



Ryan Liberty, President  
 Matt Quinn, Vice President  
 Heidi Watson, Exec. Secretary/Treas.  
 Dugald Kell Jr, Newsletter Editor

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## Greetings from our President

Ryan Liberty

Greetings MCTA members,

In 59 days, I'll be handing the MCTA gavel over to incoming president, Matt Quinn. As I write my final 'Greetings From The President' letter, my emotions run the gamut of **Satisfaction**, **Confidence**, and of course...**Relief**.

**Satisfaction** that over the last 2 years as your president, and 2 years prior to that as your vice president, my executive team, board of directors, and committee leads initiated many new programs and opportunities to help enrich this organization. We tried to do this while respecting the already sound groundwork laid down by so many past MCTA leaders. Some of these initiatives include...

- A focus and commitment on running efficient and timely board and committee meetings that respect the personal time of our members.
- Introducing a new state of Maine annual tradition of presenting the governor Christmas trees and wreaths for the Blaine House.
- Working with the governor to establish an annual 'Maine Grown Christmas Tree Day'.
- Spearheading the search and hiring of an administrative professional that can help us navigate the organization's administrative needs of the future.
- Working with the Fryeburg Fair superintendents to reinvigorate the Fryeburg Fair exhibit which is now one of the fair's most anticipated and visited spaces.
- Reestablishing the budget committee to help the board and executive team stay on solid, financial footing.
- Conducting countless interviews and media inquiries.
- A commitment to consistently putting on engaging and educational annual meetings that meet the needs of a wide range of growers.
- Taking on a leadership role with the North East Christmas Tree Research Alliance.
- Establishing the MCTA Legacy Member video series.
- A 'Featured Farmer' addition to upcoming newsletters.
- Partnering with the Maine Department of Corrections on a venture to grow Christmas trees that will be donated to Trees For Troops.

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**2024 Officers & Directors  
Maine Christmas Tree Association**

**Officers**

**Ryan Liberty, President**  
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**Heidi Watson, Executive Secretary / Treasurer**  
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207-576-5076 watsonoutdoors@gmail.com

**Heidi Watson, Recording Secretary**  
918 Richville Rd, Standish, ME 04084-5612  
207-576-5076 watsonoutdoors@gmail.com

**Directors until 12/31/24**

**Gary Fisher**  
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**Matt Quinn**  
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**Lee Skillin**  
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**Directors until 12/31/25**

**Matt LaCasce**  
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207-717-0836 matthewlacasce@yahoo.com

**Calvin Luther**  
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**Directors until 12/31/26**

**Lowell Freiman**  
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**Tom McNeil**  
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**Past President**

**Arthur Mingo**  
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**Director-at-Large**

**James Corliss**  
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207-862-0065 jmc52536@gmail.com

**Director-at-Large, Constitutional**

**Matt LaCasce (NCTA Director)**  
89 Ames Rd, Dover Foxcroft, ME 04426  
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**SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Heidi Watson

November is here, and we're happy to cheer that Christmas is near! Our Association is doing wonderfully. We have \$54,863.90 in our account, and we currently have 122 members.

I have been busy getting a good grip on all that needs to be done. Joanne has been a huge help and I'm thankful she is willing to pick up the phone whenever I have a question.

Our Executive team, Jen Hicks, and NHVTCTA worked very well together to put on our fall meeting at Great Works Tree Farm. Thank you, John & Linda Archambault, for hosting and sharing your beautiful farm and family with all of us!

Fryeburg Fair was a great success again this year! Thank you, Gary & Melba Fisher, for organizing all the volunteers and trees and wreaths! We should all be proud that our organization is represented so well!

I want to remind members, that membership payments are due in January. Dues are increasing next year to \$85 for a regular membership and \$115 for a sustaining membership.

**Important Dates:**

December 2nd - Trees for Troops pick up in Searsmont

December 2nd - Blaine House presentation of People's Choice tree and wreath!

January 14th - Winter Meeting - Augusta Civic Center- Maine Ag Show

January - Renewal of Membership Dues

Please reach out to me if you have any questions. 207-576-5076 text or call.

