



The North American Fruit Explorers (NAFEX) 2018 Annual Meeting will be a conference joined by the Midwest Fruit Explorers (MidFEX), an organization located in the Chicago area and closely aligned with NAFEX. Joining in also is the Savanna Institute. This conference will be held at Danville Area Community College conference center (DACC), Danville Illinois, July 26th-28th. The conference will consist of two days of Pomological presentations and hands-on demos on Thursday the 26th and Friday the 27th, followed by farm tours on Saturday the 28th.

Speaker Topics presently scheduled:

Hardy fruit and nut trees, What eating autumn berries taught me, Perennial woody polyculture, Potential for dwarfing pears in the Midwest, Other less common fruit bearing plants, The role of agroforestry in urban areas, Grape origins and “Possum Grapes”, Cultivating elderberry as a cash crop, Growing Hass caps, Uncommon fruits, Biological insect controls, Growing urban orchards, Advancing agroforestry in the heartland, Thirty years of fruit breeding research and development, Stone fruit cultivar development, Currents (including variety tastings), Growing figs in northern Illinois, Commercial prospects for persimmon and pawpaw, Asian pear variety report, Considerations for operating a Farm market, and grafting demonstrations.

Annual Banquet:

The annual banquet will be held at the beautiful Woodberry Falls Banquet Hall. Prior to the buffet dinner will be a happy hour (open cash bar) for you and with your newly found fruit growing friends. Following the banquet will be the annual live and lively auction to raise funds for all 3 organizations.

Our banquet speaker is Dr. Elizabeth Wahle. “Adventures in Growing Less Common Fruit” is the title of her presentation. What do many home and commercial gardeners both like to read or hear about in their spare time? Well...about other people growing plants, especially unique and/or less common plants that just may become their next obsession. Join Elizabeth as she discusses with humor some of her favorite uncommon fruit, including her death by persimmon and her ever optimistic dream of a shipova harvest.

Show and Tell:

Show and tell will be Thursday, July 26 beginning 7:00 PM ending 9:30 PM at DACC with overhead projector for your PowerPoint illustrations. Justin Holt will act as Master of Ceremonies. Everyone is invited to tell of their nut & fruit experiences back home. Contact Justin Holt at justinveazeyholt@gmail.com or simply bring your material and if possible you will be included. Making arrangements ahead isn't necessary but advantageous for scheduling.

Saturday Tour:

The Saturday tour sites are focused on chestnut, hazelnut, currants and a very diverse plot with over 400 varieties of edible fruit/nut species. The included lunch will be at the University of Illinois, Champaign while viewing their large energy trial which includes intercropping of chestnuts, hazelnuts, apple, currants, aronia, pawpaw and blueberries. There is also a companion fruit and nut production site. If conditions permit there will be several varieties of black currants for tasting.

Auction:

The annual benefit live auction will be held July 27 following the banquet at the banquet hall. Please store your items to donate in your room and bring them with you to the banquet hall. Tables to receive the items will be set up inside the hall entrance door for viewing prior to auctioning. Proceeds will be divided among the 3 organizations based on organization attendee numbers.

Call For papers:

You are also invited to speak and should be at least 20 minutes and up to an hour. The program is open for a greater variety of subjects concerning fruit cultivation, insect and disease control, home orchards, topics related to soils. To make arrangements as a speaker contact Tom Knaust, Program Chair at tknaust@gmail.com or Jerry Lehman at JWLehmantree@gmail.com



Lodging:

A block of 50 rooms has been reserved at the Days Motel. **They have given us the conference rate of \$60.00 per room (2 persons) which includes their deluxe continental breakfast. Days Motel is located within walking distance of restaurants and Danville's older quaint downtown stores for your shopping pleasures.**

Other Days Motel amenities:

Two room extended suites are available with microwave and refrigerator. Your days Hotel reservation includes free use of the Business Center, WI-FI, 24 hour front desk, Outdoor Pool, Fitness Center, ATM Machine, Game Room, BBQ Grill, Lounge/Bar and Coin operated guest laundry.

You must make your own hotel reservations at 217-443-6600 ask for reservations and reference NAFEX-MidFEx combined conference. **The conference rate applies only to the 50 rooms and they are expected to go quickly, reserve now. Early reservations can be canceled anytime before July 10.**

Other motels within driving distance of the conference center:

Red Roof Inn 855-516-1090, Super 8 217-443-4499, Holiday Inn Exp 800-315-2621, Quality Inn 217-443-8004

NAFEX-MidFEX 2018 CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

July 26 thru 28, 2018 Danville Area Community College, Danville, Illinois

Name _____ Spouse/companion _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ cell _____

E-mail _____

Additional guest names _____

Registration if postmarked before July 10\$70.00 ea. X____ = _____

Registration postmarked after July 10.....\$75.00 ea. X____ = _____

Non member registration.....\$85.00 ea. X____ = _____

Companion registration postmarked before July 10..... \$40.00 ea. X____ = _____

Companion registration after July 10..... \$45.00 ea. X____ = _____

One day Thursday registration.....\$40.00 ea. X____ = _____

One day Friday registration.....\$40.00 ea. X____ = _____

One day speaker registration (Either Thursday or Friday).....\$25.00 ea. X____ = _____

Registrations include lunch each day and coffee breaks with rolls.

Friday Evening banquet.....\$40.00 ea. X____ = _____

Saturday Tour on the bus including lunch.....\$41.00 ea. X____ = _____

Saturday tour, car caravan tag along includes lunch..... \$20.00 ea. X____ = _____

For special considerations and requests email Jerry Lehman at JWLehmantree@gmail.com or phone at 812-298-8733.

TOTAL (Please make check out to NAFEX 2018).....Total _____

I am a member of NAFEX (___) MidFEX(___) Savanna Institute (___)

Membership is not required to attend, for information only.

Early reservations:

Please send in your reservations early. If you make reservations early then find the need to cancel before July 10 you will receive a full and prompt refund, cheerfully. After July 10 all but \$10.00 will be refunded.

Mail registration and payment to: Jerry Lehman, 7780 Persimmon St., Terre Haute, IN 47802-4994