transformed into thriving orchards.

The farm specializes in chestnuts, including both Chinese and Chinese/American hybrid varieties, carefully selected for quality and resilience. Beyond chestnuts, visitors will discover

a remarkable diversity of fruit: over 10 varieties of pawpaw trees, 15 cultivars of persimmons, 20 varieties of figs and pears, and more than 25 different types of apples. Each season brings a new display of color and flavor.

Ken, Landon, and Quentin bring experience in business management, livestock farming, nutrition, physiology, and education, combining their expertise to grow both exceptional produce and meaningful connections. Each harvest season, families travel from all over Texas to participate in the farm’s self-pick experience, gathering fresh fruit straight



Left to right: Quentin, Ken and Landon

from the orchard and creating lasting memories together. It is their heartfelt hope that future generations will continue to gather here and experience the joy of the harvest for years to come. Find out more at www.texaschestnuts.com.

-The Evans Family (Ken, Landon, and Quentin) 🍓

Continued from previous page...

spray drones into autonomous mowers, auto-steer kits, thermal imaging, and plant-health mapping platforms, all of which could eventually tie into chestnut production systems.

For Chestnut Growers of America members, the message is simple: drones are no longer a toy or a distant promise. They are a working, flexible platform that can give us access, precision, and options our tractors and airblast sprayers simply cannot. As our orchards move from pre-commercial to fully bearing, the growers who lean into these tools early—whether by hiring custom operators or building shared ownership models—will help define what modern chestnut production looks like in the U.S.

Caleb Canter can be reached at calebcanter@aeroag.us.

Listen to the full podcast episode here: unitedchestnuts.com/drone-technology-chestnut-orchards. 🍓

Continued from page 3...

development, rotate each application between one of the conventional fungicides (Inspire Super or Tilt) and one of the foliar nutrients (potassium or zinc phosphonate).

In addition to fungicide applications, keep trees properly pruned and fertilized to reduce brown rot infection. Orchard floor sanitation, specifically the removal and proper disposal of plant debris (hot compost, bury or burn) is important to limiting overwintering spores and disease pressure in subsequent years. During harvest, nuts should be collected as soon as possible to limit soil contact. Nuts should be transported to the processing plant and cooled as soon as possible to slow the development of any latent infections. Processors should limit the amount of humidity and water utilized during processing and storage to minimize disease development.

STAY CONNECTED

For more information on chestnut production, visit the Michigan State University Extension Chestnuts page www.chestnuts.msu.edu and sign up

to receive our newsletter with program announcements and timely management information. You can also follow us on Facebook at [Michigan State University Chestnut News](https://www.facebook.com/MichiganStateUniversityChestnutNews).

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CULTIVATING CONNECTION:

WHY COMMUNITY IS THE MOST UNDERRATED CROP WE GROW

By Melanie Jones, Vice President of Growth, Chestnut Growers of America

Networking is a word that makes many people uncomfortable. It can feel transactional, forced, or reserved for conference hallways and business cards.

The dictionary defines networking as “the exchange of information or services among individuals, groups, or institutions, specifically the cultivation of productive relationships for employment or business.”

That definition is accurate—but incomplete.

To me, networking is much simpler. It’s extending ourselves to learn something about another person. It’s curiosity without agenda. And in agriculture—especially in a growing industry like ours—it’s one of the most meaningful ways we build strength and resilience.

WHEN NETWORKING HAPPENS NATURALLY

In January, my husband Brad and I attended the Kentucky Fruit and Vegetable Conference to give a talk titled *Beyond the Song: Changing How America Sees Chestnuts*. While the presentation focused on consumer awareness and industry momentum, some of the most meaningful moments happened outside the session room.

We had the opportunity to meet people from state and local government, along with other farmers and service providers, who are deeply invested in supporting agriculture across Kentucky. Conversations with extension partners, economic development leaders, and many others revealed a shared mission: connecting with farmers and helping them succeed, adapt, and remain viable.

What struck me most was the tone of those conversations. They weren’t about pitches or policy talking points. They were about listening—learning where chestnut growers are today, sharing the momentum building within our



community, and discovering where paths might cross in the future.

That’s networking at its best. In person. Unscripted. Rooted in mutual interest.

CONNECTION BEYOND THE CONFERENCE

Not all meaningful connections happen face-to-face.

Not long after the conference, I noticed a Facebook post from The Farm at Rough River. They had also attended the Kentucky Fruit and Vegetable Conference. Although we didn’t see one another there, that small digital moment created a bridge.

Their farm is about ten minutes from ours. It was a shared experience of a different kind—one that surfaced not through conversation, but through awareness.

Now, instead of being a missed connection, it’s an open door. I have a

follow-up planned to visit their farm, learn more about their operation, and better understand where our stories and interests might intersect.

That connection didn’t come from exchanging cards or scheduling a meeting. It came from paying attention—and being willing to reach out.

WHY COMMUNITY GROWS ONE CONVERSATION AT A TIME

Many growers don’t see themselves as “networkers.” We’re builders. Growers. Problem-solvers. Observers. And often, we’re more comfortable talking about trees than talking about ourselves.