Respectfully,

Heidi Watson  
Executive Secretary/Treasurer

Recording Secretary

**Save the Date!**

2025 Winter Meeting – Tuesday, January 14th in the  
Howard Room at the Augusta Civic Center  
(Directors' Meeting - January 13th at Burano's in Hallowell)

Registration Form on Page 4

## President Greeting (continued from page 1)

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- Conducting a MCTA brand review to ensure we're well positioned to properly represent our members in the future.
- MCTA/UMaine partnership resulting in a new seed orchard and future research opportunities.
- Establishing an MCTA archive of historical photos and information that will be digitized and saved in perpetuity.

I'm also feeling **Confident** in the future of MCTA's leadership. When I asked Matt Quinn to be my Vice President two years ago, I recognized his passion for the tree and wreath industry and knew we'd work well together. Over that time, I've watched Matt's continued success as a grower, but more importantly, as a leader. In some of the recent Executive Committee meetings that I've attended, I'm heartened to hear the energy and excitement coming from Matt's future team of Heidi Watson (secretary) Bryan Mayo (vice president), and Jenn Hicks (administrative consultant). They're generating ideas and initiatives that will propel this organization forward for many years to come. Of course, they'll be working with a dedicated group of individuals that make up your board of directors, as well as many committee members. Remember...most of the work of any successful organization happens at the committee level. And what a great group of committee members we have.

And lastly, **Relief**. As much as I've enjoyed being in the role as president and vice president, it has been a lot of work. Many of you know that I'm typically involved with multiple extracurricular activities at any given time. Add to that my current career at Irving Oil, and we're also in the middle of building a new house. With fewer MCTA duties on my plate, I expect my little 4,000 tree farm in Wells will soon expand to include maple syrup production and a larger apiary. Lots to do!

So, with that, I'd like to say 'Thank You' to the entire organization for their support throughout my tenure as president. The success we've experienced over the last two years has been the result of the hard work of so many members that love this group and this industry as much as I do. But more importantly, Colleen and I are most thankful for the extraordinary friendships that we've made with many of you.

I wish you all a successful selling season and peaceful holiday with your families. I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at our winter meeting in January.

Best,

Ryan & Colleen Liberty

## Vice President's Report

Matthew Quinn

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Fall is always a busy time for the MCTA. The two biggest events of the year occurred back-to-back with the Fall meeting held in Berwick at Great Works Tree Farm, and then right onto the Fryeburg Fair the very next weekend. It couldn't have happened without dedicated members stepping up to the plate to get the job done. Specifically, I would like to thank Heidi Watson, our Executive Secretary and Treasurer; Jenn Hicks, Administrative Consultant; Ryan Liberty, President; Veronica Francis and Nigel Manley of the NH/VT Christmas Tree Association; and of course John Archambault and his family as the host farm. This team held a number of meetings, volunteered many hours, and worked throughout the year to put this event on.

This year's Fall meeting was held in conjunction with the NH/VT Association with great success. Growers from New Brunswick and Massachusetts made the trip as well, along with our keynotes, Dr. Richard Cowles of Connecticut and Bill Urbanowicz of Spectrum Analytics.

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# MCTA 2025 WINTER MEETING

## Registration Form

Meeting Date: January 14, 2025

Location: Augusta Civic Center  
76 Community Dr, Augusta, ME

Business/Farm Name \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Business Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

List Additional Attendees' Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Type	Quantity	Pre-Registration (Deadline Jan. 5th)	On-Site Registration	Extended Amount
MCTA Member	_____	\$ 25.00	\$ 30.00	= _____
Add'l Family Member	_____	\$ 15.00	\$ 20.00	= _____
Non-Member	_____	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	= _____
			Subtotal	\$ _____

**Please Pre-register for the Commissioners' Luncheon:**

Contact Heidi Watson (576-5076) for price and to reserve.

Limited seats available.

Lunch \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Info: Check# \_\_\_\_\_ (made out to MCTA)

Mail Completed form and payment to:

*Heidi Watson, Executive Secretary, 918 Richville Rd, Standish, ME 04084*

**REGISTRATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY January 7<sup>th</sup> for Pre-Registration Rates**

## Vice President's Report (continued from page 3)

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The Archambault Family were wonderful hosts, and worked diligently to put their farm on display. John shared a number of his inventions, including a leaf blower broadcast spreader and an herbicide bush hog combo unit. John is clearly an innovator and a great idea guy.

