

Northern Nut Growers Association, Inc.



# 2016 Stakeholders' Report

# Mission Statement and Purposes

Revised August 2002

## Mission Statement

The Northern Nut Growers Association, Inc. is a non-profit organization of people interested in growing nut trees and minor fruits such as pawpaws and persimmons. We achieve our Purposes by discussions at our annual meetings, through our publications, with our award-winning web site, and through interactions with other nut growing organizations throughout North America and the world.

## Purposes

The Purposes of the NNGA shall be to:

1. Promote interest in and disseminate information about nuts, nut bearing trees, and selected minor fruits (such as pawpaws and persimmons) of the temperate zone;
2. Promote scientific research in the breeding and culture of nut bearing trees and selected minor fruits of the temperate zone;
3. Promote the standardization of cultivar names and the development of genetic bases for the establishment of the identity of cultivars of nut bearing trees and selected minor fruits of the temperate zone;
4. Promote the production of nuts and selected minor fruits of the temperate zone for both commercial and home use; and
5. Advance the culture and use of nuts, nut bearing trees, and selected minor fruits of the temperate zone.

# President's Report

Our 107th year has been a year of transition. Our new treasurer, Jeanne Romero-Severson, has successfully re-established the NNGA as a compliant, legal, and insured entity. This has been a time-consuming process. She has also been working with Jerry Lehman and the investment committee to upgrade some of our investments, as well as working with our CPA to prepare our year-end tax return.

Marsha Henkin, our webmaster, has had her hands full rescuing our domain names and our membership list from two companies that are going out of business. This process has been very complicated due to some of the security measures that have been adopted by these companies over time. Marsha has also made many updates and improvements to our website.

Gina Zimbardi has done a wonderful job as our new layout editor/advertising manager of the Nutshell and Annual Report. She has also managed our Facebook page which now has 867 members; seven new members in the last three days. The Facebook page has connected the NNGA to a younger group of nut enthusiasts from all over the world.

We had a wonderful 107th Annual Meeting at the National Arbor Day Foundation's Lied Lodge in Nebraska. This meeting turned a handsome profit and was well attended. We owe Jerry Henkin a huge debt of gratitude for the excellent work that he and his committee did to organize the Nebraska meeting.

At the Nebraska meeting we were able to award two research grants: one for "Growing Butternuts without Canker" by Martin Williams, and the other for "Enhancing Black Walnut Germination with GA3" by Michele Warmund.

At the Board meeting, there was a lot of discussion about changing the way our website works so that it will interface with our new membership database and instantly update our membership list, at least for those who make their payments online. The Board decided to seek bids to have this work done. We will still have to input some information by hand for members who make their payments by check. When completed, we will have an easily accessible, up to date membership database and we will be able to do automated mailings of dues notices and welcome letters to new members. This will greatly simplify the jobs of the treasurer, webmaster and editor. It will also speed up the mailings of the Nutshell.

Jerry Henkin and the Annual Meeting Committee are setting up a joint meeting with NAFEX (North American Fruit Explorers) at the University of Georgia Tifton for August 13-16th. Jerry has done an excellent job networking with other associations and organizations to help promote the goals of the NNGA to a wider audience.

To sum it up, the NNGA is in very good financial health. We are making real progress in reaching out to a younger audience through our Facebook page. We are also getting exposure to a more diversified group of people through the networking we are doing with our annual meetings. In short, I feel that the NNGA is accomplishing its mission of promoting the growth and research of nut trees and minor fruits through our publications, with our award-winning website, and through interactions with other nut growing organizations throughout North America and the world.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Stehli  
President, 2015 – 2016

# Financial Report (Unaudited)

1 October, 2015 – 30 September, 2016

Prepared by Jeanne Romero-Severson, Treasurer

In preparation. An updated *Stakeholders' Report* will be published when this Financial Report is available.

## Notes on Treasurer's Report for 2015 – 2016

In preparation

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Romer-Severson

# 107<sup>th</sup> Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Northern Nut Growers Association, Inc.  
Arbor Day Foundation Lied Lodge, Nebraska City, NE  
Sunday, 31 July 2016

## ATTENDANCE

### Board members present:

Bob Stehli, President	Shawn Mehlenbacher
Tim Ford, Vice President	Greg Miller
Jeanne Romero-Severson, Treasurer	Troy Pabst
Tom Molnar, Secretary	Gordon Wilkinson

### Board members absent:

Sandra Anagnostakis Michele Warmund  
Dennis Fulbright

### Appointees and Guests:

Jerry Henkin, NNGA Librarian	Amy Miller Bill Sachs, past Treasurer
Marsha Henkin, webmaster	Gina Zimbardi, NNGA Editor
Joe Hietter	

At 9:23 AM President Bob Stehli welcomed everyone to the 107<sup>th</sup> Annual Board Meeting.

### Minutes from the 106<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting as published in the *2015 Stakeholders' Report*

#### Motion:

Moved by Tim Ford, seconded by Shawn Mehlenbacher that the minutes be approved as circulated in the *Stakeholders' Report*.

**Carried.**

Thanks were given to Bill Sachs for compiling the *2015 Stakeholders' Report*.

## OLD BUSINESS

### Board Action by E-mail

None over the past year and nothing to report.

