

MCTA

2016 Winter Meeting

Thursday, March 3 - Friday, March 4
Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort – Mt. Pleasant

**Featuring Special Guest Speaker: Dr. Gary Chastagner,
Washington State University**



All Inclusive Price: Once again, the meeting will take place on a **Thursday-Friday** and **registration fees are "all-inclusive."** Full registration includes a **banquet ticket** on Thursday, as well as Friday **breakfast and lunch**. Thursday registration includes a banquet ticket and Friday registration includes breakfast and lunch.

Early Bird Registration: Register by February 24 and save \$10 per registrant!

Hotel Reservations: Hotel accommodations are available at the **Soaring Eagle Casino Resort**. Single or Double occupancy rate: \$119.00 plus tax – call 877-232-4532 and mention Michigan Christmas Tree Association for this rate. Please reserve by **February 11, 2016**. For those wishing to make reservations at the **Soaring Eagle Waterpark** (located about 1 mile from Soaring Eagle Resort), call the reservation number above and they will extend the same group rate.

Thursday Banquet Menu: *Beef Satay with Black Pepper Hollandaise & Chicken Satay with Citrus Glaze* **or** *Cola Glazed Pork Loin with Bourbon Jus*

Friday Lunch Menu: *Smoked Ham and Swiss Sandwich with Honey Mustard Mayonnaise* **or** *Grilled Vegetable Wrap with Fresh Mozzarella & Sun Dried Tomato Aioli*

Schedule

Thursday, March 3

12:00 **Registration – Trade Show Open**

1:00 **Key Christmas Tree Research at Washington State University** – Dr. Gary Chastagner will share updates on important Christmas tree research areas in this extended session, including:

- Postharvest needle retention of true firs
- Postharvest moisture status and quality of trees displayed in tenon-type stands
- Screening *Abies* for Resistance to Phytophthora
- And other current topics

2:30 **Break with Exhibitors**

3:00 **2015 Year in Review**– A panel of producers will be joined by Dr. Gary Chastagner in a discussion of issues this past season, including sales, national tree inventories, needle retention and weather issues from the 2015 harvest season. Jill O'Donnell will moderate.

3:45 **Protect your Farm, your Family and your Legacy** – Dane Smith of Michigan Financial Companies will address what every farm owner needs to know to protect your farm. Learn key aspects of:

- Benefits of having a coordinated plan
- Asset protection – protecting your assets from creditors and predators
- Succession, Gift and Estate Planning
- Income and wealth maximization strategies for your family.

4:30 **Reception with Exhibitors**

6:30 **Banquet – Christmas Tree Promotion Board Update** with Rex Korson, Chris Maciborski and Marsha Gray

Friday, March 4

7:00 – 9:00 **Buffet Breakfast with Exhibitors**

9:00 **MSU – Working for You** – Dr. Bert Cregg, MSU Depts of Horticulture and Forestry will review current MSU research and extension

activities relevant to Michigan's Christmas tree industry, including coning of Fraser fir, tree improvement trials, CoFirGE, interspecific hybrids, delayed coning seed orchard, low input systems and cover crops.

9:45 **Concurrent Sessions:**

Understanding the Changes in the Worker Protection Standards – Craig Anderson of Michigan Farm Bureau will address the changes that are being instituted in the revised Worker Protection Standards, with an emphasis on key issues that may impact your farm and your workers.

9:45 **Creating Christmas Traditions and Fall Fun** – Tom and Kerry Dull of Dull's Tree Farm, Thorntown, IN – The Dull's have a mid-1800's era farmstead, just 40 miles northwest of Indianapolis, overlooking 40 beautiful acres planted in a half-dozen popular varieties of trees including; Scotch pine, White pine and Canaan fir for families to choose and harvest. Tour with Tom and Kerry their gift shop, wreath barn, pick your own pumpkin patch, corn maze, bed and breakfast and more!

10:30 **Break with Exhibitors**

11:15 **2015 – A Very Busy Year for MCTA** – Learn the outcome of the Social Media Campaign from this past season and hear about the upcoming campaign for 2016.

11:40 **MCTA Annual Meeting**

12:00 **Lunch** – Including comments from NCTA President, Tom Dull

1:00 – 2:30 **Section Meetings**

Choose and Cut Session – MCTA Choose & Cut members will engage in an informal discussion of successes and issues from the past season.

Wholesale Session – Wholesale growers will receive a labor update from Craig Anderson of Farm Bureau and then engage in information discussion of the past season.