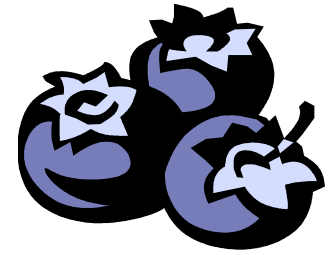




MAY 2018

dispatch



Nova Scotia's Provincial Berry

Wild Blueberry Producers Association of Nova Scotia

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WBPANS TWILIGHT MEETINGS

May 28 (Monday)	5:00 pm—9:30 pm	Joe Slack's Receiving Shed, 841 Middle Road, Debert
May 29 (Tuesday)	5:00 pm—9:30 pm	John Mattie's Receiving Shed, 14 Blueberry Lane, Monastery
May 31 (Thursday)	5:00 pm—9:30 pm	Art Sargent's Receiving Shed, 1410 Smith Hollow Rd, Parrsboro

5:00—6:00 pm Field Walks to identify issues and pests in wild blueberry fields and low cost management options

6:00 - 7:00 pm Researcher updates and activities:

- **Dr. David Percival**—New Fungicides and How They Work
- **Dr. Chris Cutler**—Insect Management & Pollination Update
- **Dr. Scott White**—Weed Management Update
- **Dr. Debra Moreau**—Spotted Wing Drosophila Update

7:00—7:30 pm - **Peter Rideout**—WBPANS Update and Industry Outlook

7:30—8:30 pm - **Dr. Travis Esau**—Harvester Adjustments and Maintenance (brush adjustment etc.)

8:30—9:00 pm - **Peter Burgess & David Atkinson**—Harvester Safety & Other Issues Affecting Fruit Quality

9:00—9:30 pm - **Peter Burgess**—Sprayer Technology & Optimizing Applications

This year's Twilight Information Meetings for wild blueberry producers will focus on low cost management options for producing fields, as well as strategies for maintaining less productive or developing fields with minimum inputs. As we've done in recent years, the pre-meeting field walks will begin at 5 pm at each location and may involve a short drive to visit fields of particular interest nearby.

Most of our dedicated wild blueberry research and extension team members will be in attendance at all, or at least some of the meetings, including: Drs., David Percival, Qamar Zaman, Chris Cutler, Scott White, Svetlana Yurgel and Travis Esau from Dalhousie University, Dr. Deb Moreau from AAFC Kentville, Robyn McCallum and Sawyer Olmstead from the Atlantic Tech Transfer Team for Apiculture and of course, Peter Burgess, from Perennia who will be coordinating the field walks.

We will also be paying particular attention to your harvesters. Dr. Travis Esau of the Precision Agriculture Team at DalAC will go through a shop floor discussion of harvester adjustments and maintenance for maximum fruit recovery and quality. Our harvester operator training team, Peter Burgess and David Atkinson will lead a discussion of harvester safety and issues affecting fruit quality. Peter Rideout, WBPANS executive director, will give an update on the association's activities and industry outlook and many of our Board and Committee members will be in attendance to hear your ideas and concerns as we approach the 2018 harvest season.

We look forward to seeing you at one of these locations the week of May 28.

Reminders:

- ◆ **Producers may bring samples of insects, diseases and weeds to the meetings for identification.**
- ◆ **Please bring your pesticide applicators license to be eligible for recertification points.**

WBPANS Hosting Maritime Wild Blueberry Field Day

**Art Sargent's Receiving Shed, 1480 Smith Hollow Road, Parrsboro, NS
Thursday, July 12, 2018**

The three Maritime wild blueberry producer associations have been working together on many issues and projects over the years. This year the three Boards of Directors have again, agreed to have a combined summer field day for all Maritime growers. Nova Scotia is very pleased to host this combined event and we are looking forward to welcoming our friends from throughout the regional industry for a great day of sharing ideas, new technology and management concepts. Art Sargent in Parrsboro, NS has generously offered his facilities as the location for this event. In addition to machinery displays and other exhibits, there will be short updates on current industry projects, crop and market outlook, as well as morning field tours in the local area and a lunch on site. More details will be coming in our June newsletter.

