

NEEDLE NEWS

A publication of the Inland Empire Christmas Tree Association

www.iechristmastrees.org

February 2015

Dates Set for IECTA's 2015 Spring, Summer, and Fall Meetings

Inland Empire Christmas Tree Association meetings are scheduled for March 14, July 25, and September 19.

The spring meeting will be March 14th at The Center of the Word of Life Church. Joel Fields from Wilbur Ellis will be the guest speaker. Registration is \$10.00 per person which includes continental breakfast and lunch.

Check-in begins at 8:30 a.m., and the program begins at 9:00.

Annette and Paul Brusven have graciously extended an invitation to their Spring Valley Tree Farm near Troy, Idaho for IECTA's summer farm tour on July 25th. Spring Valley Tree Farm opened for Christmas Tree sales for the first time in December 2014, so we look forward to seeing the farm and learning about Annette and Paul's operations. This will be a relaxing time to share information, have a potluck lunch, and enjoy visiting. We'll have more details at the spring meeting.

IECTA's fall meeting will be September 19th in Newman Lake, Washington at The Center at Word of Life Community Church. The guest speaker will be determined at the spring meeting.

Mark Your Calendars

- ◆ March 14: Spring Meeting at The Center at Word of Life Community Church
- ◆ July 25: Summer Farm Tour at Brusven's Spring Valley Tree Farm
- ◆ Sept. 19: Fall Meeting at The Center at Word of Life Community Church

IECTA Spring Meeting Saturday, March 14

**The Center at
Word of Life
Community Church**

**6703 North Idaho Road
Newman Lake, WA**

- ◆ Take I-90 Exit 299 at State Line and go north across the Spokane River.
- ◆ Go 0.4 miles then take a left onto E Wellesley Ave.
- ◆ Go 0.2 miles.
- ◆ Take a right onto Idaho Road.
- ◆ Go about 1.5 miles to The Center next door to the Word of Life Church.

Check-in: 8:30

Program: 9:00

\$10.00 per person

**Just for Fun ...
Bring a Door Prize**

Minutes from IECTA's Fall 2014 Meeting

Inland Empire Christmas Tree Association
Fall Annual Meeting
October 25, 2014
The Center at Word of Life Church
Newman Lake, WA

The Inland Empire Christmas Tree Association had its annual fall meeting at the Conference Center at the Word of Life Community Church on October 25, 2014. Present were officers and committee chairs: President John Myhre, Secretary Alice Rockhill, Treasurer Jim Dietz, Directors Thomas M. Roberts and Paul Brusven, Scott Carver (Website manager) and Mike Yackley (Membership). Also present were thirteen members and guest speaker, Chal Landgren, Oregon State University Extension Christmas Tree Specialist.

After meeting and greeting with a delicious light breakfast, President John Myhre opened the meeting at 9:30 a.m. He introduced Chal Landgren who presented information on Genetic Research Updates on Nordmann Fir from Georgia in Russia and Turkish Firs, two firs that survive in drier climates, but need protection from deer, elk and rabbits.

Chal Landgren began in 1979-1980 with Barney Douglas in research for (1) biological control of aphids, (2) best shipping management practices for export to the Philippines and Hawaii, (3) weed control, (4) publishing an identification and management booklet on Christmas tree pests, and (5) Cultural issues such as what trees are currently popular and what trees might be next in popularity. Turkish firs are very much like nobles, but will need some special conditions, such as fencing. He emphasized the importance of selecting strong genetic stock.

With this in mind, Chal distributed a map of Turkey showing seed stock zones where he has been doing his research. Each zone has unique characteristics, so it is important for the grower to know where the seed for seedlings originated. He described in detail the characteristics of Turkish firs and how difficult they are to distinguish from Nordmann firs. Currently, OSU has a seed orchard of Turkish firs and Nordmann firs from Georgian sources. The site for Trojan firs is very limited in size with a low elevation in western Turkey. Right now there are 3000 trees in a study spread out over the south, the northeast and the upper Midwest. He ended the first morning session with the comment that Turkish seed sources are becoming more difficult to access, so established seed orchards in the U.S. are increasingly important.



Chal Landgren shared his knowledge and facilitated discussion among IECTA members on a variety of Christmas tree topics at the fall meeting.