### Secretary's Report

Tom Molnar presented the Secretary's report stating no expenses were incurred for the past fiscal year. He stated that he used personal and other grant-sourced funds to cover sending publications to members who joined late in the year and in the cost of attending the 2016 meeting in Nebraska despite the NNGA board agreeing to cover expenses of the Secretary to attend the meeting. Tom once again expressed sincere special thanks to Secretary Emeritus Tucker Hill for continuing to answer questions and helping people on behalf of the NNGA over the year. He continues to do an excellent job on our behalf and deserves a lot of thanks and credit for his important role.

A full copy of the Secretary's Report is reproduced in *Individual and Committee Reports* on page nn.

### Treasurer's Report

Jeanne Romero Severson presented the Treasurer's report (see handout for details). She discussed our various accounts presented as corporation 1, 2 and 3. Corporation 1 had a positive improvement based on the success of our 2015 meeting in Lacrosse, Wisconsin. Corporation 2 shows a gradual reduction from 2015 to 2016. See her report for more details.

Jeanne requested permission from the Board to investigate fund performance with Edward

Jones. The Board agreed and reminded her that this was within her responsibility and role as Treasurer to do this. She mentioned that Edward Jones has now set up an online account and Tom Molnar (Secretary) will be added to the account so he can view the funds and activity on the accounts.

President Bob Stehli brought up discussion of the role of the Investment Advisory Committee and appointed Gordon Wilkinson (Board Member) to the committee which now includes Jerry Lehman (chair), Bob Stehli, and Gordon Wilkinson.

Jeanne also reported that our database management and mailing service PDAS recently terminated its operations. Their board voted to discontinue business. This put the NNGA in a bind. Jeanne is now currently handling all the memberships database needs personally. She stated that the system is very tedious especially with the hand entry of new members, renewals, and address changes. There is a major need to update and modernize the process. Jeanne discussed in considerable details the current system she is using, which takes a considerable amount of her time.

A question was asked of Jeanne by Greg Miller. "What were we paying PDAS for their services?" Answer from Jeanne was we were paying for mailing and database upkeep, which was about \$100-200 per quarter. She noted that the last payment to them was \$485, as an example, but noted that this figure also included some previously paid mailing costs.

Jeanne noted that Penns Valley printing, the company that has printed the Nutshell/Annual report for many years, has been a great partner to work with. Gina Zimbardi (NNGA Editor) commented that she could possibly help through a company she developed with Amy Miller that can assist in database management and other logistical/business needs of the NNGA. Jeanne responded by stating that she would like to summarize and present the needs

of the NNGA in respect to database management, etc., and once complete, then request a written proposal from Gina Zimbardi that the NNGA board can compare to other options or solutions set forth by other individuals. Jeanne agreed to write up the business needs of the NNGA largely regarding membership management but also including the online presence of the NNGA.

### **Motion:**

Moved by Tim Ford, seconded by Greg Miller, that Jeanne Romero-Severson make up a list of NNGA business needs and presents those to the Board for discussion to then possibly send out to a professional for assistance.

Discussion of motion by Board led to a friendly amendment by Shawn Mehlenbacher, seconded by Gordon Wilkinson that Jeanne Romero-Severson will consult with Bill Sachs, Gina Zimbardi, Amy Miller, and Marsha Henkin to develop a proposal for managing our membership database and integrating it with printing and mailing of NNGA materials.

### **Carried.**

Bill Sachs (former Treasurer) pointed out that the NNGA has awarded \$110,000 in grant dollars since 2004, which lowers the return on our investments.

In concluding her report, Jeanne mentioned that the NNGA has a new official Post Office Box. It is now:

Northern Nut Growers Association  
PO Box 489  
Notre Dame, Indiana 46556

## **OTHER REPORTS AND RELATED ACTION**

### **Investment Advisory Committee**

No report.

### **Membership Director**

No report.

## **Webmaster**

Marsha Henkin presented the Webmaster's report (see handout). She discussed the challenges of updating the nutgrowing.org domain name registration and the importance of keeping a domain name registration up-to-date. She suggested that the credit card on the registrations for the NNGA domain names, nutgrowing.org and northernnutgrowers.org, be changed from her credit card to a NNGA credit card.

If a credit card used to pay for registration renewal expires or needs to be changed access is needed to the domain name registration. NNGA does not have that access at this time.

The treasurer at the time was Nancy Pettit. Her Name and address are on the registration, but she is no longer associated with the NNGA. The problem is we might lose the domain name if Marsha cannot pay (or if something happens to her credit card). We are lacking a password set up by Nancy, which makes it impossible to change the registration. The company holding the registration, Network Solutions (a web.com company), has not been any help since we do not have the password to access the account. This company is demanding an NNGA utility bill to prove ownership of the domain names.

Marsha plans to try again with the company and then, if that does not work, go up a level and obtain a letter from the NNGA president and then the State Attorney General to possibly facilitate the process.

### **Motion:**

Moved by Marsha Henkin, seconded by Troy Pabst, that "The NNGA goes through the process to properly register and maintain the NNGA domain name registrations." They are www.northernnutgrowers.org and www.nutgrowing.org. There was no further discussion.

### **Carried.**

Marsha Henkin also discussed the fact that the "Types of Nut Trees" section on the NNGA website needs input from experts. Right now we only have chestnut listed under this page.

We need to complete this part of the website as it is now incomplete. For example, add hazelnut section and use a consistent framework/story in the chestnut section and present links for more information. Also need pecan, walnuts, etc. Tom Molnar volunteered to help with the hazelnut page.

Further, Marsha discussed the archive of digital *Annual Reports* and *Nutshells* available on the NNGA website. Currently it holds from 2012 onward in our members-only section.