But nearly every meaningful relationship in agriculture begins the same way: one person extending themselves just a little.

A question asked.

A message sent.

An invitation accepted.

Whether it happens across a table or through a screen, the result is the same. Understanding grows. Isolation shrinks. Possibility expands.

BUILDING THE TOOLS TO SUPPORT WHAT’S ALREADY HAPPENING

As a board, Chestnut Growers of America is actively exploring how we can better support these connections—without forcing them, formalizing them too quickly, or losing what makes them meaningful.

This is very much a work in progress.

Our industry is growing rapidly. New growers are coming in. Existing growers are scaling. Questions are multiplying. And at the same time, the willingness to help one another has never been higher.

The opportunity in front of us is to create simple, thoughtful tools that make it easier for growers to find one

another, learn from one another, and stay connected between conferences and field days. Not to replace organic relationships—but to support them.

As with so much in chestnut farming, the goal isn't speed. It's durability.

A timely example of this kind of connection-building is the upcoming **Northern Nut Growers Association & Chestnut Growers of America Annual Conference** in Amherst, Massachusetts. Events like this are worth the effort to attend. They create space for conversations that don't always happen online—and often lead to relationships that last well beyond the conference itself.

AN INVITATION THIS SEASON

As you move through this growing season, consider tending one more thing alongside your orchard.

- Attend a meeting and stay for the conversations.
- Follow a local farm online and reach out.
- Share what you're learning—and listen closely in return.
- Give a talk.

Because networking isn't about collecting contacts. It's about cultivating connection.

And when we do that—both in person and digitally—we grow something that lasts far beyond a single harvest: community. 🍓

3 Low-Pressure Ways to Build Meaningful Connections as a Grower

Start with Shared Experience

Mention a conference session, field day, or post you both saw. Shared context lowers the barrier and makes outreach feel natural.

→ *Why it matters:* Relationships grow faster when they begin with something familiar.

Ask One Genuine Question

Instead of explaining your farm, ask about theirs. What are they experimenting with this year? What's been hardest—or most rewarding?

→ *Why it matters:* Curiosity builds trust faster than credentials.

Follow Up with Intention, Not Urgency

A short note, a farm visit invitation, or a simple "I enjoyed that conversation" keeps the door open without pressure.

→ *Why it matters:* Meaningful connections develop over time, not transactions.

Pro Tip: Community doesn't require extroversion—only presence. Showing up consistently, in person or online, is often enough to spark lasting relationships.



SAVE the DATE!

**2026
NNGA / CGA
Joint Annual Conference**

Friday, July 31st - Monday, August 3rd

**University of Massachusetts Amherst
Amherst, MA**



NORTHERN NUT GROWERS ASSOCIATION & CHESTNUT GROWERS OF AMERICA

2026 JOINT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Friday, July 31 – Monday, August 3, 2026 in Amherst, Massachusetts

OVERVIEW

The annual conferences for the Northern Nut Growers Association (NNGA) and Chestnut Growers of America (CGA) will be held jointly Friday, July 31 thru Monday, August 3, 2026 in Amherst, Massachusetts. Most activities will be at the UMASS Campus Center (1 Campus Center Way, Amherst, MA 01003), Dining Commons, UMASS Hotel, and Residence Halls. The conference's main events include a welcoming dinner with a show and tell session, two all-day technical sessions, live auction, social/banquet, and an all-day field tour.

Activities begin on Friday at the Sunderland Town Park Pavilion which will be the site for welcoming dinner and show-and-tell session. Friday morning the NNGA Board of Directors will meet in an open meeting at the UMASS Campus Center followed by the CGA Board of Directors meeting before registration. Later that day we can visit the Yellowbud Farm before driving to the Sunderland Town Park Pavillion for the evening.

The heart of the conference begins on Saturday morning with the 117th NNGA Annual Business meeting, the first of two keynote presentations, then concurrent traditional and in-depth technical sessions before closing the afternoon with two concurrent forums. That evening we have the traditional live auction to support our research programs. Sunday looks similar except the evening includes the annual group photo, social, and banquet.

On Monday we are planning an all-day field tour. Before lunch, we have local

orchard tours at Carr's Ciderhouse and Big River Chestnuts. After lunch, we need to choose between visiting Breadtree Farms in the Upper Hudson Valley or the Lockwood Farms/Sleeping Giant Chestnut Plantation in Hamden, CT. Because of the long travel times to either location, expect a late return (7:00 pm) to Amherst if riding the chartered buses.

Lodging will primarily be in on-campus residence halls or the UMASS hotel. The air-conditioned residence halls offer suites which include single or double rooms with single beds. Most meals will be on your own. The Dining Commons, similar to food courts, have earned the title 'Best College Campus Food' for many years.

The UMASS campus is conveniently located near I-90 and I-91, 15 miles from the Springfield AMTRAK station, 45 miles from Bradley International Airport, and 90 miles from Boston's Logan International Airport (see page 17).

