



## 2025 Upper Midwest Hazelnut Growers Conference

Friday, March 7, 2025

**2:00-2:30 – Conference Opens**

**2:30-5:00 – Growing Hazelnuts in the Midwest**

- *Lead Presenter: Jason Fischbach, UW-Extension*

**2:30 – 3:00 – Site and plant selection, enterprise budgeting**

**3:00 – 3:30 – Technical and financial assistance for Midwest growers**

**3:30 – 4:00 – Site preparation, planting, and weed control options**

**4:00 – 4:15 - Break**

**4:15 – 4:30 – Pruning and size management**

**4:30 – 5:00 – Harvest, post-harvest processing, marketing**

**5:00-7:00pm - Dinner on your own**

**7:00-8:30pm – Notes From the Field – Mini-Talks From Fellow Growers**

Jason Fischbach – Wanted: Your Input on Midwest Hazelnut Branding

Emma Dempsey - Introducing Midwest Munch and Hazel Heart Farms - AHC Brand Updates

Jeff Meachen – Getting Started as a Go-First Farm

Brandon Rutter – Coppice With Confidence

Alyssa Headley – Mouse Ear Disorder and Somatic Embryogenesis

Tom Sweeny – Japanese Beetle Invasion, Acceptance and Victory'

Steve Unverzagt – Gertens Propagation Projects

Dave Bohnhoff – Updates on an Over-The-Row Harvester For Hazelnuts in the Midwest



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**Saturday, March 8, 2025**

**8:15-8:30 – Welcome and Introductions**

**8:30-9:15 – What’s Happening in the Upper Midwest**

*-Wisconsin: Jason Fischbach, UW-Extension; Iowa: Jeff Jensen, Iowa Nut Growers Association; Minnesota: Lois Braun, University of Minnesota; Illinois: Savanna Institute (invited)*

**9:15-9:45 – Rejuvenating and Managing Mature Seedling Plantings – Ideas and Experiences From Twin Ponds Farm**

*- Mark Hamann, University of Minnesota*

**9:45-10:00 – BREAK**

**10:00-10:30 – On-Farm, Low-Tech Propagation Methods for Your Best Plants**

*- Lois Braun and Mark Hamann, University of Minnesota*

**10:30-11:00 – Cultivar Updates: Results From the UMHDI Joint Performance Trials**

*- Jason Fischbach, UW-Extension*

**11:00-11:30 - Using Landscape Genetics as the Basis for Selecting an American Hazelnut Population**

*- Mike Demchik, UW-Steven’s Point*

**11:30-Noon – Midwest Hazelnuts, LLC – Helping Launch a Midwest Hazelnut Industry Through Grower Clusters**

*- Jason Fischbach, UW Extension; Louis Kemp, Regenerative Agriculture Alliance*

**Noon – 1PM – LUNCH and Grower of the Year Presentation**

**1:00-1:45 – A Plan for Breeding Better Hazelnuts for the Upper Midwest**

*- Scott Brainard, UW-Madison and Emily Delorean, University of Minnesota*

**1:45-2:30 – Alley-Cropping Hazelnuts – Early Lessons From the Savanna Institute Pilot Farm**

*- Adam D’Angelo, Savanna Institute*

**2:30-3:00 – Oil Content and Quality of Hazelnut Germplasm Grown in the Upper Midwest**

*- Peyton Higgins, UW-Madison*

**3:00 - Adjourn**