The Fall Meeting is always a hot topic among our members. The opinions on what we should do, and how we should do it run the gambit. One day or two, big meal or small. When gathering a group as large and diverse as ours, it's going to be impossible to make everyone happy. That being said, we will continue to work to make the fall meeting as accommodating as possible while trying to put on an excellent show for our members.

We are still looking for a location for the 2025 meeting. Bryan Mayo will be heading up the team this year. If you have an interest, I encourage you to reach out to him. Your farm need not be perfect, none are, and the opportunity to get feedback on your operation is extremely helpful.

In January, I will become your President. It seems both long ago, and just yesterday when Ryan asked me to be his VP during his tenure as President. We have worked hard to continue the success of the MCTA and prepare it for the future. I am proud of the work we have done, and look forward to continuing in my new role.

In closing however, I do want to take a moment to thank Mr. Liberty publicly and on record.

Ryan, if someone asked me what I value I have gotten out of joining the MCTA my answer would include meeting you. I remember seeing the only guy taller than me at Moose Hill Farm back in 2019. My first meeting ever as a tree grower and immediately we hit it off. You have, and continue to teach me the power of diplomacy. I value our marathon phone conversations, coaching sessions and collaborations. You have had the uncanny ability to motivate me to do things I'm not always excited to do. Thank you for that. Thank you for your work here with the MCTA, in your time we have seen new projects, including the Blaine House Trees, new Seed Orchard and Trees for Troops seedlings being planted with the Department of Corrections. Any one of these would be a great legacy, you have managed to do all three and then some. I will continue to look to you for guidance and advice as we continue to grow this Association. Thank you, my friend, job well done.

## MCTA Administrative Contractor Report

Jenn Hicks

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Since January, I have served as the administrative contractor for Maine Christmas Tree Association, ten hours a month. It has been a pleasure getting to know many of the members, especially the folks who make up the MCTA Board Executive Committee including President Ryan Liberty, Vice President Matthew Quinn, and Secretary/Treasurer Heidi Watson, and it has been very interesting learning about what it takes to grow and sell Christmas trees. My primary responsibility has been to develop a regular email communication with updates and information for members, maintain MCTA's presence on social media, support the Executive Committee in their effort to plan and promote MCTA's fall and winter meetings, and help the Trees for Troops and Fryeburg Fair planning committees generate interest in their programs among members.

Now that the Christmas season has unofficially kicked off, I am focused on increasing MCTA's visibility and promoting real Christmas trees and wreaths to a broad audience through both the local media and social media outlets. MCTA is always looking for ways to support its members and spread the word about the products and authentic tree farm experiences. Please reach out to me with ideas about how MCTA can help lift up its members and continue to build a thriving Christmas tree industry in Maine.

Jenn Hicks

[jhicks72@gmail.com](mailto:jhicks72@gmail.com) / (207) 844-0348

## Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting - October 14th, 2024

Heidi Watson

6:03 PM Call to order - Ryan Liberty Roll Call

Present - Gary Fisher, Matt Quinn, Matt Lacasce, Lowel Freeman, Tom McNeil, Bryan Mayo, Jim Corliss, Heidi Watson, Ryan Liberty and guests Executive Assistant Jennifer Hicks.

Nominating Committee - Matt Quinn & Jim Corliss - At the Fall Meeting we made these nominations:

For Directors for the term 1/01/2025 to 12/31/2027: Dugald Kell, Bryan Mayo, Jim Hummer

Tom McNeil motioned for Bryan Mayo to be vice president serving under Matt Quinn beginning Jan. 1st.

2nd - Gary Fisher Discussion: none Passed Unanimously

Treasurers & Secretary Report - Heidi Watson - Ending Balance of \$55,113.90

NCTA membership dues were paid two weeks prior-114 members paid for 119 members.

Ryan - asked about the Fall meeting. We profited \$570 from the fall meeting.

Tom asked a question about the website and seedlings' income. Corrections were made, and updated reports were sent to directors.

January Directors Meeting is the 13th at 6 pm, at Buranos in Hallowell, ME

Winter meeting is on January 14th at the Augusta Civic Center in the Howard Room - Registration begins at 8:30 AM.