This conference is open to everyone with an interest in trees and shrubs managed for their nuts or our native trees managed for their fruits. Attendees will include a diverse mix of commercial growers, researchers, educators, extension specialists, and hobbyists. Expect to hear a lot about chestnuts and hazelnuts, especially when grown in agroforestry practices; although, the other nut trees including the hickories, walnuts, and oaks are well represented. See page 20 for a listing of anticipated presentations and posters.

Contact NNGAConference@gmail.com if you have questions about the conference

that are not answered in the next five pages.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Friday, July 31, 2026

Arrive on Thursday, July 30 and plan to participate in the NNGA Board of Directors open meeting at the UMASS Campus Center from 8:00 am to noon on Friday, the CGA Board of Directors meeting from noon to 2:00, then register before traveling to Yellowbud Farms for a farm tour and later to Sunderland Town Park Pavilion for the evening. We will help arrange for carpooling from the Campus Center to the Sunderland Town Park Pavilion for those coming to the conference without vehicles.

Conference attendees can pick up their name tags and registration packets between 3:00 and 5:00 pm at the Registration Desk in Campus Central. The Concourse will be available to set up exhibits and posters; however, this is an unsecured public space in a public building. A locked storage area will be available for overnight storage.

After registering and checking in to the resident hall, drive to Yellowbud Farms (544 Millers Falls Rd, Northfield, MA 01360) to tour their operation from 3:00 to 5:00 or go directly to Sunderland. At Yellowbud Farms, groups will informally organize for guided tours of the Yellowbud hickory nursery and orchards, chestnuts, forest farming, and hickory oil pressing, and more. Northfield is 23 miles north of UMASS via MA-63 N. Sunderland is 6 miles northwest of UMASS via MA-116

N/Amherst Rd. Sunderland is 18 miles southeast of Northfield via MA-63 S and MA-47 S.

A social with cash bar from 5:00 to 6:00 followed by welcome dinner from 6:00 to 7:00 pm will be held at the Sunderland Town Park Pavilion. There is no street address; Google Maps shows the location as maps.app.goo.gl/kbED7Mf5U73Hczu57 (on Park Road just past 42 Park Road, Sunderland, MA). The Pavilion is a 10-minute (6 mile) drive from the UMASS campus via MA-116 N/Amherst Rd. The member-sharing Show and Tell session will start around 7:00 pm and end around 8:30 pm. The Show and Tell session will include short presentations up to 10 minutes from individuals who have built or tried new equipment, new techniques, promote new promising selections or cultivars, had some recent successes or failures, and maybe a little of the unexpected. If you're interested in doing a 'lightning' talk, contacted Jerry Henkin (sproutnut@aol.com) to see if space is still available.

Saturday, August 1, 2026

Registration will open on Saturday around 7:30 am in the foyer outside the Campus Center Auditorium. Skirted tables will be available to set up exhibits and posters on the Concourse. Set up is scheduled from 7:00 to 9:00 am with scheduled opening at 10:00 am when we have the first break in the technical program. Items for the auction along with donation sheets should be turned in at the registration desk, then stored and displayed in Room 165-69.

The Saturday session will begin with the 117th NNGA Annual Business meeting from 8:30 to 9:00 am in the Auditorium. CGA members are encouraged to attend to participate in discussions on future shared tasks. After the meeting, we will begin the first day of presentations with our first keynote presentation followed by two concurrent sessions. One session will have the traditional presentations (25 min plus 5 min Q&A) and the other session in-depth presentations (50 min plus 10 min Q&A). The afternoon session will close with two concurrent forums. During breaks if you want coffee or snacks, you will need to visit the coffee shops above the Auditorium.

Plan to return early from dinner on your own to participate from 6:00 to 7:00 pm in a poster and exhibitor session and

viewing of the auction items with a cash bar with chips and dip. The auction will start around 7:00 pm. **All are welcome to attend – bring your checkbook, cash or credit card and your contributions!** Proceeds go to support the NNGA and CGA research grants programs.

Sunday, August 2, 2026

On Sunday morning, we have arranged for a special walking tour of the on-campus chestnut silvopasture practice at 8:00 am. Meet at the Campus Center.

Similar to Saturday's program, our second keynote presentation begins at 9:00 am followed by concurrent sessions throughout the day ending with two forums.

We will have the traditional social and banquet on Sunday evening in the Student Union Ballroom. Anticipate being called together for the annual group photo around 6:00 pm (the cash bar will not open until the group photo has been taken). The banquet should start around 7:00 pm with the evening's program to begin around 8:00 pm (times still subject to change). Some highlights of the banquet program include selection of a new Big Nut, election of NNGA Officers and Board members, recognition of our major sponsors, and presenting the merit and service awards.

Monday, August 3, 2026

Monday will be a day filled with field tours. Please indicate when you register if you want to ride the Chartered bus (preferred) or use your personal vehicle. We plan to board buses from 7:30 to 8:00 am (subject to change) to travel to either Carr's Ciderhouse orchards (295 River Dr., Hadley, MA 01035) or Big River Chestnuts (195 River Road, Sunderland, MA 01373), then switch locations at 10:00 am. A box lunch will be served at the Sunderland Town Park Pavilion.