CANADIAN YOUNG FARMERS FORUM February 23-25, 2018—Saskatoon

This year, my last year of eligibility, I accepted my final invitation to represent WBPANS as a young wild blueberry farmer attending the CYFF AGM held in Saskatoon. It was my third year attending and it was another great success. The weekend conference is an excellent opportunity to network with fellow young farmers from Nova Scotia and all across Canada, discussing successes and challenges from all different types of Canadian agriculture within a professional environment. The conference includes presenters throughout the weekend who focus on topics that leave young farmers feeling motivated, inspired and educated. The training; from financial management, agricultural leadership, farmland purchase options and succession planning to name a few, is excellent to bring back and apply to our own businesses. This year I truly enjoyed the presentations on Strategies to Enhance Farmers Health and Happiness (Mental Health) and the Impact of Social Media on Agriculture, two presentations that I think are extremely valuable in our Wild Blueberry industry today. Next year there is thought that the AGM hopefully will be coming to Eastern Canada. I hope our industry and partners will be able to sponsor as many young wild blueberry farm leaders to the conference as possible, hopefully representing Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, PEI, and Quebec. I want to thank WBPANS and its members for the past three years of sponsorship. I hope to help any young producers wanting to grow within our incredible industry, to continue our success on the Canadian and Global market, and help to tell our Wild Blueberry Story!!

Respectfully submitted,
David Atkinson

If you are a young wild blueberry farmer between the ages of 18-40 and interested in attending a future Canadian Young Farmers Conference, please contact the WBPANS office at info@nswildblueberries.com or 902-662-3306

Wild Blueberry Blight Line

902-662-4242

The Wild Blueberry Blight Line is up and running again for 2018. Updates will be made to the phone-line (902-662-4242) late in the afternoon on Tuesday's and Friday's. Information will also be posted on the Nova Scotia Wild Blueberry Blog (<http://www.novascotiawildblueberryblog.com/>)

If growers have any questions regarding *Monilinia* infection and control, please contact Peter Burgess at Perennia (902-896-0277)



PERENNIA WILD BLUEBERRY WEBSITE

For the updated **Wild Blueberry Pest Management Guide, Pesticide Guide & Charts** and **Blight updates**, go to the Perennia Wild Blueberry Website at: <http://www.perennia.ca/fieldservices/fruit-crops/wild-blueberries/>

Also be sure to subscribe to the Wild Blueberry Blog at <http://www.novascotiablueberryblog.com> to receive regular updates.



BEELINE 1-866-606-4636 (TOLL FREE)

The Beeline will be up and running again for 2018. If wild blueberry growers are looking for pollinators this year, they can check on the beeline to source them:

<http://www.perennia.ca/fieldservices/honey-bees-and-pollination/>

Beekeepers can contact Perennia at 902-896-0277 to list their available bees on the beeline.



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WBANA-CANADA UPDATE—APRIL 27TH, 2018.

WBANA Canada recently attended producer meetings in all of the growing areas and we were able to speak to many producers and answer any questions they had. John Cameron, President of WBANA Canada, was present at the PEI Wild Blueberry Growers Association AGM and made a presentation to producers that was well received.

On April 2nd. 2018, Dr. Willy Kalt made a presentation on the Health benefits of Canadian Wild Blueberries to media and to the JingJiang Group in Shanghai China. WBANA Canada and the JingJiang Group signed a Memorandum of Understanding in November 2017, this group will assist in lobbying the Chinese government to look at reducing or eliminating tariffs on Canadian Wild Blueberries going into China. On April 3rd., Dr. Kalt made a similar presentation in Beijing China to Chinese scientists, media and high ranking government officials in the Chinese Health department. Both presentations were very well received and we believe that the more the Chinese officials know about the health benefits of Canadian Wild Blueberries, the better the chances of getting relief on the high tariff.

UPCOMING:

On Tuesday May 1st, a special Breakfast will be held on Parliament Hill in Ottawa for MP's and Industry representatives. MP Bill Casey and his assistant Joel Henderson are spearheading the event. The objective is to thank Government for their assistance in helping WBANA Canada in developing new markets, to make them aware of the size of the Wild Blueberry Industry and to ask for their support in getting relief from tariffs with certain countries that we are targeting.



2018 MEETING DATES

- Twilight Meetings: Monday, May 28—Joe Slack's Receiving Shed, 841 Middle Road, Debert
 Tuesday, May 29—John Mattie's Receiving Shed, 14 Blueberry Lane, Monastery
 Thursday, May 31—Art Sargent's Receiving Shed, 1480 Smith Hallow Rd, Parrsboro
- Field Day: Thursday, July 12— Art Sargent's Receiving Shed, 1480 Smith Hallow Rd, Parrsboro
- Annual Meeting: Friday & Saturday, November 16 & 17—Best Western Glengarry Hotel, Truro

CHANGE OF MEETING DATES FOR 2019

The Board of Directors has had discussions about changing the Annual Meeting from a Friday, Saturday format to a Thursday, Friday format in November 2019. The Board would like to have your opinion on your preference of days, before making any changes. Please call or email WBPANS office to vote for your preferred day for the 2019 AGM.

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