### **Motion:**

Moved by Marsha Henkin, seconded by Tom Molnar with clarification that this is the members-only section, that the Webmaster will add past issues of the *Nutshell/Annual Report* to the website as far back as technically possible. Discussion by board ensued. Tim Ford asked Marsha Henkin about access to member's section after memberships expire. Marsha noted in response that the password expires in the spring and a new one is issued.

### **Carried.**

## **Cultivar Inventory Coordinator**

Joe Hietter gave a brief update on the cultivar inventory report on behalf of Bryan Dayton. Bryan has developed a new system using Google Maps and a demo video will be shown at the Show n' Tell section of the meeting on Sunday night. Tim Ford mentioned adding a link to the USDA germplasm repositories that hold nut tree germplasm. A brief discussion on the value of the USDA repositories followed. Bryan is now the chairman of the cultivar inventory committee.

## **Librarian**

Jerry Henkin submitted a report describing his activities as librarian and goals for the upcoming year, a full copy of which is reproduced in *Individual and Committee Reports* on page NN. He discussed the lack of published 98th, 99th, and 100th editions of the *Annual Report* and asked the Board what our next steps should be. Bob Stehli, Jerry Lehman, and Joe Hietter

will look into putting together a single centennial publication with the three missing editions.

### **Advertising Manager**

Gina Zimbardi reported that there was nothing new to report. She will work with Bill Sachs to discuss and address concerns with advertising in print publications and our Facebook page.

### **Editor's Report: NNGA Facebook page**

Gina Zimbardi gave an update on the status of the NNGA Facebook page. It currently has 550 members. There are new posts almost every day that include questions and pictures equating to a great exchange of information. There is interaction with other groups through this page. Gina was very enthusiastic on the effectiveness of this form of outreach on behalf of the NNGA in respect to gaining new members. She also mentioned that Tucker Hill is helping to police the page. Tim Ford agreed to also be an administrator for the page.

### ***Nutshell/Annual Report***

Gina reported that the summer edition is in progress and will be completed by the end of August. A discussion was had by all in attendance on how to get additional articles for our publications. No clear solutions were found and the act of obtaining suitable articles continues to be a perennial challenge for the editors of our publications.

### **Annual Meeting Coordinator and Local Arrangements Committee Report**

Jerry Henkin reported that we are considering the University of Georgia, Tifton, in 2017, potentially with a joint meeting with the North American Fruit Explorers (NAFEX) likely the first or second week of August. In 2018 Quebec is a possibility and Iowa in 2019.

### **Motion:**

Moved by Tim Ford, seconded by Shawn Mehlenbacher, that NNGA hold a joint meeting with NAFEX in 2017 in Tifton, Georgia. There was no discussion.

**Carried.**

### **Research Grants Committee Report**

Greg Miller reported that three proposals were submitted amounting to around \$15,000. Greg was still waiting on decisions from the Research Grants Committee as well as knowledge of available funds before they make their decisions. He asked this question of the Board. Bill Sachs stated that he will meet with Jeanne Romero-Severson and come up with the total funds available for the grants. The three proposals were titled: Tracing evolutionary legacy of American persimmon, Growing butternut without canker, and Enhancing eastern black walnut seed germination with GA3.

### **Merchandise and Sales Report**

Amy Miller stated there was no new news to report as she is new to the position. Rose Powell was not in attendance.

### **Auction and Exhibits Committee**

No report.

### **Motion:**

Moved by Troy Pabst, seconded by Tom Molnar that non-members who are speakers at our annual meetings will not be charged for annual meeting registration if attending for only one day. There was no discussion.

**Carried.**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Tom Molnar stated that Tucker Hill Secretary Emeritus requested we officially change the second title of the NNGA Secretary from its



# 107<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

## Individual and Committee Reports

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### NNGA Library Report

July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016

As of June 30, 2016, the balance in the NNGA Library account with Apple Bank was \$2,066.74.

This year, monies were received from the charge for copying services of articles from *The Nutshell* and *The NNGA Annual Reports*, and from the sale of “NNGA Pioneers” posters.

I will continue to sell these posters at the 2016 NNGA meeting in Nebraska City and through the mail to members. The goal is not only to realize a modest profit, but also to popularize the men and women who researched nut culture, and on whose shoulders we stand.

I will also be selling the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, publication “A Man and a Tree: Cyril Bish and the ‘Holden’ Shagbark Hickory,” by Emily Levine. The publication of this booklet was funded by a grant from the U.S. government; therefore, we are required to sell it at cost. The sale of this booklet is a tribute to Cyril Bish, a professor from the University of Nebraska and a long-time supporter of the NNGA.

New books are as follows:

1. “Man of the Trees, Selected Writings of Richard St. Barbe Baker,” Edited by Karen Gridley
2. “The Man Who Planted Trees,” by Jim Robbins
3. “Braiding Sweetgrass,” by Robin Wall Kimmerer

The following titles of SARE (USDA, Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education) booklets:

1. “Meeting the Diverse needs of Limited-Resource Producers”
2. “Smart Water Use on Your Farm or Ranch”
3. “Cover Cropping for Pollinators and beneficial Insects”
4. “Cover Crops for Sustainable Crop Rotations”
5. “Building Local and Regional Food System”
6. “Working Trees for Pollinators”

95% of the library’s holdings are stored in a bin in my Yonkers co-op (29 Abeel Street). These include back issues of *Annual Reports* and *Nutshells*, the proof of A Guide to Nut Tree Culture in North America, Vol. 1, nut-related books, and back issues of several state organizations’ newsletters. The remaining 5% of NNGA Library materials are stored in a large filing cabinet in my apartment (501 Riverdale Ave., apt. 4J). These include a complete set of *Annual Reports*, recent copies of *The Nutshell*, copies of frequently requested books, and NNGA Library records.