In the afternoon, we will be taking long bus rides to either Breadtree Farms (2129 Co Rd, Salem, NY 12865; 130 miles north via I-90) or the Lockwood Farms/Sleeping Giant Chestnut Plantation (890 Evergreen Ave, Hamden, CT 06518; 82 miles south via I-91). We are encouraging attendees to ride the buses and network. Expect to return to the UMASS campus around 7:00 pm. Check out in the morning, put your luggage in your vehicle if not staying in the residence halls Monday night. Guests

checking out of a dorm or hotel can leave their vehicles parked until the return at the end of the day.

POSTERS, EXHIBITS AND FLIERS

Posters and exhibits can be set up on the Concourse of the Campus Center on Saturday morning. Plan to bring a backing (folded cardboard) that will sit on an easel to support your poster. A table with two chairs will be set up for each paying exhibitor. We are asking poster presenters and exhibitors to be near their displays on Saturday from 6:00 to 7:00 pm so attendees returning from dinner on their own can stop and visit with the poster presenters and exhibitors. Exhibitors can lock their display items in Room 165-69 overnight.

If you have fliers or other items you would like included in the registration packet, please contact NNGAconference@gmail.com to determine when and where to ship your materials. Campus Center will accept materials starting July 28 if sent to UMass Conference Services, Campus Center Receiving, Northern Nut Growers Association Annual Conference, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003, Attention: CS# 27023. Alternatively, send them earlier to Elodie Eid, 8 Hotel Road, Warwick, MA 01378.

Exhibitors and poster presenters are expected to register for the conference to participate in the various sessions, refreshment breaks, welcome, banquet and/or field tours. Exhibitors have the option to register for a table (\$100) or become a sponsor (see page 23) and have the exhibitor table fee waived.

COMPANION OR CAPS PROGRAM

There will be no formal companion (CAPS) program. During the keynote presentation on Saturday and Sunday, Room 163C will be available from 8:00 to 10:00 am for folks to meet informally to discuss possible venues and arrange for carpooling if not on campus. A local volunteer will be available to answer questions and provide information to interesting on- and off-campus venues.

AUCTION

The traditional live auction is scheduled for Saturday evening. We plan to display

Continued on next page...

Continued from previous page...

auction items during the day in Room 165-69 adjacent to the breakout room (163C). Please consider donating items to the auction even if not a NNGA or CGA member. The donation sheets will ask which organization should receive the proceeds from your items. 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 books, artwork, handmade crafts, plant material, homemade nut-based or baked goodies and/or gift certificates. If you donate baked goods, please label your treats as to whether they are nut, dairy, and/or gluten-free. If you are an exhibitor, you may want to donate items, especially the items you are marketing, to the auction to increase your exposure at the conference. If you have auction items but are unable to attend, please email Elodie at Eid.Elodie@gmail.com and ship them to Elodie Eid, 8 Hotel Road, Warwick, MA 01378.

The Campus Center has a policy that does not allow us to bring in outside food for consumption; however, baked goods, homemade candy, and fermented beverages are allowed in the auction.

WELCOME DINNER, BANQUET, AND MEALS

The welcome dinner on Friday evening is included in the full and Friday thru Sunday registration. The social/banquet on Sunday evening is included in the full, Friday thru Sunday, and Technical Session registrations. For other meals, we will be on our own to explore the coffee shops in Campus Center, the Dining Commons in the adjacent building, and the off-campus restaurants within walking distance in Amherst. The Dining Commons is setup like a food court with lots of diversity. The food should be good; Dining Commons has earned the title of Best College Campus Food, repeatedly.

CONFERENCE LODGING

We have reserved blocks of rooms thru July 1 at the North Residential Area (all singles), Commonwealth Honors College Residential Community (singles and doubles), and a few at the UMASS hotel (for those with accessibility issues) for each night starting July 30 (Thursday night) through August 3 (Monday night). After

July 1, guests may reserve rooms on a space available basis up until July 15, 2026.

We will book our own rooms using a link provided by UMASS. When the link is ready, it will be posted on the Conference page on the NNGA website (nutgrowing.org). The link will have a page listing all of the dorm options. Suite assignments are made based on accessibility needs, special requests, room/suitemate requests, and gender. If you want to share a suite or double room with someone, both need to submit each other's name in the request section. Check in time is 3:00 pm on the arrival date. Check out time is 11:00 am day of departure.

The North Residential Area contains "suite-like" air-conditioned apartments. Each apartment includes four single bedrooms (\$75/person/night), two full bathrooms, and a shared living room/kitchen area.

The Commonwealth Honors College Residential Community contains a variety of air-conditioned apartments and suites each with a living room and one bathroom (kitchens are not guaranteed). Suites are available with two doubles, two singles and a double, or four singles.

When reserving dorm rooms, guests are required to pay in full at the time of booking. Along with lodging (\$75/person/night), guests will be billed \$15/person for a linen set (two sheets, pillow with case, a blanket, and two towels), taxes (6%), and administrative fees (3%).

