

# Register by April 14

Register online at [www.nctreefarm.org](http://www.nctreefarm.org) or by mail using the form below.

Your name

Address

City/State/ZIP

Phone

Email *(Registration will be confirmed by email.)*

Names of people in your party

1.

2.

3.

4.

Registration Fee

Tree Farmers and their family members, inspectors, board members and donors: \$50 per person

All others: \$75 per person

Number of Registrations	Amount	Total
	X \$50	\$
	X \$75	\$
TOTAL DUE \$		

Please dress for the weather and wear shoes appropriate for walking on uneven ground.

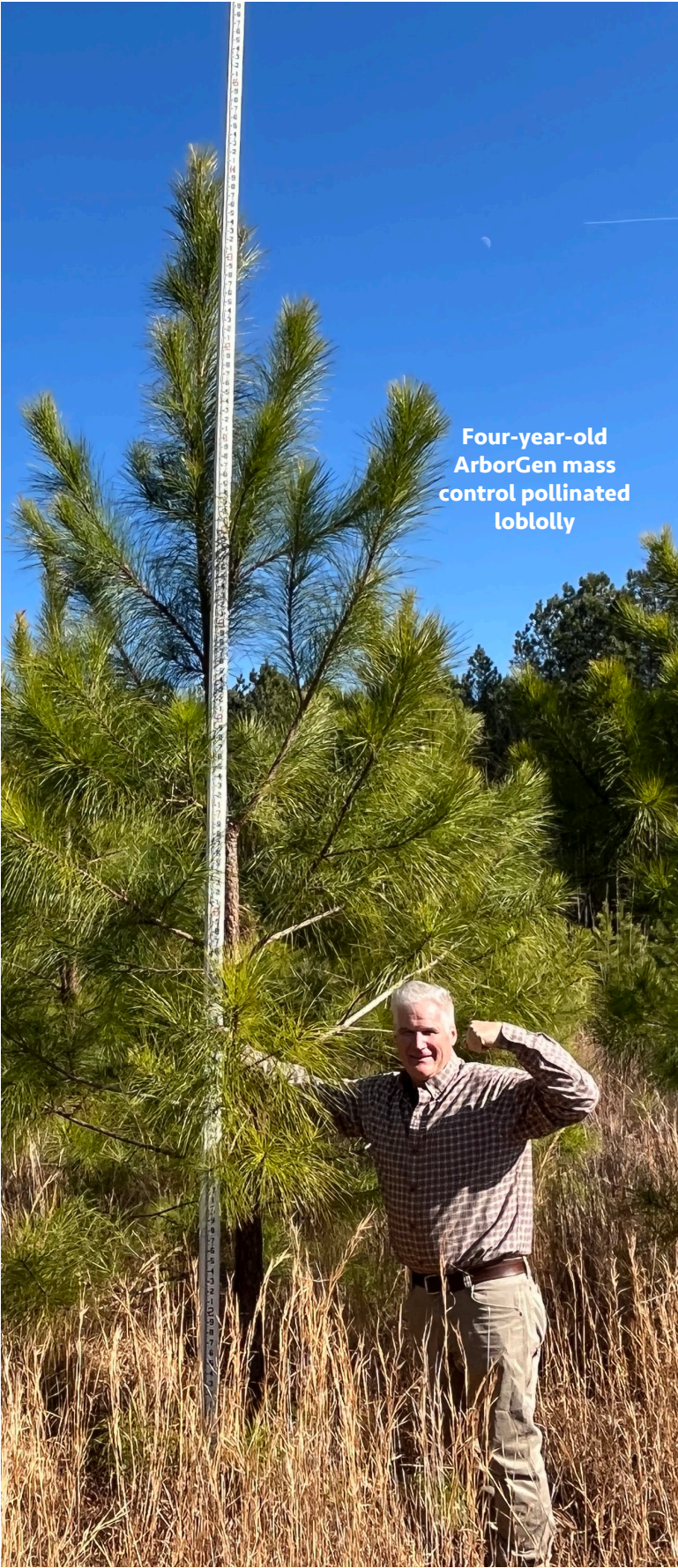
Transportation will be provided for the tour. There will be minimal walking.

Make check payable to the **N.C. Tree Farm Program**.

Detach registration form and mail with check to:

**N.C. Tree Farm Program**  
**1807 Dunwick Court**  
**Apex, NC 27523**

Or register online at [www.nctreefarm.org](http://www.nctreefarm.org).



N.C. Tree Farm Program  
1807 Dunwick Court  
Apex, NC 27523



## N.C. Tree Farm Program 2025 Annual Meeting

First Fruits Farm  
2805 E. River Road  
Louisburg, NC 27549

**April 24, 2025**  
Register by April 14

For more information,  
call 919-917-8646 or  
email [nctreefarm@gmail.com](mailto:nctreefarm@gmail.com)



## Join us on April 24

for the  
N.C. Tree Farm Program's  
**2025 Annual Meeting** at  
Jason and Tay Brown's  
**First Fruits Farm**  
in Louisburg.

