



Revised September 2016

Incorporated 1962

MAINE CHRISTMAS TREE ASSOCIATION

Constitution and By-laws

Article 1

Name and Object

Section 1. The name of this Corporation shall be the Maine Christmas Tree Association, Inc. (Incorporated in 1962 as the Down East Christmas Tree Association, Inc. in 1963 by authority of Chapter 113 of the Private and Special Laws of 1963 of the Maine Legislature). It shall be located and have its principal place of business in West Newfields in the State of Maine. The Association shall have a common seal bearing the words "Maine Christmas Tree Association, Incorporated 1962". The Board of Directors may change the form of seal and the inscription thereon at any time.

Section 2. (a) The purposes of the Association are the pursuit of agricultural, educational and scientific purposes generally with no part of the net earnings of the corporation to inure any particular officer, member or individual.

(b) The affairs of the Association shall be conducted in such a manner as to carry out the purpose as set forth in paragraph (a) and the Board of Directors are authorized to do such acts as may be necessary or proper to promote such agricultural, educational and scientific purposes, and without limiting the generality of the above to engage in any activities connected with the objectives of the Association.

- (1) To improve the quality of Christmas trees exported from Maine.
- (2) To exchange and distribute information and ideas regarding the production and marketing of Maine Christmas trees.
- (3) To suggest research and education which would be for the betterment of the industry.
- (4) To encourage the establishment or improvement of natural stands, Christmas tree plantations, materials for wreath making and other related products.
- (5) To encourage production of high quality Christmas tree planting stock by private nurseries.
- (6) To take cooperative action when deemed necessary to safeguard and improve the production and marketing of Christmas trees and Christmas evergreen products.
- (7) To acquire two or more sites for the establishment of seed orchards. These sites to be secured by Deed or Lease to the MCTA.
 - a) To insure the genetic improvement of Christmas tree species for the benefit of the MCTA membership.
 - b) Management, control and dissemination of the end product of the seed orchard to be governed by the Board of Directors of the Association.
- (8) Other items pertinent to the Association and to the industry.

Article II

Membership

Section 1. The membership of the Association shall be of two classes. Dues Paying regular and sustaining. Non dues paying, Associate, Junior and Honorary. Honorary members are considered active members and entitled to the floor.

- (1) Dues Paying Regular. Regular members shall be persons who are directly engaged in any phase of the growing or harvesting of Christmas trees or kindred products related to the industry and are entitled to one vote.
- (2) Dues Paying Sustaining. Sustaining members shall be any persons or Organizations who wish to contribute more annually to support the programs and activities of the Association. A Sustaining membership shall have the rights and privileges of a regular members and be entitled to one vote.
- (3) Non-Dues Paying: Associate - Associate members shall be persons or organizations who are interested in the progress and development of the Christmas tree industry and have been invited by the Board of Directors. The immediate family of a regular member, i.e. wife or son or daughter or a partner in the production and merchandizing of trees or green are eligible.

- (4) Non-Dues paying: Junior-Junior members interested in Christmas tree growing or marketing under 18 years of age as of January 1.
- (5) Non-Dues paying: - Honorary - Honorary members shall include persons who have rendered outstanding service to the Christmas tree industry and nominated by any two members of the Association. They shall not pay dues but do have the privilege of the floor. Honorary memberships are for one year, with no limit as to the number of years an Honorary member may be nominated.
- (6) Non-Dues paying: Honorary Life - Honorary Life membership requires The same criteria as (5) above, except that they need to be nominated and voted upon only once. Honorary Life members shall have the privileges of the floor

Section 3. Applicants for Regular and Sustaining memberships. Each application must be accompanied by the required dues fee.

Dues are for the current calendar year and are due each January. Applications received after November 1 from a bona fide producer may have dues waived for that year, with application fee applied to the next year. The regular membership dues shall be set by the Directors at the annual meeting.

Section 4. Members shall be removed from membership status:

- (1) Who are in arrears with their dues at the time of the annual meeting.
- (2) Who by their action, have caused harm to the Maine Christmas tree industry shall be suspended from the MCTA, Inc. and shall be so advised by the Executive Committee pending action by the Board of Directors.

The President if requested by the aggrieved shall appoint an impartial committee to gather facts and to hold a hearing. A report from this committee and its recommendations shall be reviewed by the Board of Directors and the necessary action taken.

Article III

Board of Directors

Section 1. The direction and management of the affairs of the Association shall be vested in a Board of Directors consisting of nine elected members. Three to be elected for a three year term at each annual meeting. The immediate Past President and the National Director, if not already members of the Board of Directors, shall automatically serve as Directors in addition to the nine regularly elected Directors for the ensuing year or until their replacements have been named.

Section 2. Directors cannot serve more than two consecutive three year terms. At least one year must elapse before re-election.

Section 3. The Directors of this Association elected at its meeting of incorporation held July 14, 1962, who were also on this date Directors of the Maine Christmas Tree Association, predecessor of this Corporation established August 1956, shall serve as Directors of the Incorporated Association until the expiration of the term for which they were originally elected.

Section 4. Directors-at-Large: There may be a maximum of three Directors-at-Large serving the Association at any one time. They may be elected by the membership or appointed by the Board of Directors as the need arises. They shall serve a three year term and are entitled to full voting right. A Director at Large may hold successive terms.

Section 5. Director Emeritus. For those Directors, past and present, both Regular and At Large, who have served the Association for many years, who are retired or semi retired, and who on occasion wish to be involved with an Association project or committee, and who at any time may speak as a Director for the Association. They shall be entitled to full privilege of the floor, not be required to regularly attend Board meetings, and shall be accorded an Honorary Life Membership in the Association. Nominees may be recommended by any regular member for approval by a majority of members present at the Annual meeting of the Association.

Article IV

Officers

Section 1. The Officers of the Association shall consist of a President, a Vice-President, a Treasurer, An Executive Secretary who shall also serve as clerk of the Association and a Recording Secretary. The President and Vice-President shall be or have been Directors of the Association and shall be elected to the Office by the Board of Directors at its first meeting after the Annual Meeting of the Association. The Treasurer may be any member appointed by the Board of Directors. The Executive Secretary may be any person selected by the Board of Directors on the basis of executive or managerial capability. Terms of office shall be for the succeeding calendar year, or until their successors are appointed and take office.

Section 2. The Officers shall constitute the Executive Committee of the Association. Officers terms will begin January 1 of the year following election.

Article V

Meetings

- Section 1. The annual meeting will be held in conjunction with special speakers and a farm tour on a weekend in September. The winter meeting shall be held in January, indoors with special speakers.
- Section 2. Special meetings may be called by the Board of Directors or by written petition of the members.
- Section 3. Notices of all meetings, special or regular, shall be announced by written Notice to all Association members at least ten days in advance of such Meeting.
- Section 4. The Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held no more than 30 days after the Annual Meeting of the Association and at such a time and place as may be designated by the President of the Association.

Article VI

Insignia - Trade Mark

- Section 1. An appropriate insignia or trade mark shall be adopted and properly registered by the Board of Directors and may be used only by members in good standing subject to such rules and regulations promulgated by the Board of Directors.