This past year I filled 8 orders from the NNGA Library. I purchased a scanner with personal funds, and am able to send articles electronically. Thanks to Jerry Lehman, who has tapes of NNGA presentations, I was able to fill a request by duplicating a presentation on the medicinal use of pawpaw in cancer research. I regularly correspond with individuals

and organizations on topics dealing with nut growing, make referrals to experts in the field, and suggest NNGA Library offerings based on member needs. I have written comments on the Facebook page based on research from the NNGA Library.

My goals for the coming year are as follows:

- use the NNGA Facebook page to establish contact with domestic and international university libraries in order to distribute our publications and publicize the Northern Nut Growers Association
- coordinate a list of nut related literature with Stephen Sinon, Archivist Librarian of the New York Botanical Garden
- add articles from newspapers, state nut growing organizations, agroforestry departments of universities, and on-line sources to our folios
- coordinate the proofreading of additional NNGA Annual Reports with Project Gutenberg

- coordinate a sharing of information on library holdings and services with the NAFEX
- find out which institutions and individuals have a complete set of Annual Reports & a library of books on nuts
- distribute copies of Annual Reports and Nutshells for membership promotion to state and province organizations, schools, and CSA's
- update the web site pages of the NNGA Library

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Henkin  
NNGA Librarian  
501 Riverdale Avenue (4J)  
Yonkers, NY 10705  
USA  
(914) 423-7458

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## NNGA Research Grant Report 2016

The research grant committee received three grant proposals this year. After careful consideration and some budget negotiation, two were funded.

**Enhancing Eastern Black Walnut Germination and Early Seedling Growth with Gibberellic Acid by Michele Warmund and Jerry VanSambeek, University of Missouri Department of Horticulture and USDA Forest Service, respectively (\$4,385).**

Michele is a dependable contributor to NNGA research. The objective of this study is to see if treating Eastern black walnut seeds with various types of gibberellic acid reduces the period of cold stratification required for their germination, resulting in increased number of

seedlings with enhanced vegetative growth. If successful, this type of treatment would lower nursery production costs and make more efficient use of scarce seed, say from a breeding program.

**Growing Butternut without Canker by Kathleen Forbes, John Letourneau, and Martin Williams, Atlantic Forestry Center, Natural Resources Canada, New Brunswick, Canada (\$4,360).**

Butternut canker is a fungal disease that can infect seedlings via infested seed coats. Two methods will be tested to decontaminate seeds and produce disease-free seedlings. Method 1 will be a fungicide treatment of whole seeds (bleach and Rovral Rx). Method 2 will consist of excising embryonic axes from seed coats, treating them with fungicides (Rovral Rx, myconazole, or jugline), and germinating them under non-sterile conditions. Seedlings will be grown for 2 yr to ascertain butternut canker

infection status. If successful, such treatments will allow more efficient use of scarce butter-nut seed, and ensure that nurseries do not distribute infected trees.

The NNGA is fortunate to have both donors and researchers that facilitate these kinds of research that are so important for nut growing. Every year at the annual meeting we host a fund-raising auction. Members and exhibitors contribute items to be sold and then on auction night members generously out-bid each other. It's a lot of fun! The money raised goes directly and exclusively to funding research projects like the ones described above. At this past year's auction, we raised a total of \$4,819. Many thanks to the contributors! For those who missed the auction, our treasurer will gladly accept research fund contributions any time of the year.

Greg Miller

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## Secretary's Report

To: Jeanne Romero-Severson,  
Treasurer

From: Tom Molnar, Secretary

Re: Secretary's expenses for 1 July,  
2015 to 30 June, 2016

Date: 31 July, 2016

No cash expenditures were made this fiscal year. Travel and accommodations for the 2016 meeting were covered by personal funds and grant funds at Rutgers University.

Some secretary activities for this past year included, but are not limited to: 1) sending welcome letters and back-issues of the *Nutshell* to new NNGA members and those that renewed late in the year; 2) email correspondence with NNGA members, people interested in the organization, or the general public with specific nut

related questions; 3) mailing NNGA information to those who inquire, including brochures and back issues of *Nutshell*; 4) Submitting minutes of the NNGA Board meeting and Business meeting and assisting in obtaining committee reports for the Stakeholders Report; 5) assisting in website related content/link sharing/etc.; 6) Compiling NNGA Board email business; 7) contributing to *Nutshell* and *Annual Report* by submitting articles and soliciting articles of value and interest from others.

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## Webmaster's Report

### Items for Discussion or Comment:

1. Problem with NNGA Domain  
Registrations: [northernnutgrowers.org](http://northernnutgrowers.org) and [nutgrowing.org](http://nutgrowing.org). The registrar is Network Solutions, a company taken over by Web.com. We do not have the ability to update outdated information or make changes.
2. Types of Nut Trees Section on Web site – Need for input from experts
3. *Nutshell*/Annual Report Archive, available online to members, runs from 2012 – 2014. Do we have too much online?
5. Cultivar Inventory – New system developed by Bryan Dayton, A cultivar Inventory currently exists on a spreadsheet. A new cultivar Inventory, which uses Google Maps to show the location of cultivars selected by a user is in the works. A demonstration of this software at Show and Tell is planned. Bryan is currently working on functionality which will allow the user to update his information.