Heidi - looking for input on late membership payments and also folks joining late in the fall. Discussion around the bylaws, and got another updated version with answers to these questions.

I would like to start sending a packet to new members. We are also changing how we assign member numbers, using the first 4 letters of the member's last name and the two-digit year they became a member.

Jenn Hicks - Executive Assistant

Continues to focus on the organization's communication through email blasts. This is to supplement the newsletter which is a member benefit. I met with Dugald and intended to meet again via Zoom to help keep the website updated. Looking forward to her first Christmas season with our organization and is looking for ways to enhance the benefit to members. Focus on social media posts to highlight the benefits of buying a real Maine Christmas tree. Her goal is to make our organization more visible through this Christmas season. This is an incredible team, the executive team is a stealth group with Ryan, Matthew, Heidi, and Dugald. The organization is on solid ground with great leadership.

Ryan suggested we look at former members, and get a featured farmer on our newsletter as well.

Tom - Joanne used to try to connect people looking for wholesale trees to people looking to sell them. Has someone been doing that?

Heidi - I have been taking care of these requests for both members and prospected buyers. Bryan - Include in members Facebook posts that lead people back to the MCTA website of Facebook page or a hashtag. He was looking for some verbiage to add to an email for members to use in their farm posts.

Dugald Website & Budget

Signing onto the website and paying dues is working again. A few other issues are being worked on. Looking to add some Fryburg Fair Pictures onto the tab for the website. The dues increase needs to be on the website, will figure out how to do that. The budget is still in the data-gathering phase.

Matt LaCasce - NCTA, attended the virtual meeting this past winter. Dugald reported the executive committee changed the management company.

## Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting - October 14th, 2024 (continued)

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### Marketing - Ryan

Fryburg Fair - working on using some blank space at the fair for some more marketing for the organization.

Blaine House - December 2nd, winners of the 1st-3rd tree and wreath people's choice bring a tree to the Blaine House.

Upgrade for Branding - surveys went out. There wasn't a great response, we need to hear from more members.

Newsletter - featured farmer addition.

Legacy Member Series - The interview with Jim Corliss was done and the video is in the works. Archives - Ryan picked up several boxes from Joanne and this will be a winter project to find some archives to hold onto.

### NECTRA - Next Meeting in January

The Northeastern Christmas Tree Research Alliance is a group of individuals from North America who share the same mission. That mission is as follows:

"The North Eastern Christmas Tree Research Alliance's purpose is to coordinate and facilitate research for the improvement of Christmas Tree and Greenery production for industry members (Christmas tree growers, greenery producers, and suppliers to growers.)"

Our leadership is as follows:

Larry Downey is president and Ryan Liberty is vice president. Other members include:

Len Price, Matt Wright, William Downey, Dr. Rich Cowles, Dr. Justin Whitehill

### Meetings Committee - Ryan

Pesticide credits will be offered at the winter meeting.

Fall Meeting - We are looking for a 2025 host farm in the central or northern Maine area. The 2024 Fall meeting was a success!

Fryburg Fair - Gary Fisher & Ryan read the report Gary and Melba wrote (see Fryeburg Fair Report later in this newsletter).

Gary has 200 seedlings left over from the seedling sale. Discussion over the best way to care for them over the winter and how to sell them. Also, discussion on the rising cost of seedlings from the grower.

Discussion over judging and more specifics on what the judges are looking for.

Thank you from Ryan on behalf of the board to Melba and Gary Fisher for all of their work on the Fryeburg Fair.

AgCom - Working with the legislature, 70 representatives went on a bus ride to about 6/7 different farms in Maine. It's done every two years.

Scholarship Committee - Received two applications from qualified applicants. Upon full application review verification is likely to award each applicant a \$1000.00 scholarship. Awaiting the Fryeburg Fair Results for Scholarship fund accounting.

Trees for Troops - Rob sent a text, continuing to work with Trees for Troop folks on a time and date for the actual load-up. As of October 13th, we were 55 trees short. Ryan would be happy to pick up trees in southern Maine and bring them to the location. Please just reach out and we can help with transportation.

Tom requested we add the need for Trees for Trees for Troops to an email blast.

## Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting - October 14th, 2024 (continued)

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Seed Orchard - In place for the winter 2 years of grafted "37" needle retention seed clones to plant out in the new seed orchard in Hartland for next year. "35" pooted rootstock to be grafted spring of '25. Calvin said in July marked out 8 rows of the orchard 25' apart with 8 tree locations per row 20' apart all flagged with bright Red flags. Ron Lemen sprayed a 4' square of around each of the flagged locations with glyphosate and simazine to kill the grass. Returned 3 weeks later to see a good kill of grass and weeds, total cost was \$250.00. Matt Quinn brought a mower up after the fall meeting cost \$140.00.

### Old Business -

During the Fall Meeting, we discovered we've been working from a few different bylaws. Dugald and Heidi discussed which one was the most current set. Heidi will send out by-laws to the directors after the meeting.

Discussion of bylaws - Jim Corliss sent them to Ryan. Ryan forwarded them to the Directors after the meeting. Jim mentioned they were not voted on, they were suggestions. The most updated version is the 2016 version and those are on the website.

### New Business -

Matt would like to suggest the Christmas Tree Journal. We can buy this for members, we would get 2 pages of news to put in it. Every member would have to get signed up through the organization. Each issue is \$5.75 with a start-up of \$200. \$2900.37 would be the total for 2025. It's a value ad for the members. This would be in addition to the newsletter.

Dugald said we raise the dues by \$22 or we find the money somewhere. Matt understands that we are already raising the dues to cover what we are already doing.

One director asked for some samples of the publication. Dugald described it as a glossy magazine with about 20-30 pages of good articles and good information. We have been down this road a long time ago, we used to get Christmas Trees Magazine. They didn't raise dues enough to cover it and eventually, we ran out of money to pay for it. Is anyone on this call getting this? It's a \$30 annual subscription.

Ryan - Thank you to Joanne for her service, very much appreciated.

Matt - Thank you, Ryan, for your tenure as President of the Association. The amount of work that you have done on the Executive Board was a lot to jump into and I truly appreciate you as someone who has become a friend and mentor of mine. Your ability to lead and I've been trying to take notes and I've been trying to grow. You will always have a seat at the table for as long as you'd like and as long as you a member. You truly are a special individual to this association. The association has grown significantly under your leadership. I hope I can keep it steady over the next two years.

Motion to Adjourn by Tom McNeil and seconded by Bryan Mayo. Passed, All in Favor

## AGCOM

Gary Fisher

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It has been a very busy year 2024, for MCTA and AGCOM. The Agricultural Council of Maine (AGCOM) works all year long and as MCTA is a member of that organization, MCTA benefits from many actions that the Council works on for everyone's benefit.

There are hundreds of Legislative issues that AGCOM tracks for its members. Not all might be in the interest of Christmas trees, but when such issues come up that do involve Christmas trees and like products the Council does their very best to track them and report to the powers to be what the issues are and to assist wherever needed. So I'm listing some of the AGCOM's issues that have been at the forefront this year to the members of the association.



## AGCOM (continued)

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- Tax issues
- PFAF's (Water quality problems)
- MFT (MAINE FARMLAND TRUST) keeping an eye on farm land
- UME (University of Maine Extension) a source of disease and plant info.
- UME Soil quality at Maine Extension
- UME Plant pathology- testing and results

There are many other representatives from all walks of life that participate in helping AGCOM function and fulfill the purposes of the Council. Recently at a Council meeting, an interesting item came up that I want to pass on to all. [CoverMe.gov](http://CoverMe.gov) is a health coverage that may be available to some new or young growers and I would encourage folks to check into it.

Maine Farmland Trust might be interesting for someone getting into farming. I want to highlight something that is done every two year by AGCOM--there is a legislative tour that is a one-day bus trip to a predetermined part of the state, which takes up to 70 Maine legislators to farms so they have a good idea what farming is really about. I have heard many good things about this bus tour and what an eye opener it is. In 2026 it will happen again and it would be great to see a Christmas tree farm on the itinerary.

Thanks for your attention. For any questions, my email is [alonghere492@gmail.com](mailto:alonghere492@gmail.com). I try to answer all inquiries as they come in.

Gary Fisher, AGCOM REP.