The group took a coffee break to share information and ask questions then reconvened with a short discussion of Douglas-firs. They are a desirable Christmas tree on the west coast. Growers provide leader control by scarring or crimping the new leader to slow or halt its growth. There is also a means of chemical control to avoid doglegs from shortening the leader called Sucker Stopper, RTU or Florele. It is rolled onto the leader to get up to 30% reduction in growth. Chal's additional advice was to keep trees narrow at the base early in the shearing rather than trying to correct a wide base later. With a considerable amount of audience input from many years of experience, Chal also discussed chemical control of weeds using Weststar, a fairly consistent chemical used by many growers which requires awareness of soil consistency to be used effectively. Other chemicals, such as fungicides and insecticides should be used only if needed. Increased limitation on

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such chemicals will come about as a result of contamination showing up in the watersheds. For aphid control, Chal's study of predator insects show lacewings to be the most successful, but "controls" are difficult to assess. Hover flies are also a natural predator and found in nearby flowers.

Lynette and John Myhre provided a wonderful lunch of sandwiches, rolled sandwiches, fruit, and coffee. Conversations took place among old and new friends concerning Christmas tree cultivation successes and failures.

After lunch, Chal continued with his expertise coupled with advice and knowledge from the listeners. He discussed wholesale marketing on the west side of Oregon. Relating that many growers have one price sales, any size. The most popular tree style today is more open, narrow with plenty of room to hang ornaments. He showed us samples of some extension booklets available on line from <<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/>>. One was a sustainability pamphlet, another was identifying beneficial insects so that growers would be aware of not killing all insects. He demonstrated plant disease glasses, that happened to be rose colored, but made diseases and insects visible. The IECTA members enjoyed and benefitted from Chal's information and his informal manner of including the expertise of the group.

President John Myhre opened the Inland Empire Christmas Tree Association business meeting at 2:00 p.m. We drew tickets for draw prizes for the members who were present. King Rockhill won a pie baked by Jim and Mary Ann Storms, Paul Brusven won the huge pumpkin provided by John and Lynette Myhre. Three western redcedars donated by Glenn and Wisten Aldrich went to Tom and Carolyn Leege, Annette Brusven, and Marissa Emel.

The April 5, 2014 Spring meeting minutes were approved as printed.

Jim Dietz presented the treasurer's report. Because TIP has upped its contribution \$5.00, it was necessary to increase the membership fee. Jim Storms moved to increase membership cost to \$25.00 on January 1, 2015. Seconded by Tom Leege and with a voice vote, the motion passed.

Seedlings from SilvaSeed will be arriving this spring. Walker's Fruit Ranch has allowed storage in their large cooler until seedlings can be distributed. IECTA is offering \$50.00 to Walker's Fruit Ranch for their willingness to store the seedlings. Tom Leege moved to give \$50 to Walker's, seconded by Tom Roberts and the motion passed with a voice vote.

Scott Carver reported on the website managed by Eric, the

webmaster. The webmaster was pleased with the ease of getting update information from the members. A convenient time to update may be the fall and spring meetings. The website is <www.iechristmastrees.org> There are many opportunities to advertise and inform the public on the website, such as a banner for a new opening and "backside" information as needed. Ex-members will be removed as necessary.

Membership: There was some discussion as to whether late renewals or new memberships would be allowed to extend into the new year. Mike Yackley moved to have ALL members renew on January 1 of each year. Dave Tysdal seconded and with a voice vote, the motion passed. After discussing membership issues, Mike Yackley passed the financial responsibility to Jim Dietz, Treasurer. To fill Jim's director position, Jim moved to appoint Dave Tysdal to his unfilled position for three years. Tom Roberts seconded and the motion passed. Tom Roberts is up for election next year, and Paul Brusven has two years remaining.

King Rockhill moved to try electronic newsletters for one year. Seconded by Paul Brusven. The motion passed after a voice vote. Lynette agreed to serve as newsletter editor newsletter for one more year, and will only send it out electronically.

Election of Officers: John Myhre nominated Mike Yackley to take his position on the slate of officers as President. Mike agreed to take the position. Alice Rockhill moved to cast an unanimous ballot for the slate of officers: Mike Yackley- President, Alice Rockhill- Secretary, Jim Dietz -Treasurer, and Dave Tysdal-three year director. Tom Roberts seconded the motion and it passed heartily. John Myhre will remain on the board as Past President. Committee chairs will remain the same with the exception of membership, which will go to Jim Dietz.

