

2022 Orchard Greetings!

The place to be for healthy fruit growers here in the Northeast is at our annual roundtable meeting in the Berkshire Mountains of Massachusetts every March. This will be the 30th year doing this!

No other get-together better explores the cutting edge issues that face community orchardists. Our unfettered talk ranges from how to best manage repellent strategies for curculio to the complex overlay of fruit moth woes. We'll discuss what global warming means for our trees and how a beneficial microorganism complex furthers disease control in a holistic orchard. What about foliar nutrition? Is organic thinning (beyond endless handwork) becoming a real possibility? What are the latest discoveries regarding soil health and forest edge ecology? And you bet we share our marketing success stories and frustrations. Local agriculture is truly one of those earth-saving graces now needed more than ever.

Many of us find this collective session invaluable to delve into the finer nuance that makes low spray goals possible. Our circle has been as few as eight and as many as three dozen. We each have valuable takes on "orchard truth" yet only by coming together do we sometimes realize the bigger picture that leads to answers. Some of us offer years of well-pruned experience; others offer offbeat idealism that veterans invariably overlook. Feel free to bring photos, spray records, or anything else that will help us to get a sense of your orchard, as well as books or articles other people might be interested in.



READ CAREFULLY: Changes have been made to the registration process:

Mark your calendars for **Wednesday and Thursday, March 2 and 3**, to join us. Reservations can only be made once the new year begins. There are now two package options, the first of which includes coming the night before to participate in a learning circle on Wednesday morning. The second option is the familiar plan, coming for lunch on Wednesday with the official opening of the meeting at 1 o'clock in the afternoon. Complete meal packages are included in either option; locals choosing to sleep at home get a slight discount. Registration includes a stipend of \$10 to cover organizational costs. Send a check made out to the "**Holistic Orchard Network**" to reserve your place to Michael at the address below. We recommend checking in at michael@groworganicapples.com that space is still available if registering after the middle of January. Further details concerning cost, logistics, and directions can be found on the back.

Michael Phillips
Holistic Orchard Network
859 Lost Nation Road
Groveton, NH 03582
(603) 636-2286
www.GrowOrganicApples.com

2022 Berkshire Roundtable

Location: Stump Sprouts Conference Center, Hawley, Massachusetts

OPTION ONE: Wednesday March 2, learning circle starts 9 AM after breakfast · Thursday March 3, ends after lunch.

Cost **\$135**, includes 5 meals, two nights lodging, and tax.

OPTION TWO: Wednesday March 2, opening circle starts 1 PM after lunch at noon · Thursday March 3, ends after lunch.

Cost **\$105**, includes 4 meals, one nights lodging, and tax.

Please bring your own bedding (sleeping bag or sheets, blankets, and pillow). Arrive Tuesday evening after 6 PM if choosing option one, being sure to have dinner somewhere along the way. Arrive Wednesday in time for lunch if choosing option two.

Fees include bunkhouse-style lodging and incredible food prepared by Lloyd and Susan, our hosts. **Everyone must pre-register; no exceptions.** Stump Sprouts can sleep approximately 28 folks and with a little ingenuity we can manage to fit several more in nooks and crannies. Those opting not to stay overnight can reduce the price by \$15 per night . . . making the price for option one \$105 and option two \$90 accordingly. We all pay equally for overall use of facilities in this price structure. Nor will we break out meals as distinct events any longer, so please don't ask.

IMPORTANT: More and more growers are asking to attend this meeting. Those who commit to attending both days will be given priority. We're also asking that no more than two individuals per farm operation register so more orchards can be included.

Stump Sprouts is a beautiful spot on the side of a mountain in western Massachusetts. There's groomed cross country ski trails so bring skis if there's the chance for recent spring snow. Count on someone firing up the sauna as well. Cell service is iffy; the phone number at Stump Sprouts is (413) 339-4265 if you need to be found.

Send a check for the appropriate amount made out to the **Holistic Orchard Network**, to Michael Phillips, 859 Lost Nation Road, Groveton, NH, 03582. This is non-refundable if you cancel after others have been turned away; otherwise all but \$25 will be returned.

If driving from the East:

Take Route 2 west. Pay attention to signs around Greenfield. In Charlemont, take 8A south for 6 miles to West Hill Road. Turn right and go UP the hill to Stump Sprouts.

If driving from South or West:

Take Taconic Parkway in good weather to Route 23, then east to Route 7, then north to Pittsfield. From Pittsfield. Take Route 9 east to 8A, then follow 8A to West Hill Road. 4 miles past the point where 8A leaves 116. In poor weather, take Interstate 91 to Route 2 and follow directions as if coming from the East.

If driving from the North:

Barrel down I-91 through Vermont into Massachusetts to Route 2 west. Then follow directions from the East.