## Fryeburg Fair

Gary & Melba Fisher

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The fair this year was a great success with 28 trees of various size and species and 30 wreaths. The display was really one of the best we have had in years and it showed as the public was very interested in both trees and wreaths with questions and attendance at the wreath demos. Sales of wreath supplies were very brisk after each demonstration.

Each day we had volunteers who worked the booth and sold supplies, seedlings and fielded questions about the tree business. Many people inquired as to how to start in the business along with joining the association. The first 3 days of the fair were very well attended and sales were great, but Wednesday and Thursday were quite slow affecting sales, Friday thru Sunday sales rebounded well.

The seedling sales were good, sales amounted to approximately 1300 plugs of balsam, fraser and blue spruce. The downside of the year is, there are about 200 plugs that didn't sell. I have the remaining plugs in containers and I will take care of them till next year, won't need to order quite so many next year. I'm considering cutting down on the order so we don't have a surplus at the end of the fair. The total sales amounted to \$4,209.00, which is good but I had to pay more this year for good plugs. I increased prices some but I didn't want to hurt sales. Next year I will have to order from Kelco for wire, soft touch rings and some misc. supplies, but nothing too much.

Access to plugs has become difficult, due to the time of year we need them. The growers don't ship until the fall and we need them in September. The grower I had this year has a very good product and will ship when we need them, but the price is \$1.70 ea. Shipping is included. In the past plugs have cost 40 to 50 cents plus shipping but that is in the past.

The Fair really spruced up our building there, some was repairs from storm damage and others were repairs I requested as they were needed due to age and wear. I feel we satisfied the Fair's expectations for the exhibit and

### Fryeburg Fair (continued)

showed well in attendance and interest. The People's Choice voting really makes the point of interest by the public, as over 750 votes were cast for favorites in trees & wreaths.

I must say our volunteer workers did a fantastic job for us this year, before, during and at the close of the fair. We could not do it without them. Next year's fair will usher in a new era as the fair run will be 9 days instead of 8 that we are used to. There are lots of logistics to consider for the new fair plan, the board will have to put on their thinking caps. Last but very important, a huge thank you to the growers and wreath makers that really make this event happen year after year.

Gary Fisher Superintendent

Melba Fisher, Assistant Superintendent

Ryan Liberty, Assistant Superintendent



## Fryeburg Fair 2024 – Tree & Wreath Contest Results

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### CHRISTMAS TREES – GRAND CHAMPION & RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION

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Grand Champion:	LaCasce Family (Finest Kind Tree Farm) Dover-Foxcroft - Blue Korean Fir
Reserve Grand Champion:	Ryan and Colleen Liberty (Crooked Brook Farm) Wells - Balsam Fir

### PEOPLE'S CHOICE TREES & WREATHS

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#### CHRISTMAS TREES

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1. Finest Kind Tree Farm  
Dover-Foxcroft - Blue Korean Fir - 256 Votes
2. Finest Kind Tree Farm  
Dover-Foxcroft - Balsam Fir - 206 Votes
3. Quinn's Tree Farm  
Cornville - Balsam/Fraser Hybrid - 66 Votes

#### CHRISTMAS WREATHS

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1. Heidi Watson (Watson Tree Farm)  
Standish - 242 Points - 169 Votes
2. Kelsey Price (Nutkin Knoll Tree Farm)  
Newburgh - 92 Votes

Top Two will Display Their Trees/Wreaths at The Blaine House

### BALSAM FIRS

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- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Crooked Brook Farm<br>Wells - 484 Points                         | 7. Miles Finnegan (Finnegan's Fine Firs)<br>Bethlehem, NH - 437 Points |
| 2. Finest Kind Tree Farm<br>Dover-Foxcroft - 479 Points             | 8. Matthew Quinn (Quinns Tree Farm)<br>Cornville - 434 Points          |
| 3. Bryan Mayo (Red Barn Tree Farm)<br>Etna - 451 Points             | 9. Joanne Bond (Bond Mountain Acres)<br>W. Newfield - 427 Points       |
| 4. Nutkin Knoll Tree Farm<br>Newburgh - 450 Points                  | 10. Jim Hummer (Hummer Tree Farm)<br>Bath - 422 Points                 |
| 5. Rob Mulvey (Pleasant View Tree Farm)<br>Hodgdon - 447 Points     | 11. Trees To Please<br>Norridgewock - 416 Points                       |
| 6. Doug Fortier (Merry Christmas Tree Farm)<br>Windham - 444 Points | 12. Jesse and Molly Jimerson (Piper Mountain)<br>Newburgh - 407 Points |
|   | 13. Skillin's Greenhouse<br>Falmouth - 405 Points                      |