CONFERENCE PARKING

UMASS will provide parking information specific to where you are staying and lot availability prior to check in. For easiest access to the Campus Center/Student Union Complex (1 Campus Center Way, Amherst, MA 01003), it is recommended that participants enter the Campus Center Parking garage (91 Campus Center Way) and proceed down one level to Level 2. There is a tunnel on Level 2 that will bring you directly into the entrance level of Campus Center. Take the escalator or elevator down to the Concourse, Auditorium, and meeting rooms. Luggage carts are available either in the tunnel or the hotel lobby (third floor of Campus Center).

Surface Lot parking maybe be available. Parking permits must be obtained,

displayed, and are only valid for lots as indicated. Illegally parked vehicles will be towed at owner's expense.

TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION

The UMASS campus is conveniently located about 6 to 10 miles off Interstate 91. Exit 25 (Northampton) from the south or Exit 36 (Deerfield) from the north. The campus is also accessible via Interstate 90 (Massachusetts Turnpike), which connects to I-91 North at exit 45 (West Springfield).

The closest international airports to the UMASS campus are Bradley International Airport (Windsor Locks, CT; 45 miles) and Boston Logan Airport (BOS; 90 miles). AMTRAK service is available to the Springfield Union Station 22 miles from the UMASS campus. Peter Pan Bus Lines (800-343-9999) provides shuttle/bus service from Boston Logan Airport and Springfield Union Station to the UMASS campus.

REGISTRATION

Registration is now open. Each attendee should complete their own registration online at <https://bit.ly/NNGA26>. The link is also provided on the NNGA and CGA websites. Payment may be made through a credit card or opting to send a check to Deborah Milks, NNGA treasurer, PO Box 1166, Lawrence, KS 66044. Alternatively, you may mail a check and the registration form provided in this issue of *The Nutshell* (pages 21-22). It is also available for download at the NNGA website.

Early registration is encouraged to allow the planning committee to make this the best conference possible!

Four registration options are available to choose from:

- \$265; Full Registration (all events Friday thru Monday)
- \$215; Friday thru Sunday all events except field tour
- \$175; Saturday and Sunday technical with banquet
- \$130; Monday Field Tour with lunch and bus transportation.

Full conference registration includes the registration packet; printed program with abstracts; favor; Friday's welcome reception and Show and Tell session; Saturday and Sunday technical sessions,

Saturday auction, Sunday social/banquet, and Monday field tour with box lunch and bus transportation. None of the registrations include transportation on Friday.

Discounts are available. Student (\$100 off full or \$75 of Saturday-Sunday Technical; NNGA or CGA member (\$20); and Speaker. Contact NNGAConference@gmail.com if you are a speaker for your discount code.

Scholarships to cover full registration are available for new growers and students who may not otherwise be able to attend the conference. Contact MJ Oviatt (mj@savannainstitute.org) to obtain a scholarship application form. Scholarships will be awarded first come, first serve.

Register by June 15 to avoid the \$50 late fee. 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.

SPONSORSHIPS

Sponsorship and Exhibitor packages at levels ranging from \$500 to \$10,000 are available to assist with conference expenses and providing scholarships (see page 23). These packages offer significant benefits to the contributing individual or organization including conference recognition, free advertising in the conference program booklet, Marketplace, and *The Nutshell*; waiving of registration and exhibitor fees; and welcome/banquet tickets. Contact NNGAconference@gmail.com to arrange payment, invoicing, and codes to waive fees included in benefits.

POST-CONFERENCE TOUR OPTIONS

The conference planning committee is still looking for places we can add to the program where attendees can stop at on our way home on Monday or Tuesday. If you have suggestions (it could be your own operation), please send your suggestion(s) to NNGAConference@gmail.com. We will highlight any post-conference tour in the summer issue of *The Nutshell* and in the conference program booklet.

LIST OF PRESENTATIONS

A complete list with times and revised titles will be included in the summer issue of *The Nutshell* and on the NNGA website when available. The following is a tentative list of speakers and their topics.

KEYNOTE PRESENTATIONS (50 MIN+10 MIN Q&A)

- **Jono Neiger**, *Big River Chestnuts and the Regenerative Design Group*
- **Russell Wallack**, *Success, Failures, and Projects at Breadtree Farm*

IN DEPTH PRESENTATIONS (50 MIN+10 MIN Q&A)

- **Buzz Ferver**, *Plant Physiology: Stratification or Grafting*
- **Seva Water**, *Hazelnut Culture: Integrating Indigenous and European Practices*
- **Erik Shellenberg**, *Syntropic Agroforestry Practices*
- **Eric Toensmeier**, *Update on Oak Breeding*
- **Jesse Markson**, *Update on Genetics and Potential of Yellowbud Hickory*
- **Mark Hamann**, *Hazelnut Evaluation/ Clonal Propagation*
- **Amy Miller**, *You Harvested Your Chestnuts. Now what?*

TRADITIONAL PRESENTATIONS (25 MIN+5 MIN Q&A)