Respectfully submitted,

Marsha Henkin  
NNGA Webmaster

# 107<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting Minutes

Northern Nut Growers Association, Inc.  
Arbor Day Foundation Lied Lodge, Nebraska City, NE  
Monday, 1 August 2016

## Monday, 1 August, 2016

President Bob Stehli called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM. Welcome address given by Adam Howard, Director of Mission Engagement, Arbor Day Farm where he stressed the motto of the Arbor Day Foundation to “Plant, Nurture, and Celebrate trees.”

Bob Stehli gave thanks to the meeting site committee and all those who provided support for planning a great meeting.

## Minutes of the 106<sup>th</sup> Annual Business Meeting

The 106<sup>th</sup> Annual Business Meeting minutes were approved as circulated in the *2015 Stakeholders' Report* on the website.

## Secretary's Report

Tom Molnar explained that there were no Secretary-associated expenses over the last year and described some of the activities and responsibilities of the position. Thanks were given to Secretary Emeritus Tucker Hill for his efforts of responding to the many emails that come in with nut related questions as well as his efforts with the NNGA Facebook page.

## Treasurer's Report

Jeanne Romero-Severson provided an overview of the finances of the NNGA stating that it is a well-managed and fiscally sound organization. She gave an overview of the funds that the NNGA holds and highlighted our main expenses as the printing and mailing of the nutshell/Annual Report and our membership database organization and management. She also highlighted our grants program that has given out around \$5-10k each year, which is another expenditure but one that is in strong support of our non-profit mission.

## Librarian

Jerry Henkin gave a brief overview on the status of the NNGA library including a list of the new books and magazines added to the collection.

## Meeting Site Committee Report

Jerry Henkin announced that the 2017 annual meeting will be in Tifton, Georgia, 2018 possibly in Quebec, and 2019 possibly in Iowa.

## Auction and Exhibits Committee Report

Greg Miller gave an overview of the auction and exhibits present at this year's meeting. He reminded the group in attendance that funds raised during the auction are used for research grants and to fill out the forms associated with the donations.

## Research Grant Committee Report

Greg Miller gave a brief update that three proposals were being considered for funding with final results to be announced at the banquet.

## Nutshell/Annual Report Editor Report

Gina Zimbardi requested that the group make submissions to our publications. Her email is [nngaeditor@gmail.com](mailto:nngaeditor@gmail.com). She reminded those in attendance that each member is entitled to one free advertisement per year in our publications. She mentioned that our NNGA Facebook page has been a success and is growing very fast with over 500 members. She invited those in attendance to join the Facebook page.

Bob Stehli thanked Gina and stated to the group that she has done a tremendous job for the NNGA. Jeanne Romero Severson men-

tioned that our surge of new memberships in the past few months was likely due to the NNGA Facebook page.

### **Nominating Committee Report**

Linda Grimo gave thanks to the committee especially Jerry Henkin. She opened the slate of officers for nomination which included for President, Bob Stehli, Vice President, Tim Ford, Treasurer, Jeanne Romero-Severson, and Secretary, Tom Molnar. All agreed to serve if elected. A call for nominations for Board of Directors was also made by Linda. Two positions needed to be filled for three year terms. Three candidates were nominated who agreed to serve if elected: Jim McKenna, Joe Hietter, and Roger Smith. Linda then announced that two additional members will be needed for the nominating committee. Nominations were made for Linda Grimo (her three-year term was ending) and Marco Harvey. Both agreed to serve if elected.

President	Bob Stehli
Vice-President	Tim Ford
Secretary	Tom Molnar
Treasurer	Jeanne Romero-Severson
Director until 2018	Joe Hietter Jim McKenna Roger Smith

The election will continue at the banquet.

### **Business meeting recessed until the NNGA Banquet, 2 August 2016.**

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### **Business meeting reconvened at the NNGA Banquet, 2 August 2016.**

Meeting reconvened by President Bob Stehli at the banquet Tuesday evening.

### **Big Nut**

Shawn Mehlenbacher, Big Nut for 2015, crowned Bob Stehli the Big Nut for 2016.

### **Auction Results**

Jeanne Romero-Severson announced that we collected \$2,819 from the auction and then \$2,000 from a private donor for a total of \$4,819 for research grants this year.

### **Research Grant Report**

Greg Miller reported that two grants were being awarded totaling \$8,745: “Growing butternut without canker,” by Martin Williams and “Enhancing black walnut germination with GA3,” by Michele Warmund (Univ. of Missouri).

Details of the awards can be found in the Committee’s report in *Individual and Committee Reports* on page nn.

### **Roll Call of States and Countries**

Amy Miller and Gina Zinardi ably did the roll call this year coming up with obscure and entertaining facts about each state or province. Nebraska won the roll call with the largest attendance.

### **2016 Annual Meeting Site**

Jerry Henkin announced that the 108<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Northern Nut Growers Association will be held jointly with NAFEX at the University of Georgia in Tifton, GA, August 13-16, 2017.

Bob Stehli gave sincere thanks to Jerry Henkin and the meeting site committee team for all of their excellent work planning the current meeting and future meeting preparations.