### PINES

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1. Miles Finnegan (Finnegan's Fine Firs)  
Bethlehem, NH - White Pine - 461 Points
2. Trees To Please  
Norridgewock - White Pine - 402 Points

### SPRUCES

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1. Boiling Spring Tree Farm  
Dayton - Colorado Blue Spruce - 460 Points
2. Nutkin Knoll Tree Farm  
Newburgh - Meyer Spruce - 454 Points
3. Miles Finnegan (Finnegan's Fine Firs)  
Bethlehem, NH - (species not listed) - 436 Points
4. Trees To Please  
Norridgewock - White Spruce - 434 Points

## Fryeburg Fair 2024 – Tree & Wreath Contest Results (cont'd.)

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### WREATHS – UNDECORATED

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- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Kelsey Price (Nutkin Knoll)<br>Newburgh - 170 Points     | 8. Maria Kingsbury (Piper Mountain)<br>Dixmont - 152 Points       |
| 2. Dawson Laflamme,<br>Whitefield, NH - 167 Points          | 9. June Brooks<br>Whitefield, NH - 149 Points                     |
| 3. Christina Laflamme<br>Whitefield, NH - 165 Points        | 10. Trees to Please<br>Norridgewock - 145 Points                  |
| 4. Barbara Martineau (Piper Mountain)<br>Unity - 159 Points | 11. Christine Quinn (Quinn's Tree Farm)<br>Cornville - 136 Points |
| 5. Wanda Wilcox<br>Newcastle - 157 Points                   | 12. Matt Quinn (Quinn's Tree Farm)<br>Cornville - 125 Points      |
| 6. Jacque Huff (Quinn's Tree Farm)<br>Athens - 155 Points   | 13. Elijah Hayes<br>Poland - 104 Points                           |
| 7. Jill King (Piper Mountain)<br>Hampden - 154 Points       | 14. Sara Hayes<br>Poland - 76 Points                              |

### WREATHS – DECORATED

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- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Kelsey Price (Nutkin Knoll)<br>Newburgh - 276 Points     | 10. Raya Marshall (Quinn's Tree Farm)<br>Athens - 226 Points    |
| 2. Jill King (Piper Mountain)<br>Hampden - 260 Points       | 11. Nancy Price (Nutkin Knoll)<br>Newburgh, - 220 Points        |
| 3. Christina Laflamme<br>Whitefield, NH - 249 Points        | 12. Maria Kingsbury (Piper Mountain)<br>Dixmont - 218 Points    |
| 4. Trees to Please<br>Norridgewock - 246 Points             | 13. Jacque Huff (Quinn's Free Farm)<br>Athens - 206 Points      |
| 5. Heidi Watson (Watson Tree Farm)<br>Standish - 242 Points | 14. Brandon Watson (Watson Tree Farm)<br>Standish - 201 Points  |
| 6. Barbara Martineau (Piper Mountain)<br>Unity - 239 Points | 15. Erin DePhillipo (Watson Tree Farm)<br>Standish - 186 Points |
| 7. Wanda Wilcox<br>New Castle - 235 Points                  | 16. Connie Grovo (Watson Tree Farm)<br>Standish - 181 Points    |
| 8. June Brooks<br>Whitefield, NH - 233 Points               | 17. Evelyn Haves<br>Poland (did not compete)                    |
| 9. Dawson Laflamme<br>Whitefield, NH - 231 Points           |   |

## Seed Orchard Committee

Calvin Luther

Norridgewock - Prior to the fall MCTA meeting in North Berwick in September, Len and I met at the Norridgewock seed orchard with two members of the North Eastern Christmas Tree Research Alliance (NECTRA) in order to familiarize them with our seed orchard status (NECTRA is based in Atlantic Canada). We inspected the trees from the second round of grafted clones of the best 13 trees from the progeny testing of 20+/- years ago. The trees were in good condition. Our Canadian visitors were impressed with the number of years of growth with retained needles, being 5, 6, or 7 years of branch growth with needles retained along the branches. This is reported to be a good indicator of needle retention, with the more years of growth with live needles indicating better needle retention following harvest. We noted that there were many male flower buds on the lower branches, perhaps indicating that 2025 may be a good cone year. In 2023 we harvested 80 pounds of seed from this seed orchard's original trees.

