

# Minnesota Hazelnut Conference 2024

March 22, 23

**The Grand Event Center,**

316 Washington Street

Northfield, Minnesota

## Friday:

### Pre-event tour:

1:00 PM – 2:30 Site Visit: Rosemount (See below for details)

### Agroforestry and hazelnut social at The Grand:

4:30 - 6:30 Drop in Happy Hour -- (get dinner on your own, then drop in when ready)

- Bar Open
- Light Hors d'oeuvres
- Hazelnut goodies created by chef Beth Dooley with American Hazelnut Company hazelnuts, hazelnut flour, and hazelnut oil
- Music -- Slapdash Bluegrass (Northfield, MN)
- Vendor tables

6:30 – 8:30 Mini presentations

- **Regen Ag Alliance** (Northfield and work in the region. Perennial plants in the agroforestry setup. Integration with animal livestock and perennial plants)
- **UMHDI and Team**
  - Where to buy plants -- Jason Fischbach (UW Extension)
  - Overstory/Midwest Hazelnuts LLC -- Colin Cureton (UMN)
  - EAP Program -- Savanna Institute and The Nature Conservatory
- **Open Mic Announcements** Local farms, organizations, and hazelnut-related businesses talk about their projects

8:30 - 10:30 Bar Open, music, and networking

## Saturday:

8:00 - 9:00 Open, coffee

9:00 – 9:45 **Welcome and Opening Statements: Forever Green Minnesota and Midwest Hazelnuts** -- Dr. Don Wyse (UMN Forever Green)

9:45-10:30 **Research Updates**

- **Joint Performance Trials and Cultivar Updates: When available and from whom?** -- Jason Fischbach (UW Extension)
- **Propagation: what is working, what's not:** -- Mark Haman (UMN)

**10:30 -- 10:45 Break**

**11:00 -- 12: 30 Research Updates**

- **Irrigation** -- Xinhua Jia (NDSU)
- **Hazelnut Flavor** -- Megan Booth (OSU) -- hazelnut flavor evaluation
- **Entomology** -- Brian Aukema (UMN)

**12:30—1:30 Lunch -- Catered by the Grand**

**1:30 – 2:30 Seed-Based Strategies**

- **The Risks and Rewards of a Seed-Based Strategy** -- Jason Fischbach (UW Extension)
- **Genomic prediction models** -- Julie Dawson (UW)

**2:30 – 3:30 Industry Development I**

- **Updates from other growing regions: Upper Atlantic** -- Abigail Beck (New York Tree Crops Alliance)
- **Financial Investments and Climate Smart Commodities** -- Barbara Decré and PJ Connolly (Savanna Institute)

**3:30 -- 3:45 Break**

**3:45-- 4:45 Industry Development II**

- **Consumer Survey Results** Emma Dempsey (American Hazelnut Company) and Jason Fischbach (UW Extension)
- **Product, brand, and marketing strategies: American Hazelnut Company and Overstory Ventures** -- Colin Cureton (Forever Green Initiative)

**Friday Rosemount Site Visit Details**

**1:00 PM – 2:30 Site Visit: Rosemount.** Attendees make their way to Rosemount to start the event with a guided tour of the Rosemount planting. Things to note in early spring:

- The contrasting bush sizes and architectures of the 1<sup>st</sup> generation selections vs the 2<sup>nd</sup> gen Midwest by Oregon State progeny vs the Midwest by Midwest progeny.
- Variability within full-sib families (to drive home an important point in Jason's presentation)
- EFB will be highly visible on the leafless bushes
- Catkins will be highly visible, and might even be starting to expand. It will likely be early to see pistillate flowers, but with climate change, maybe not.
- We will likely be doing pollinations at Rosemount this year, and will likely have already put out pollination bags

**Be prepared for cold and muddy conditions and dress accordingly**

**Directions to field at Rosemount:**

From Rosemount, take Hwy 3 south to 170<sup>th</sup> St W.

Head east (left) on 170th St. W and follow directions to Whitetail Woods Regional Park

- Turn south off of 170th St W onto Station Trail (about 1 1/4 miles)

- Pass the sign to Whitetail Woods Regional Park on the right. Just beyond the bend the road will turn to gravel.
- After about a quarter of a mile you will see a sign for Lone Rock hiking trail on the right. Turn up the short steep hill to the parking lot for the hiking trail.
- There is a large white shed at the crest of the hill. The hazelnuts are down a grassy lane in a large fenced area to the left beyond the white shed, but park in the large horse trailer parking lot to the right.

[Google Maps location](#)

**Coordinates:** Latitude 44.696, Longitude -93.080