### **Annual Elections**

Linda Grimo announced no further additions to the slate of potential officers, board members, and nominating committee members beyond those announced at the first business meeting session.

**Motion:**

Moved by Rodney Hart that nominations be closed, seconded by Shawn Mehlenbacher

**Carried.**

**Officers**

With no opposing candidates, the Nominating Committee’s slate of candidates for President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer was elected by acclamation.

**Directors until 2019**

A vote was held among the three candidates for the two vacancies on the Board of Directors. Joe Hietter and Roger Smith were elected to three-year terms expiring in 2019.

The slate of officers and directors elected was:

President	Bob Stehli
Vice-President	Tim Ford
Secretary	Tom Molnar
Treasurer	Jeanne Romero-Severson
Directors until 2019	Joe Hietter Roger Smith

**Awards**

No awards were presented this year.

**Other business**

Gary Fernald proposed that the NNGA elect the squirrel as the official NNGA mascot.

**Motion:**

Moved by Gary Fernald that the squirrel be adopted as the official NNGA mascot, seconded by Rodney Hart

A discussion was held by those in attendance and a vote called. An overwhelming majority of those present voted NO. No further action was taken.

**Motion failed.**

Dennis Fulbright proposed that the NNGA

donate a copy of our text book “Nut Tree Culture” to the library in the Lied Lodge at Arbor Day Farm. A vote was held and the group voted unanimously in favor of donating the book.

Gina Zimbardi made a final plea for members to submit articles and photos to her for the NNGA Nutshell and Annual Report. Bob Stehli reiterated this plea and stressed photos for the winter edition, which is a digital only version.

David Zahn gave thanks to all for attending the meeting.

Bob Stehli gave thanks to the Nebraska Nut Growers Association, the Lied Lodge, and Jerry Henkin and others on his team for all of their excellent work for the very successful meeting.

**Adjournment**

Rodney Hart moved to adjourn the NNGA business meeting, seconded by Shawn Mehlenbacher. Unanimously carried.

President Bob Stehli adjourned the 107<sup>th</sup> Annual Business Meeting until 2017 in Tifton, GA.

Minutes recorded by Tom Molnar

Respectfully submitted,  
Tom Molnar, Secretary

# CONSTITUTION OF THE NORTHERN NUT GROWERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

As amended 1 August, 2005 and 13 August, 2007

## NAME

**Article 1.** The name of the corporation is **the Northern Nut Growers Association, Incorporated**, hereinafter referred to as the “Association.” The Association is incorporated as a non-profit corporation under the provisions of the District of Columbia Non-Profit Corporation Act.

## PURPOSES

**Article 2.** The purposes of the Association shall be to promote interest in the nut bearing plants; scientific research in their breeding and culture; standardization of cultivar names; the dissemination of information concerning the above and such other purposes as may advance the culture of nut bearing plants, particularly in the North Temperate Zone.

## MEMBERS

**Article 3.** Membership in the Association shall be open to all persons interested in supporting the purposes of the Association. Classes of members are as follows: Individual members, Family members, Contributing members, Sustaining members, Life members, and Honorary members. Applications for membership in the Association shall be presented to the Secretary, the Treasurer, or the Membership Director, accompanied by the required dues.

## ELECTED OFFICERS

**Article 4.** The elected officers of this Association shall consist of a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Article 5.** The Board of Directors shall consist of eleven members of the Association: the four elected officers of the Association, the preceding elected president of the Association, and six members elected at large. If the preceding elected president is unable to serve, her or his elected predecessor shall serve on the Board of Directors.

## APPOINTED OFFICERS

**Article 6.** The Editor of the *Annual Report of the Northern Nut Growers Association*, the Editor of *The Nutshell*, the Membership Director, the Librarian, the Cultivar Inventory Coordinator, the Sales Coordinator and the Annual Meeting Coordinator (when needed) shall be appointees.

## PROVISIONS FOR NON-PROFIT INCORPORATION

**Article 7.** Said Association is organized under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code which is defined as associations organized for charitable, religious, educational and/or scientific purposes, including for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

### NON-COMPENSATION

**Article 8.** No part of the net earnings of the Association shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, members of the Board of Directors, officers, or other private persons, except that the Association shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in the purpose clause hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the Association shall be carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the Association shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any provision of this document, the Association shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by an organization exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

### DISSOLUTION

**Article 9.** Upon the dissolution of the Association, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or corresponding section of any future federal tax code or shall be distributed to the federal government or to a state or local government for public purpose. Any such assets not disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the Association is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

**Article 10.** This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of members present at any annual meeting, notice of such amendment having been read at the previous annual meeting, or copy of the proposed amendments having been mailed by the Secretary, or by any member to each member thirty days before the date of the annual meeting.

# BYLAWS OF THE NORTHERN NUT GROWERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

As amended 1 August, 2005, 13 August, 2007, 12 August, 2008 and 19 July, 2010

## SECTION 1. MEMBERSHIP

**Article 1. Individual Member.** The Individual member shall be any person interested in the purposes of the Northern Nut Growers Association who pays annual dues. The Individual member shall be a full voting member of the Association and receive a copy of the Association's annual report and newsletter. Annual dues for the Individual member shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

**Article 2. Family Members.** Family members shall be any two members of a household who are interested in the purposes of the Northern Nut Growers Association and who pay annual dues. Both Family members shall be full voting members of the Association. A single copy of the Association's annual report and newsletter shall be sent to Family members. Annual dues for Family membership shall be determined by the Board of Directors and shall be no less than \$5.00 more than the annual dues of the Individual member.

