



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.

Meeting details and registration form is also available at our website, NAFEX.org, select the annual meeting button. You are urged to make reservations as early as possible. A limited number of rooms are available at \$60 per night for the duration of the conference.

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. You are invited to speak and should be at least 20 minutes and up to an hour.

Your attendance and voice would be a critical addition to the Fruits of the Heartland Conference. We very much look forward to hearing from you. To make arrangements as a speaker contact Tom Knaust at tknaust@gmail.com.

Saturday Tour:

Presently the planned visit 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 inner cropping 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.

Show and Tell:

Show until 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. Have you developed a new method for grafting, tree husbandry, marketing success, organizing a new chapter or just want to show slides or video of your orchard or new fruit? Others will want to know about it. This is your chance, whether it is 3 minutes or 10. Contact Justin 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.

NAFEX Board Meeting:

The officers and board meeting will be held Wednesday evening, July 25 at 3:00 to 5:00 PM and open to all members. Location Days Hotel and Conference Center, 77 North Gilbert Street, Danville.

**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 available with microwave and refrigerator. Free use of business center, WI-FI, 24 hour front desk, Outdoor Pool,

Fitness Center, ATM Machine, Game Room, BBQ Grill, Business Center, 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

Call for papers:

Our goal is to bring together bright minds in the national fruit growing community to report on current work, projects, farming operations as well as member backyard grower reports are invited that will inspire and inform our attendees. Your talk should be at least 20 minutes and up to an hour.

Many members of all 3 organizations are shy about making presentations. Don't be! In a survey a few years back about half of those responding said they desire home grower reports as well as professional research papers. Members are looking for experienced growers of different fruits and nuts. Your contribution as a speaker is solicited. PowerPoint (AV) projectors will be available.

Cookies:

The conference center will allow us to place cookies, brownies etc. in the coffee break area as long as they contain nuts and fruits and are home made. So bring a dozen or two of your favorites. Also bring another dozen for the auction.

Auction:

The annual benefit 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..

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, day _____ night _____ 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.....\$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 ___ = _____

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. Many service providers require advance payment. 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

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