

2012 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 21st year in a row we are 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 beloved trees and how a beneficial microorganism complex furthers disease control in a holistic orchard. Is organic thinning (beyond endless handwork) becoming a real possibility? What are the latest discoveries regarding soil health and wood's 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 thirty-three. 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 people who come offer years of well-pruned experience; others offer offbeat idealism that veterans invariably overlook. All who love their trees and the good fruit are needed to make this coming together a worthy success.



So mark your calendars for **Wednesday and Thursday, March 7 and 8**, to be at Stump Sprouts in West Hawley, Massachusetts. Make your reservations by early February so we can have an accurate head count to give ze' cook! Please send a check for \$82.62 (this includes tax) to Michael made out to "Stump Sprouts" as the surest way of ascertaining that we indeed have enough people attending to hold our reservation. All further details that you may need are on the back. Feel free to share this flyer with other interested apple growers!

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2012 Berkshire Roundtable

Location: Stump Sprouts Conference Center, Hawley, Massachusetts

Time: March 7, starts at noon with lunch — March 8, ends after lunch

Fee: \$82.62, includes 4 meals, lodging, and tax

Logistical Information:

Please bring bedding (sleeping bag or sheets, blankets, and pillow), towels, and toiletries. We also welcome 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.

The \$82.62 fee includes bunkhouse-style overnight lodging, four meals, and tax. This price is based on a minimum of 8 people; so if we are fewer than that, we will need to provide our own food or to pay as if we were 8 people. Please pre-register so we'll know how many are coming and can figure out a backup plan if we are a small group. If you will not be staying overnight or can attend only part of the meeting, the fee is as follows: \$12 use of facilities, plus \$10 for breakfast, \$12 for lunch, and \$14 for dinner (meal prices include the tax).

Stump Sprouts is a beautiful spot on the side of a mountain in western Massachusetts. They have groomed cross country ski trails (bring your skis if there's any chance of recent spring snow) and a sauna, as well as delicious meals. Lloyd is an excellent and generous cook! The phone number at Stump Sprouts is (413) 339-4265.

Pre-register by sending a check for \$82.62 (or the appropriate amount if you will not be staying overnight or for the entire meeting) made out to **Stump Sprouts Conference Center**, to Michael Phillips, 859 Lost Nation Road, Groveton, NH, 03582. For more information, feel free to call Michael at (603)636-2286, or e-mail Michael Phillips at michael@groworganicapples.com.

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.

An actual map can be found at <http://www.stumpsprouts.com/directions.shtml>