**Article 3. Contributing Member.** The Contributing member shall be any person interested in the purposes of the Northern Nut Growers Association and who wishes to provide additional financial support to further the activities of the Association. The Contributing member shall be a full voting member of the Association and receive a copy of the Association's annual report and newsletter. Annual dues for Contributing membership shall be determined by the Board of Directors and shall be not less than \$10.00 more than the annual dues of the Individual member.

**Article 4. Sustaining Member.** The Sustaining member shall be any person interested in the purposes of the Northern Nut Growers Association and who wishes to provide additional financial support to further the activities of the Association. The Sustaining member shall be a full voting member of the Association and receive a copy of the Association's annual report and newsletter. Annual dues for Sustaining membership shall be determined by the Board of Directors and shall be not less than \$20.00 more than the annual dues of the Individual member.

**Article 5. Life Member.** The Life member shall be any person interested in the purposes of the Northern Nut Growers Association and who purchases a lifetime membership in the Association. Life members may purchase at the basic, bronze, silver or gold level and may upgrade to a higher level at any time they choose to financially assist the association. After purchasing lifetime membership, the Life member shall pay no annual dues. The cost of lifetime membership shall be determined by the Board of Directors. The Life member shall be a full voting member of the Association and receive a copy of the Association's annual report and newsletter.

**Article 6. Honorary Member.** The Association may elect any person an Honorary member in recognition of their achievements and contributions to the Association. The Honorary members shall be a full voting member of the Association and receive a copy of the Association's annual report and newsletter. The Honorary member shall pay no annual dues.

## SECTION 2. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

**Article 1. President.** The President shall preside at all meetings of the Association and Board of Directors, and may call meetings of the Board of Directors when he or she believes it to be in the best interests of the Association. The President shall appoint a recorder for the Director's and Annual Meetings. The President shall appoint the standing committees, except the Nominating committee and the Awards Committee; such special committees as the Association may authorize, and the Editor of *The Nutshell*. The President shall keep the Vice President fully informed of her or his activities so that the Vice President could assume the duties of the President if necessary.

The President shall investigate the status of any possibly inactive officer, director, or appointed position and shall report the findings to the Board of Directors for consideration of agreement on any positions found to be apparently vacant. He or she shall appoint members to temporarily fill the vacancies when deemed advisable and reasonably possible, and shall report the officer and director vacancies to the chair of the Nominating Committee so they can present candidates for the next election.

**Article 2. Vice President.** The Vice President shall do all in her or his power to gain as much knowledge of the Association as possible and to prepare herself or himself for the presidency. In the absence of the President, the Vice President shall perform the duties of the President.

**Article 3. Secretary.** The Secretary shall be the active executive officer of the Association. He or she shall conduct the correspondence relating to the Association's interests, assist in obtaining memberships, actively forward the interests of the Association, report her or his yearly Association activities at Annual Meeting and provide special reports to the meetings of the Board of Directors as they may request.

**Article 4. Treasurer.** The Treasurer shall receive and record memberships, receive and account for all moneys of the Association, and shall pay all bills approved by the President or the Secretary. He or she shall give such security as the Board of Directors may require or may legally be required, shall invest life memberships or other funds as the Board of Directors may direct--subject to the legal restrictions and in accordance with the law, and shall submit a verified account of receipts and disbursements to the Annual Meeting and such current accounts as the Board of Directors may from time to time require. Before the final business session of the Annual Meeting of the Association, the accounts of the Treasurer shall be submitted for examination to the Auditing committee.

## SECTION 3. DUTIES OF DIRECTORS

**Article 1. Board of Directors.** The Board of Directors shall manage the affairs of the association during and between meetings. One member of the Board of Directors shall be responsible for coordinating solicitation of donations. One member of the Board of Directors shall head a committee to advise the Treasurer on investment of the Association's funds. For a Board of Directors meeting, four members, including at least two elected officers, shall be considered a quorum.

## SECTION 4. DUTIES OF APPOINTEES

**Article 1. Committee Chairpersons.** Each Committee Chairperson shall generate an annual report presenting the committee's goals and objectives and a summary of the committee's achievements. Said report to be submitted to the Secretary who will secure its publication for the membership.

**Article 2. Cultivar Inventory Chairpersons.** Each Cultivar Inventory Chairperson shall develop and maintain a database of cultivar information for the assigned species or genus. An up-to-date copy of the database will be provided to the Cultivar Inventory Coordinator at least two months prior to the Annual Meeting.

**Article 3. Cultivar Inventory Coordinator.** The Cultivar Inventory Coordinator shall maintain a master copy of all Cultivar Inventory data generated by the Cultivar Inventory Committees and make it available at each Annual Meeting or as the Association may direct.

**Article 4. Editor of the *Annual Report of the N. N. G. A.*** The Editor of the *Annual Report* shall edit and publish a report each year for the educational benefit of members of the Association. The Editor shall solicit, collect, and edit manuscripts concerning the culture of nut crops for publication in the *Annual Report*. The Editor will consider all papers presented at the Annual Meeting for inclusion in the *Annual Report*.

**Article 5. Editor of *The Nutshell*.** The Editor of *The Nutshell*, the Association's newsletter, shall edit and publish such educational information as will further the purposes of the Association. The editor of *The Nutshell* shall edit and publish news of the Association and business of the Association as an *Annual Stakeholders Report*. The Board of Directors shall approve the frequency of publication of the newsletter.

