

# Ohio Christmas Tree Association – Board Meeting Minutes

May 8, 2023

President Jeff Greig called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the Columbus Airport Marriott, 1375 N Cassady Ave, Columbus, OH.



President Greig welcomed the board members in attendance.

## **ROLL CALL:**

Present: Alan Binger, Bill Cackler, Amy Galehouse, Jeff Greig, Gary Hite, Bev Keener, Roger Koch, Matt Mongin, and Avery Wilcox.

Absent: Joel Berry, Stacie Hopple and Robin Saum

Also Attending: Executive Director, Valerie Graham

## **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**

Matt Mongin moved to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2023 OCTA board meeting. Roger Koch seconded the motion. Motion approved.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Avery Wilcox presented the Treasurer's report. He reported that the association has 132 paid members as of April 30. Current projections indicate that revenues should exceed expenditures in the general operating fund by approximately \$2,756 under current assumptions. He also reported that the winter meeting generated profits of \$4,052. Roger Koch moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Gary Hite seconded the motion. Motion approved.

## **OLD BUSINESS-**

### **New Growers Session:**

Gary Hite is hosting a fall session on October 14 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. with emphasis on field preparation and planting. The registration fee for the session will be \$30 per farm. This is the same fee as the new grower's sessions held in 2022.

### **MACT Meeting:**

Timbuk Farm will be hosting the 2024 meeting in conjunction with MACT. While the date of the session has not been formally announced it has typically been held the third weekend in July. Bev Keener reported that she has not received word from MACT yet to verify these dates.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS-**

### **Scholarship Committee:**

Chairman Roger Koch presented a written report from the scholarship committee. The committee met via zoom on April 27. There were three applicants for the 2023 scholarship. Considerable discussion was held regarding the exceptional quality of the three candidates and whether multiple scholarships could should be awarded. An anonymous donor has offered to fund an additional scholarship if the board would choose to award more than one scholarship. Two of the three candidates were deemed to be extremely close in the judges scoring.

Bill Cackler made a motion for OCTA to fund one scholarship and also award a second scholarship funded by the anonymous donor, each in the amount of \$1,000 to the two highest scoring applicants. Matt Mongin seconded the motion. More discussion followed before a vote was held. The motion ultimately was approved.

### **Social Media Committee:**

Chairman Alan Binger shared the results of the Facebook posts that had been placed since the February board meeting. There were 11 posts made. The topics were the winter meeting, the scholarship program and announcing the summer meeting. There are now 813 followers on the OCTA Facebook page.

### **Website Committee:**

Discussion was held on getting timely information and updates to Michaela Graham for content on the page.

### **Education Committee and Research Committee:**

These two committees were discussed together by Chairman, Bill Cackler. He is doing research on transplants, growth regulators, double leaders, flat tops and number of bud sets among other topics.

### **Operation Evergreen:**

Chairman Amy Galehouse reported that plans continue for 2023. She will put in requests for 50 trees to be shipped as we are unsure how many trees we will be able to afford to send this year. We can always send more trees than the quote if we raise additional funds. The board brainstormed possible ways to raise more funds. Executive Director Graham reported on a program through NASCAR that may help us to provide funds for 2024. She will do further work on this program.

### **Winter Meeting:**

Chairman Jeff Greig reported on the winter meeting. Discussion for the 2024 meeting was held with the projected date of February 24, 2024. Other possible locations were discussed because of the rising costs at the Quest Center. Executive Director Graham will look at some other options. She reported that the Quest Center is on hold for that date.

**Summer Meeting:**

Chairman Jeff Greig distributed the latest agenda for the 2023 summer meeting to be held at Greig Christmas Tree Farm on June 23-24, 2023 in Ashtabula County. All speakers are verified and set. Registration information was recently sent out in the newsletter and posted on Facebook.

The 2024 summer meeting will be held at Timbuk Farms, Granville in conjunction with MACT.

A site is being sought for the 2025 summer meeting. Several locations were suggested. Alan Binger offered to host in 2026 or later if his NW/Central Ohio location makes sense after securing a 2025 host site.

**Finance Committee:**

Chairman Alan Binger reported that the April 30 general fund balance was \$40,338 compared to \$36,918 on April 30, 2022. Other financial matters had already been covered by Treasurer Wilcox in the Treasurer's Report.

**NCTA Report:**

Chairman Matt Mongin presented a written report. He reported that the NCTA meeting and national tree and wreath competition will be held in Minnesota August 3-5 and Nova Scotia in 2024.

**Membership Committee:**

Bill Cackler reported that many state associations had reported increases in the farm directory edition of the Great Lakes Journal. Ohio ranked fourth in the number of members from the states that were listed. Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin were the top three states.

**State Fair Committee:**

Chairman Jeff Grieg reported on a number of changes that will be made at the OCTA exhibit at the Ohio State Fair in 2023. More emphasis will be put on Operation Evergreen including a QR Code for easy donations. The layout will also aid in improving the traffic flow through the exhibit. Candy canes will return this year.

**Publications/Public Relations:**

Dave Reese, retired board member is still reviewing the newsletter while Gary Hite is the board representative on the committee.

**Hall of Fame Committee:**

No report

**Evaluation Committee:**

No report

**NEW BUSINESS-**

**Board Member Terms:** Avery Wilcox has announced that he will be retiring from the board at the conclusion of his term on December 31. Amy Galehouse and Jeff Greig have indicated they intend to seek reelection to the board. Stacie Hopple is the other board member whose term expires this year. She was absent from today's meeting so her intentions are not known at this time. At least one new board member will need to be nominated beginning in 2024.

**NEXT MEETING-**

Our next regular board meeting will on Monday August 28, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Current plans are for an "in-person" board meeting in October.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Bill Cackler moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:28 p.m. Roger Koch seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

*Alan W. Binger*  
Secretary