Ashland - There was no visit to the Ashland seed orchard in 2024.

Huff Hill, Hartland - This new seed orchard planting site received a July application of 1000 lbs of Mag-lime as was recommended from the recent soil test report for the site. We also marked out the rows (25' apart) and the future planting spots (20' apart in rows), with 9 rows and 8 planting spots per row, using 4' wooden stakes and bright red flagging.

On August 21 Ron Lemin sprayed a 4' square at the planting spots with a glyphosate/simazine mixture which was checked 3 weeks later and had an acceptable kill rate of grasses and broad leaved weeds. In September the field was mowed by Matt Quinn. Total cost for spraying and mowing was \$390 (250 + 140).

28 seed orchard grafted (in June 2023) planting stock trees (1 died this summer) are being kept at Len Price's farm for out planting at this site in spring 2025. Additional potted root stock trees are also being stored there, for additional grafting in spring 2025. We anticipate receiving support in determining the appropriate grid layout of the grafted clones from the University of Maine for this seed orchard planting next spring.

Respectfully submitted,

Calvin Luther  
Seed Orchard Committee

**EAST COMMERCE  
SOLUTIONS, INC**



**Gerry Lacasse**  
*Regional Representative*

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### Photos from the Fall Meeting at Great Works Tree Farm



## Maine Christmas Tree Association, Inc. Annual Membership Application/Renewal Form

Owner's Name _____	Date _____
Farm Name _____	
Mailing Address _____	
City _____	State _____ Zip _____
Farm Address (if different) _____	
City _____	State _____ Zip _____
Phone1 _____	Email _____
Phone2 _____	Website _____
Check here to receive the MCTA newsletter by email only: <input type="checkbox"/>	

**Please check the items that describe your operation:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Wholesale Grower	<input type="checkbox"/> Choose & Cut Grower	<input type="checkbox"/> Wreath Maker
<input type="checkbox"/> Retail Grower	<input type="checkbox"/> Tree Retailer	<input type="checkbox"/> Related Products

<p><b>Membership Fees:</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Sustaining members help keep MCTA strong</i></p> <p>Junior membership for under age 18 – enter birth month/year: ____/____)</p>	<p>Circle <u>one</u> fee below:</p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: left;">Regular</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$85</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: left;">Sustaining</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$115</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: left;">Junior</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$0</td> </tr> </table>	Regular	\$85	Sustaining	\$115	Junior	\$0
Regular	\$85						
Sustaining	\$115						
Junior	\$0						

<p><b>MCTA Website Fees:</b></p> <p>To be listed on the website, you must be a member of the MCTA and grow/produce Christmas evergreen products in Maine.</p> <p>After paying the appropriate fee, a website account will be created for you. You will be sent the information to log on. You will be able to customize the info on your farm's web page on the MCTA website, including the products you offer, hours, location, etc., and customizable links to your own website and/or Facebook pages.</p>	<p>Circle <u>ALL</u> fees that apply:</p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: left;">Annual Fee</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$30</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: left;">New Listing</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$30</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">(additional to the annual fee)</td> </tr> </table>	Annual Fee	\$30	New Listing	\$30		(additional to the annual fee)
Annual Fee	\$30						
New Listing	\$30						
	(additional to the annual fee)						

<p>Send completed application with a check to the treasurer at the following address:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Heidi Watson</b> <b>918 Richville Rd</b> <b>Standish, ME 04084</b></p>	<p><b>Payment Due:</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Check# _____ Amount \$ _____</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">Payable to: <b>MCTA</b> <span style="margin-left: 100px;">Add the circled Amounts above</span></p>
--	--

Membership Application can be done online at [mainechristmastree.com](http://mainechristmastree.com). Payment can be made by PayPal or credit card.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



If undeliverable, return to:  
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