**Article 6. Librarian.** The Librarian shall acquire, preserve, organize, and distribute informational material deemed either of historic or of practical value to the Association, including backup copies of minutes, policies, and other documents that are important to the continuity of the Association.

**Article 7. Membership Director.** The Membership Director shall assist the Treasurer and the Secretary in matters related to services to members.

**Article 8. Sales Coordinator.** The Sales Coordinator shall assist the Treasurer in matters related to sales of NNGA books and other items.

**Article 9. Annual Meeting Coordinator.** The Annual Meeting Coordinator shall oversee the development of each annual meeting.

**Article 10. Diligence of Appointees.** Appointees shall be diligent in performing their respective duties and should make every effort to be available to the Board of Directors at meetings. Any appointee who finds herself or himself unable to perform her or his duties shall promptly notify the President.

## SECTION 5. ELECTIONS

**Article 1. Terms.** The Officers shall be elected at the Annual Meeting and hold office for one year beginning immediately following the close of the Annual Meeting. The at-large members of the Board of Directors shall hold office for three years beginning immediately following the close of the Annual Meeting at which each is elected. The Association shall elect two at-large members to the Board of Directors annually one of which will be placed in nomination by the Nominating Committee and one will be placed in nomination by the membership at large.

**Article 2. Nominations.** The Nominating committee consists of six members elected by the Association. Each member of the Nominating Committee shall serve a three-year term. The Association shall elect two new members to the committee each year to replace retiring members. At the first session of the Business Meeting each year nominations for these members will come from the floor. The election of the new members of the Nominating committee will take place at the conclusion of this first session of the Business Meeting.

The Nominating committee shall also present a slate of officers and one director at the first session of the Business Meeting. The election of officers and directors shall take place at the closing session of the Business Meeting at the Banquet. Nominations for any office may be presented from the floor at the time the slate is presented at the first session of the Business Meeting or immediately preceding the election at the Banquet. The slate shall be submitted to the Editor of *The Nutshell* by 1 May for inclusion in the June issue.

**Article 3.** A quorum at a regularly called Annual Meeting shall be fifteen members and must include at least two of the elected officers.

**Article 4.** All full voting members shall be eligible to vote and hold office.

## SECTION 6. FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

**Article 1. Fiscal Year.** The fiscal year of the Association shall extend from 1 October through the following 30 September. All annual memberships shall begin 1 January.

**Article 2. Delinquent Members.** All dues-paying members whose dues have not been paid by 1 January shall be delinquent members. Notices of non-payment of dues shall be mailed to delinquent members on or about 1 March by the Membership Director. The names of all delinquent members shall be dropped from the rolls of the Association on 1 April.

**Article 3. Benefits.** The *Annual Report of the N.N.G.A.* and *The Nutshell* shall be sent to only full voting members for the current year. Members who are delinquent on 1 April will not be entitled to receive the Association publications or other benefits of the Association until dues are paid.

**Article 4. Life Membership Funds.** Life membership contributions at the basic level will be placed in the investment fund. All additional Life Membership funds above the basic level will be placed in the general fund of the Association.

## SECTION 7. MEETINGS

**Article 1. Annual Meeting.** The Association shall hold an annual meeting for the educational benefit of its members and for the purpose of conducting the business of the Association. The Annual Meeting shall be open to the general public and attendance by non-members shall be encouraged.

**Article 2. Meeting Site Committee.** The location and date for the Annual Meeting shall be chosen by the Board of Directors upon advisement by the Meeting Site Committee. Meeting locations and dates should be determined no less than three years in advance.

## SECTION 8. PUBLICATIONS

**Article 1. Annual Report and The Nutshell.** The Association shall publish an *Annual Report* each fiscal year, a periodic newsletter called *The Nutshell*, and such other publications with formats and publication schedules as authorized by the Board of Directors.

**Article 2. Responsibility.** All NNGA publications shall be the responsibility of the Publications committee.

## SECTION 9. AWARDS

**Article 1. Merit and Service.** The Association may provide suitable awards for outstanding contributions to the cultivation of nut-bearing plants, suitable recognition for meritorious exhibits, and suitable recognition for service to the Association as may be appropriate. The Awards Committee shall be chaired by the most recent past president, who will appoint three additional past presidents or officers to serve as members.

**Article 2. Honorary Members.** The Awards Committee shall recommend members for Honorary membership and shall also recommend members for the highest honorary membership, Dean of the NNGA. These recommendations should be voted-on by the membership at the annual meeting.

**Article 3. Big Nut.** The Big Nut is to be perpetuated by the current Big Nut whose honor and sole privilege it is to crown her or his successor at the Annual Banquet. The Big Nut reigns for one year and may be seen wearing the Big Nut crown and necklace at any Annual Meeting event but in particular at the Annual Banquet. Should the Big Nut die in office, the previous Big Nut will name a second successor.

## SECTION 10. COMMITTEES

**Article 1. Standing Committees.** As soon as practical after the Annual Meeting of the Association, the President shall appoint the following standing committees: Auction and Exhibits, Auditing, Evaluation of Research Proposals, Investment Advisory, Local Arrangements, Meeting Site, Meeting Speakers, New Member Host, and Publications. The President shall also appoint a Cultivar Inventory Committee for each genus or species of nut bearing plant that the Association may direct. The President may delegate the appointment of the Cultivar Inventory Committees to the Cultivar Inventory Coordinator.



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