- **Jonathan McRay and Samantha Bosco**, *Mycena Agroforestry Initiative*
- **Christina Barney**, *Non-chemical Means of Protecting an Orchard from Pests*
- **Dale Bergdahl and Martin Kratt**, *Our Bitternut Project is Doing Well*
- **Matt Grason**, *KTCC Nut Processing Update*
- **Levi Geyer**, *Managing Forests for Hickory Nut Production*
- **William Padilla Brown**, *Orchard Establishment and Management with Mycosymbionts*
- **Zach Elfers**, *The Past, Present, and Future of Hickories*
- **David Hughes**, *Marketing Top Quality Nuts*

- **Magni Hussain**, *Automated Chestnut Sorter for Damage, Pests, and Disease*
- **Lou Judge**, *Nuts for the Next Generation: Farm Succession Planning*
- **Matt Kaminski and Rachel Hass**, *Learnings on Silvopasture and Nut Orchards*
- **Diana Laurentitis**, *Establishing Food Forest in Western Massachusetts*
- **Tom Molnar**, *New Hazelnut Cultivars from Rutgers*
- **Bob Stehli**, *Update on Our Chestnut Breeding Program*
- **Bill Stouffer**, *Chestnut and Wheat Alley Cropping*
- **Gordon Wilkinson**, *Drought and Heartnut Production in Ottawa and Nova Scotia*
- **Nate Westrick**, *Oak Wilt at Our Doorstep: What It Means for Oaks and Chestnuts in the Northeast*
- **Harry Greene**, *Financing and Funding Chestnuts with Farmer-Controlled Markets*

SHOW & TELL (LIGHTNING) (5 MIN + 5 MIN Q&A)

- **Elodie Eid**, *Tree Crop Resources for the Northeast*
- **Brian Caldwell**, *NYTCA Chestnut Marketing and Aggregation Pathways*
- **Douglas Spangler**, *NNGA Library Resources*
- **John Kelsey**, *Field Evaluation of Crackable Walnut and Hickory*
- **Andrew Faust**, *Creating Permaculture Legacy Landscapes*

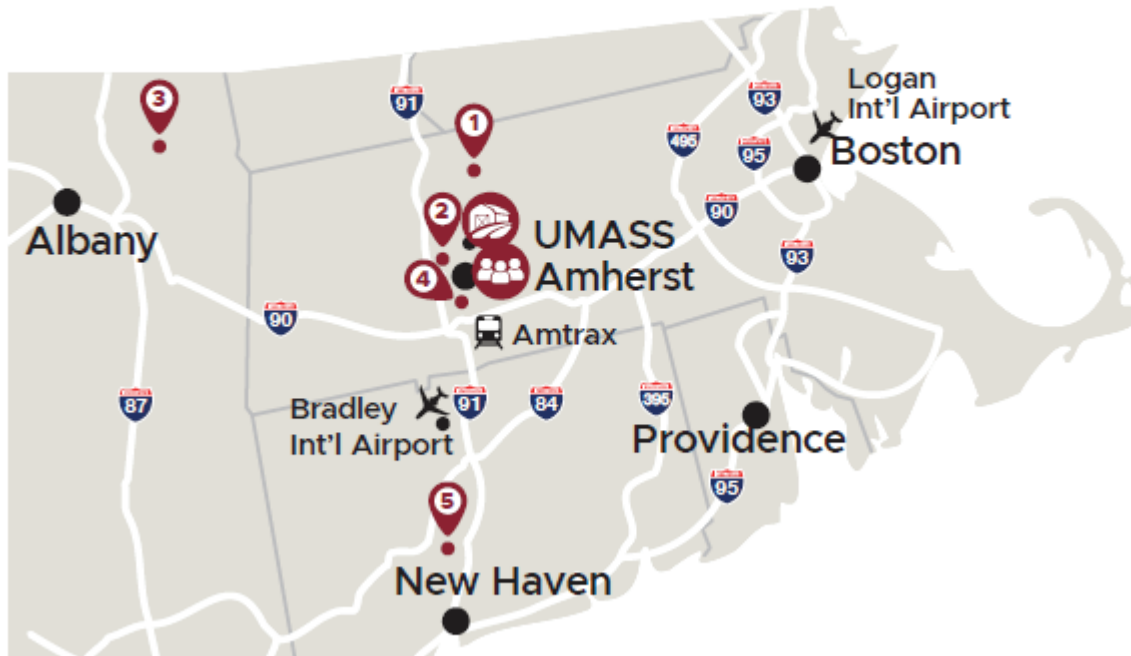
POSTER AND EXHIBITS

- **Susanna Kerio**, *Hypovirulence for Chestnut Blight Management*
- **Erin Quinn**, *Rutgers Hazelnuts*

2026 ANTICIPATED FORUMS (PANELS)

- Chestnut Marketing, Aggregating, and Economics
- Hazelnut Breeding and Propagation
- Oak Wilt in Chestnut
- Black Walnut: Questions and Answers