**First Fruits Farm** is a 1,000-acre farm founded by former NFL player Jason Brown. Rooted in faith and service, the farm's mission is to fight hunger and promote health by growing and donating fresh, nutritious food to those in need. Since its inception, First Fruits Farm has provided more than 2 million pounds of produce to communities across North Carolina. Through sustainable farming practices, educational programs and community outreach, the farm feeds the hungry and fosters awareness of food insecurity and healthy living.

First Fruits Farm has been featured on the PBS show *Growing a Greener World*, NBC's *Today* and CBS's *On the Road With Steve Hartman*. Jason also published a book titled *Centered: Trading Your Plans for a Life That Matters* that tells the story of his journey from the NFL to a life of service.

In addition to their focus on fighting hunger, the Browns also manage 410 woodland acres as part of their larger agricultural operation. They have made significant road improvements, installed culvert pipes, conducted prescribed burns, thinnings and final harvests, replanted genetically improved trees, established a heritage apple orchard and planted hybrid American chestnuts. In 2023, the Browns were named N.C. Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year.

The 2025 Annual Meeting will include a field tour focused on agritourism, pond management, bird and wildlife habitat, and sustained yield forest management. The awards ceremony will recognize Tree Farm anniversaries, the Inspector of the Year and the Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year.

**Register by April 14.**

## Agenda

**8:30** **Check-in Opens**

**9:30** **Welcome**

### Overview of First Fruits Farm

Jason Brown will tell the story of his journey from being an NFL football player to becoming a farmer focused on addressing hunger and food insecurity in his community.

### Genetic Improvement of Loblolly Pine: Preparing for Future Timber Markets

Austin Heine, reforestation advisor with ArborGen, Inc., will discuss ArborGen's efforts to create a pine seedling that produces significant yields in forest productivity and maximizes financial returns through forest science and genetic gain.

### Conservation Easements

Derek Halberg, executive director of the Tar River Land Conservancy, will talk about conservation easements, the role of land trusts and the easements that are currently on First Fruits Farm.

**10:35** **Break**

**10:50** **Tour Begins**

### Agritourism

Jason Brown will provide an overview of the agritourism projects that enhance the farm's sustainability including American chestnut plantings, blueberry and grape cultivation, fruit orchards, cattle, an on-site vegetable stand and hosting weddings, tours, community food bank projects and sponsored events.

### Pond and Fisheries Management

Jim Rice, Ph.D., a retired aquatic ecologist and Extension fisheries specialist at N.C. State University, will discuss pond management, water quality and fish health with a focus on predator-prey interactions and food-web dynamics.

### Bird and Wildlife Habitat Management

Phil Dhoerr, Ph.D, a retired fisheries and wildlife professor at N.C. State University, will share how First Fruits Farm provides habitat for a variety of songbirds and how Tree Farmers can manipulate their properties to encourage songbird and wildlife diversity.

### Sustained-Yield Forest Management

David Halley, consulting forester with True North Forest Management Services, will discuss the long-range plan for a sustained-yield forest that generates periodic income while improving yield and productivity. Topics include planning for age diversity, thinning, prescribed burning, road maintenance, conservation easements and advancements in tree genetics.

**1:10** **Lunch**

**2:00** **Awards Presentations**

**2:45** **Adjourn**

## N.C. Tree Farm Program Supporters (As of February 15, 2025)

### Individual Supporters

#### Sustainers (Lifetime Annual Commitment)

Mary Frances Alsup, Keith Alsup, Dean Alsup  
David Henderson, Ash-Leigh Woods, LLC  
Hulka Family Fund  
Maurice and Laura Hull, Waukegan Farms, LLC  
Jeremy and Cathy Isom  
Edwin and Bobbie Listerman  
Leslie and Rob McCormick  
Richard W. "Jimbo" Shaver  
Al and Patti Weller  
Dave and Mary Jo Woodmansee

#### Legacy Tree (\$5,000 and Above)

Amy and Clint North

#### Sawtimber (\$500 to \$1,999)

Lawrence R. Hughes and Adele M. Kirk Fund  
James M. Long Family Trust  
Allen and Karen Plaster  
Laura Prevatte  
Andrew R. Taylor  
B and Martha Townes in Honor of Leslie McCormick  
Carolyn M. Williams  
Anonymous

### Corporate Supporters

#### Platinum (\$7,500 and Above)

Domtar Paper Company, LLC  
H.W. Culp Lumber Co., Inc.  
Jordan Timberlands, Inc.  
North Carolina Sustainable Forestry Initiative

#### Gold (\$3,500 to \$7,499)

North Carolina Forestry Association  
Shaver Wood Products  
Troy Lumber Company

#### Silver (\$1,250 to \$3,499)

ArborGen, Inc.  
Canal Wood, LLC  
Church and Church Lumber Co.  
Elkins Sawmill, Inc.  
IFCO Seedlings  
Roseburg Forest Products  
T.H. Blue, Inc.  
The Parton Companies

Visit  
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for a complete list  
of individual and  
corporate  
supporters.

