

**Press Release- For Immediate Release**

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**Iowa Nut Growers Hosts Upper Midwest Hazelnut Growers Conference  
Decorah Iowa will be “nuts” March 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

Decorah IA - The Iowa Nut Growers Association (INGA) will be hosting the 2020 Upper Midwest Hazelnut Growers Conference in Decorah IA March 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. This annual conference is attended by growers from Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Nebraska, and throughout the Midwest to learn more about this emerging agroforestry crop.

Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup> is the first day of the conference and is geared towards beginning and aspiring growers. Registration begins at noon at the Winneshiek County Fairgrounds located on Montgomery St, for a come-and-go processing open house which runs from 1:00 to 4:00. The processing demonstrations will feature equipment options used to husk, size, crack, and sort hazelnuts for small scale and beginning growers. Come see what growers have built to process nuts.

At 4:00 p.m. things will move from the Winneshiek County Fairgrounds to Pulpit Rock Brewery, located at 207 College Dr. in Decorah for Hazelnuts 101 from 4:15 to 5:30. This introductory course for beginners or potential growers will lay out the basics of growing hazelnuts, at least what we know right now, and provide good context for the presentations on Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at the Hotel Winneshiek. Hazelnuts 101 is limited to 45 participants so register today to ensure a seat. Friday evening will also feature show-n-tell from 6:30 to 8:00 at Pulpit Rock Brewery.

Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup> is a full day at the Hotel Winneshiek located at 104 E Water St. in Decorah. Registration begins at 7:00 a.m. with presentations starting at 8:00. Growers and researchers in Nebraska, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa will provide updates on a range of topics including: feeding hazelnuts to pigs for value added meat, genetics and plant availability, network clusters, harvesting and processing equipment, pest and disease control, pollinator habitat, fertilizer & weed control, and more. Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup> is focused on the latest and greatest with hazelnuts and the development of this bush as a viable 3<sup>rd</sup> crop in the Midwest; it will also feature the Distinguished Grower Award presented over the noon hour during the lunch ceremony.

Learn how to get involved with the Iowa Hazelnut Project and what opportunities exist with this exciting multi-functional crop; from windbreaks to orchards and everything in between, the future of Iowa is nuts!

Registration for the conference is \$50 for both days; \$20 for Friday only, and \$30 for Saturday only. You can register on-line at [www.treesforever.org/HazelnutConference](http://www.treesforever.org/HazelnutConference) Individuals interested in bringing equipment to demonstrate or participating in the show-n-tell on Friday evening please contact Jeff Jensen at [jjensen@treesforever.org](mailto:jjensen@treesforever.org) or on his cell at 515-320-6756.

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