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by IECTA Secretary Alice Rockhill. First draft completed on November 4, 2014 and sent out for corrections. Final draft edited for publication February 1, 2015 by L. Myhre (editor).

Check out
IECTA's website at
<http://iechristmastrees.org>

Early Notice:

**Summer Farm Tour at Brusven's Spring Valley Tree Farm
Saturday, July 25 at 9:00 a.m.**

Stay tuned for details.

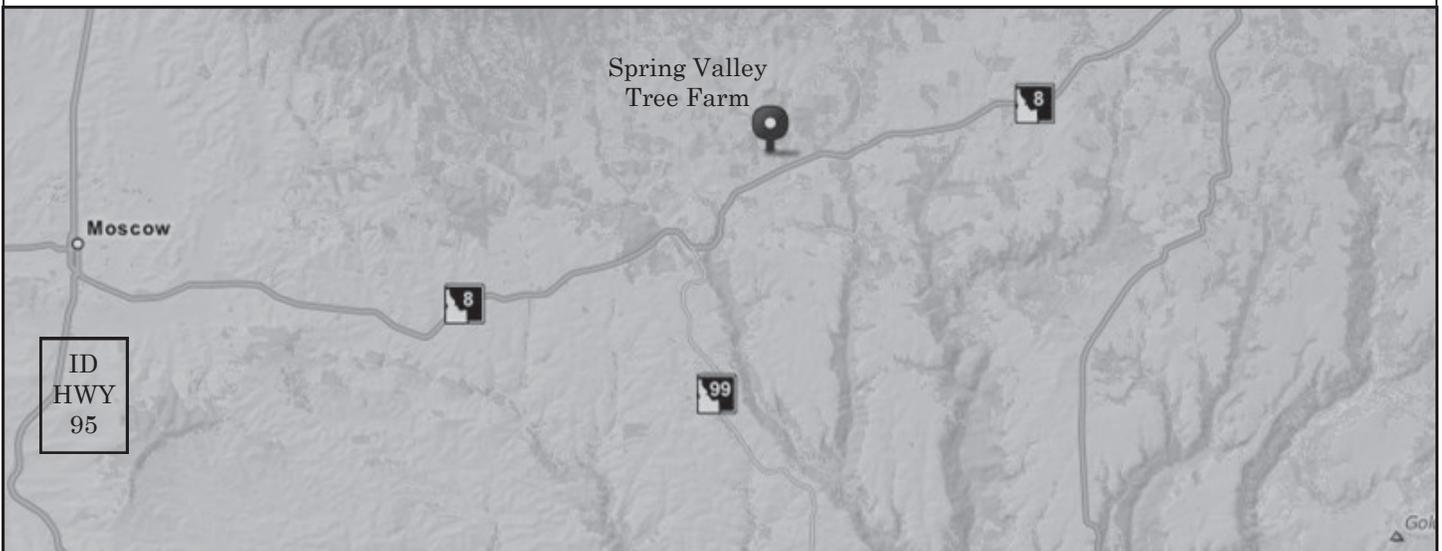
Directions to Spring Valley Tree Farm for Summer Farm Tour:

From Moscow: Head south through Moscow on Hwy 95, stay in the far left lane straight through the intersection on the south end of town. The other two lanes turn right to Lewiston, but your lane turns into Hwy 8 headed east. Stay on Hwy 8 (Troy Hwy) for 12 miles. Go through Troy and continue on Hwy 8 for 2 more miles. At the brown Spring Valley Reservoir sign turn left on Spring Valley Road. Continue for about 0.2 miles and look for the address post on the left with birdhouses and "1041" on it. Turn left up the middle driveway and go up the hill between two houses and adjacent waterway. Follow driveway straight back to forest.

From Deary: On Hwy 8 turn right on Spring Valley Road (2 miles before Troy). Follow directions above to Spring Valley Tree Farm.

Call Paul on his cell phone (208-791-4699) if you have any questions.

Map to Spring Valley Tree Farm for Summer Farm Tour



Mary Ann Storms, John Myhre, Paul Brusven, Annette Brusven, and Dave Tysdal attended IECTA's fall meeting.