2026 NNGA | CGA Joint Annual Conference Locations



WELCOME
SUNDERLAND
TOWN PARK
PAVILLION



CONFERENCE
UMASS
CAMPUS CENTER



1 YELLOWBUD
FARMS



FIELD TOURS



2 BIG RIVER
CHESTNUTS



4 CARR'S
CIDERHOUSE



3 BREADTREE
FARMS



5 LOCKWOOD/SLEEPING
GIANT RESEARCH
ORCHARD

OTHER AREAS OF INTEREST

AMTRAX
Springfield, MA

LOGAN INT'L AIRPORT
Boston, MA

BRADLEY INT'L AIRPORT
Windsor Locks, CT

2026 Joint NNGA/CGA Conference Registration Form

The 2026 Joint Conference of the Northern Nut Growers Association (NNGA) and the Chestnut Growers of America (CGA) will be held July 31 thru August 3, 2026 at the UMASS campus, Amherst, MA and surrounding field sites. Register online at bit.ly/NNGA26 or complete this form and send with payment to the Northern Nut Growers Association, c/o Debbie Milks, PO Box 1166, Lawrence, KS 66044. Register by June 15 to avoid the \$50 late fee. For additional copies of this form, go to the NNGA website (nutgrowing.org) and download and print the form.

Who is this registration for? Please fill out a separate registration for each adult attending.

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Affiliation (if wanted) for your name tag: _____

For students: Enrolled at: _____ Field of Study: _____

Email Address: _____ Mobile Phone Number: _____

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

Registration and Discount Options

*(If a Sponsor/Exhibitor contributing at the \$500 to \$10,000 level, write **waived** for those items included in your benefits package. See page 23 in the Spring 2026 issue of The Nutshell.)*

\$ Amount

\$ _____ Full, Friday thru Monday **\$265/person** (after June 15 add \$50 late fee below)

Full registration includes program packet with program booklet; Friday Yellowbud field tour; Friday welcome dinner and show-and-tell in Sunderland; Saturday and Sunday technical sessions and forums; Saturday auction; Sunday social/banquet; and Monday field tour including box lunch and bus transportation.

\$ _____ Friday thru Sunday **\$215/person** (after June 15 add \$50 late fee below)

This registration includes everything in the full registration minus the Monday field tour.

\$ _____ Saturday and Sunday only **\$175/person** (after June 15 add \$50 late fee below)

This registration includes program packet with program booklet, Saturday and Sunday technical sessions and forums; Saturday auction; and Sunday social/banquet.

\$ _____ Monday Field Tour only **\$130/person** (after June 15 add \$10 late fee below).

This registration includes program packet with program booklet, box lunch, and bus transportation to Carr's Cider House, Big River Chestnuts, and either Breadtree Farms or Lockwood Farms/Sleeping Giant Plantation.

\$- DISCOUNTS

*If a student, subtract \$100 on full or \$75 on partial registration, if a NNGA or CGA member subtract \$20; if a speaker, subtract \$50. **Circle items that apply to you.***

\$ _____ Late Registration

For Registration after June 15 add \$50 to your registration. Organizers need to start making non-refundable commitments to vendors after June 15 on numbers of participants, services, and culinary needs.

\$ _____ Exhibitor table **\$100/table** with two chairs.

Please register above if participating in technical sessions and forms, welcome dinner, banquet, and field tours. Please contact NNGAconference@gmail.com if you want to send handouts in advance for registration packets or setting up a display table in your absence.

\$ _____ Extra Welcome Dinner Tickets **\$30/person.** Ticket(s) for _____

\$ _____ Extra Banquet Ticket **\$50/person.** Ticket(s) for _____

\$ _____ Accompanying adults/children No charge if they are not participating in welcome dinner, banquet, or field trip.

List name(s) of accompanying adult(s) and children: _____

\$ _____ Contributing Sponsorship or Exhibitor:

You help support activities at this conference and future scholarships and receive substantial benefits when contributing at one of five levels: Nut Lover (\$500), Tree Lover (\$1,000), Grower Supporter (\$2,500), Orchard Supporter (\$5,000), or Nut Industry Supporter (\$10,000).

\$ _____ Donation to help support activities at this conference and future scholarships (if not a contributing sponsor or exhibitor)

\$ _____ Total for Registration and Other Options

Please turn over and complete the second page→



2026 Conference Registration Form, continued:

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

Restrictions: Please list any dietary restrictions (vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free, etc.) you have. We want to accommodate your needs at the Friday Welcome Dinner or the Sunday Banquet: _____

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, let us know: _____

Transportation: For the Friday activities, you will be asked to drive your own vehicle or arrange to carpool with someone when registering Friday afternoon. Please indicate if you wish to ride the bus or take your own car for the Monday field trip (no price difference): _____

Housing and Parking: Book before July 1. Blocks of rooms have been booked for Thursday thru Monday night. UMASS will provide us with an on-line link at nutgrowing.org showing all options available in the North Residential Area, Commonwealth Honors College Residential Community. The link will have a page listing all of the dorm options. Residential housing is apartments or suites with multiple single or double bedrooms, one or two bathrooms, and a common area, some with kitchens. Suite assignments are made based on accessibility needs, special requests, room/suitemate requests, and gender. If you want to share a suite or double room with someone, both parties need to submit each other's name in the request section. When reserving dorm rooms, guests are required to pay in full at the time of booking. Along with lodging (\$75/person/night), guests will be billed \$15/person for a linen set (two sheets, pillow with case, a blanket, and two towels), taxes (6%), and administrative fees (3%). UMASS will provide parking information after you book your lodging for the Campus Center Parking Garage or a surface lot. A very limited number of rooms are booked at the UMASS Campus Center Hotel for those with accessibility issues.

