



**Joint Winter
Meeting
NHGA/NHPGA &
UNH Cooperative Extension**

Tuesday January 13, 2015

8:00 am to 3:30 pm

The Marriott Grappone Center

70 Constitution Avenue

Concord, NH 03301



Keynote Address:

Employee Recruiting and Retention in a Seasonal Industry - Patrick D. McGuiness, Attorney at Law, Silmen & McGuiness, PLLC, St. Paul MN

Panel Discussions:

Employee Sharing

Connecting High School Students with the Green Industry

What Does the New Farm Bill Mean for You?

Concurrent Sessions:

Why do Some Perennials Survive the Winter-and Others Don't? - Dr. Leonard Perry, Extension Horticulture Professor, Univ. of Vermont.

NH Commercial Salt Applicator Certification – A Win for Business and the Environment - Eric Williams, Watershed Assistance Supervisor, NH Dept of Environmental Services.

Applying Technology to Gauge Customer Marketing Preferences: What Do Consumers See in a Display and Landscape - Dr. Ben Campbell, Asst. Professor and Extension Economist Univ. of Connecticut

A Tough Year for Trees - Kyle Lombard, NH Division of Forests and Lands and Isabel Munck, US Forest Service.

Spring Crop Check List - Dr. Brian Krug, Greenhouse/Floriculture Specialist, UNH Cooperative Extension

Root Revelations - Dr. Cathy Neal, Landscape Horticulture Specialist, UNH Cooperative Extension

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.nhpga.org/events.php>

Or to view the brochure or register, scan below:



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Register



Beat the Winter Blues

By Michael McPhail

Most of us living in New Hampshire have a deep appreciation for the four seasons. With the passing of each month, we are blessed with changing scenery and new opportunities (and challenges) for work and recreational activities. From enjoying a day hand picking apples enjoying a cool fall breeze and the amazing colors of the landscape in October to hand selecting your family's Christmas tree and enjoying a cup of hot cider in December, in just a few short months the opportunities dramatically change creating exciting and fresh opportunities for fun.

In all honesty, once the newness of the season has worn off, I find myself excited in anticipation of the coming season. As I write this article we just had the 4th largest power outage in New Hampshire's history. Sure we were out of power for 72+ hours which created havoc for many people's Thanksgiving holiday, but most residents took it in stride. As I spoke with friends and colleagues, most smiled and spoke with enthusiasm when recounting their adventures weathering the storm. Many commented on the way the storm transformed our landscape into a wonderful winter wonderland just in time for the holiday season. I know most of these folks would have a much different opinion of the storm had it occurred in say mid-February.

By mid-January, I find myself at times yearning for spring. The snow which I have diligently cleared from my driveway has turned into a wall of concrete and I find myself watching the weather hoping for some mercy. With a young family and a tight budget, the days of taking a winter vacation to a warm location to recharge our batteries are over.

A free opportunity exists to visit a warm tropical environment right here most of our communities. During these cold winter months, greenhouses and garden center growers around the state are in their peak production season. Most of us don't think of these businesses until the snow leaves our yards and we are ready to buy some plants. Producers however have the heat cranking and are busy growing the crops that we will have the opportunity to purchase in the spring. If you are feeling the winter blues and want to beat the cold for a while, I encourage you to stop into one for these businesses. Most retailers will welcome you with open arms and encourage you to browse and take advantage of their environ-



Studley's Flower Gardens in Rochester

Churchill's Garden Center in Exeter

ment. While you won't be in the market for outdoor plants yet, many offer a great selection of indoor plant options. A new indoor plant can breathe fresh life and color into your home and fill in the gaps left when the holiday décor has been taken down and packed away.

Even if you are not in the market to buy anything, most business owners I speak with still want customers to stop by to enjoy their tropical climate. Many can provide examples of community members who regularly stop in simply take in the warm air and the unique smell of plants growing but don't make any purchases until the spring.

Whenever I exit a greenhouse during this time of year, my spirits are much higher and the cold bite of the winter air isn't nearly as bad. I encourage each and every one of you to get out this winter and beat the blues with a visit to your local plant growers.

Northeast Greenhouse Conference & Expo Review

The Northeast Greenhouse Conference & Expo was held at a new location this year, the Mass Mutual Center, in Springfield MA on November 5th & 6th, 2014. The new location was easy to get to and offered spacious accommodations for this biennial greenhouse grower event.

The keynote speaker, Chris Beytes, editor of industry magazine "Grower Talks", was engaging and dynamic, not to mention funny. He touched on some important issues facing growers today, addressing them in an upbeat and informative way. He really is in touch with our industry and consumer trends.

The education sessions covered a broad range of topics of interest to growers and retailers alike. The speakers showed a great deal of expertise in their presentations. In many talks there was an increased focus on biological control organisms and how to use these better in greenhouse production, reducing traditional pesticide applications. The speakers on BCAs were extremely informative and used many real world examples to back up their recommendations. The information they presented was enlightening and showcased this fast growing alternative to traditional pesticides. There were also some great sessions on disease control, neonicotinoids, water quality and using lights in the greenhouse.

The Tradeshow in the new location offered plenty of room for networking and moving around. Exhibitors from many horticulturally related industries were present, from suppliers of young plants, suppliers of greenhouse hard goods, seed companies, insurance and financial services as well as New England University Extension representatives. The Tradeshow floor also offered a lot of good discussions and lively debates. Be sure to mark your calendar for November 2016 so you don't miss this important event.

Learn More about the
NHPGA, visit NHPGA.org