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?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grower – Commercial Production | <input type="checkbox"/> Grower -- Hobbyist |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Research – Academia, Natural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Consumer – Marketing, nutrition, uses, etc. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extension Specialist | <input type="checkbox"/> Nut Processor |

Which tree crops are you most interested in?

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black Walnut | <input type="checkbox"/> Pecan | <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese Chestnuts | <input type="checkbox"/> Persimmon |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Butternuts | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Hickories | <input type="checkbox"/> American Chestnut | <input type="checkbox"/> Pawpaw |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heartnuts | <input type="checkbox"/> Low Tannin Oaks | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Chestnuts | <input type="checkbox"/> Pine Nuts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carpathian (Persian) | <input type="checkbox"/> Beechnuts | <input type="checkbox"/> Hazelnuts/Filberts | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Which nut culture topics most interest you? 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
- Orchard Management – pruning, thinning, fertilization, cover crops
- Harvesting and Processing – nut harvesting equipment, nut crackers, oil extraction
- Marketing – On-line sales, farmer markets

Send completed form with payment to: Northern Nut Growers Association, c/o 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 785-766-8849 or email to Debbie Milks at NNGAconference@gmail.com.








Sponsorship & Exhibitor Opportunities

2026 NNGA / CGA Joint Annual Conference

Friday, July 31st - Monday, August 3rd
University of Massachusetts Amherst



 Nut Industry Sponsor \$ 10,000.00	 Orchard Supporter \$ 5,000.00	 Grower Supporter \$2,500.00	 Tree Lover \$ 1,000.00	 Nut Lover \$ 500.00
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Scholarship Sponsor (Valued at \$2,000) ✓ Welcome Dinner Sponsor (valued at \$5,000) ✓ Listed as Featured Co-Sponsor of the Conference ✓ Specialized Nametag ✓ Your Literature included in Attendee Conference Bag ✓ Center-fold Premium 2-Page Ad in the Conference Program ✓ 1 Year NNGA Membership ✓ Full Page Ad in The Nutshell Newsletter (1 Year) & nutgrowing.org ✓ Premium Exhibitor Space ✓ Saturday & Sunday Digital Featured Advertisement During Technical Session Breaks ✓ 2 Full Registrations ✓ Sunday Banquet Recognition & Speaking Opportunity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Scholarship Sponsor (Valued at \$1,000) ✓ Listed as Co-Sponsor of the Conference ✓ Specialized Nametag ✓ Your Literature included in Attendee Conference Bag ✓ Full Page Ad in Conference Program ✓ 1 Year NNGA Membership ✓ 1/2 Page Ad in The Nutshell Newsletter (1 Year) & nutgrowing.org ✓ Waive Fee for Exhibitor Table ✓ 1 Full Registration ✓ Sunday Banquet Recognition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Scholarship Sponsor (Valued at \$500.00) ✓ Specialized Nametag ✓ Your Literature included in Attendee Conference Bag ✓ Half Page Ad in Conference Program ✓ 1 Year NNGA Membership ✓ 1/2 Page Ad in The Nutshell Newsletter (1 Year) & nutgrowing.org ✓ Waive Fee for Exhibitor Table ✓ 1 Full Registration ✓ Sunday Banquet Recognition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Scholarship Sponsor (Valued at \$200.00) ✓ Specialized Nametag ✓ Your Literature included in Attendee Conference Bag ✓ Half Page Ad in Conference Program ✓ 1 Year NNGA Membership ✓ 1/4 Page Ad in The Nutshell Newsletter (1 Year) & nutgrowing.org ✓ Waive Fee for Exhibitor Table ✓ Sunday Banquet Recognition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Scholarship Sponsor (Valued at \$100.00) ✓ Specialized Nametag ✓ Your Literature included in Attendee Conference Bag ✓ Business Card Ad in Conference Program ✓ 1 Year NNGA Membership ✓ 1/4 Page Ad in The Nutshell Newsletter (1 Year) & nutgrowing.org ✓ Waive Fee for Exhibitor Table
<p><i>Exhibitor tables without sponsorship available for \$100.00 as available.</i></p>				

For sponsorship and exhibitor inquiries, please contact NNGAConference@gmail.com

Cultivate Connections. Grow Your Impact.



Chestnut Growers of America
P.O. Box 445
Social Circle, GA 30025-0445

THE CHESTNUT GROWER

Spring 2026

Paid Advertisement



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