



MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The Arizona Department of Agriculture cordially invites you to attend and participate in the 2015 National Plant Board Annual Meeting in Sedona, Arizona, Sunday, August 2 through Thursday, August 6, 2015. The deadline for returning registration forms and payment is July 3, 2015. Please see the draft agenda for planned program: <http://searchagriculture.az.gov/mastercontent/npbmeeting.aspx>

REGISTRATION

Complete the Registration Form and return it no later than July 3, 2015. **Registration fee is \$425 if form AND payment is received by July 3, 2015, or \$475 after July 3, 2015.** Daily registration is available for \$175. Guest registration is \$200 (\$250 after July 3) and includes the Reception, Tour and box lunch, BBQ dinner and Banquet functions. A special, complementary spouse/guest opportunity will be offered on Tuesday.

Please make checks payable to “**National Plant Board – AZ**”. Mail, FAX or e-mail completed registration forms to:

Arizona Department of Agriculture
Attn: Annette Besemer
1688 W. Adams St.
Phoenix, AZ 85007
(602) 542-0922 (FAX)
abesemer@azda.gov (email)

Credit card payments will be accepted, for an additional fee noted on the Registration Form, through the payment button (PayPal) provided:

<http://searchagriculture.az.gov/mastercontent/npbmeeting.aspx>

Group payments can be accepted through wire transfer. Contact Annette Besemer, (602) 542-0994, for additional information.

ACCOMODATIONS

The meeting will be held at the beautiful Poco Diablo Resort (www.pocodiablo.com) in Sedona, Arizona. The NPB has exclusive use of the 137-room resort which includes many amenities such as spa services, dining, golf, tennis, outdoor fire pit, pool and great concierge service! The room rate is \$123 plus 13.237% state and local taxes per night, and is being offered from July 30-August 9, 2015. The \$15 daily resort fee is waived. Reservations can be made on-line through the following portal:

https://reservations.ihotelier.com/crs/g_reservation.cfm?groupID=1183415&hotelID=73864

PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATION IMMEDIATELY!

Reservations can also be made by calling the Poco Diablo Resort at (928) 282-7333 and requesting a reservation as an attendee of the National Plant Board meeting. **The room reservation deadline is Friday, June 26, 2015.** Early reservations are strongly encouraged due to the popularity of this meeting location and limited number of rooms. After June 26, 2015, any rooms available will be released, and room availability and rate is not guaranteed.

TRANSPORTATION

Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport is approximately 90 miles from Sedona. Suggested transportation to the Poco Diablo Resort in Sedona is through Arizona Shuttle (800-888-2749) which departs the airport for Sedona every two hours (hourly between 11:00 a.m. MST and 3:00 p.m. MST) beginning at 9 a.m. MST through 10 p.m. MST. The cost is \$49 each way. Group rates are available if you coordinate travel plans. Rental cars are available through the Poco Diablo Resort for pick up in Sedona, or you may rent a car as well in Phoenix for the scenic drive to the resort.

WEATHER AND ATTIRE

The average high temperature in early August is in the 90s with cooling, afternoon monsoon storms possible each day. Temperatures cool very rapidly in the evening to the mid-60s. Business casual dress is encouraged. A camera and sunscreen are a must!

MEALS

A full breakfast buffet (one per room), breaks, lunch and dinner are included each day, except as noted, with a **Full** meeting registration. **Guest** registration includes the Reception, Banquet, box lunch on the tour and BBQ dinner only. **Daily** registration includes the meals and breaks offered on that day's program.

Dinner on Monday night and lunch on Thursday afternoon are opportunities to explore Sedona's eclectic and diverse dining options on your own including T. Carl's restaurant on-site. Check out www.visitsedona.com for additional dining options.

Several menu options will be available for each meal, including the box lunch on the tour, to suit varied tastes. Several meal functions are scheduled outdoors (weather permitting). Please be sure to clearly indicate your preference on the Registration Form including any dietary restrictions or special needs.

EXHIBITS

Limited exhibit space will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Please indicate your interest and needs (table, electricity, etc.) on the Exhibitor Form.

SPOUSE/GUEST OPPORTUNITY

Enjoy the sites and shops of historic Jerome and Cottonwood during a complementary, all day excursion on Tuesday to both towns for sightseeing, shopping and lunch. **Please check the box on the Registration Form to attend.**

STARGAZING

Sedona is one of the darkest places in the U.S. at night, and it is a favored location with professional and amateur astronomers for stargazing.

With this in mind, we have created a special opportunity for meeting attendees and their guests on Wednesday night, following the tour and BBQ dinner, to learn about the universe from a professional astronomer in an outdoor presentation followed by a guided, telescope tour of the heavens on the POCO Diablo golf course.

FIELD TRIP

The tour on Wednesday is a 4-hour long, educational rail adventure aboard the Verde Canyon Railway that passes through Arizona's "Little Grand Canyon" - the Verde River Canyon.

This adventure encompasses not only sight-seeing of magnificent landscapes, but is an educational opportunity highlighting: (1) Native American culture and anthropology in the area and their influence on the development of irrigated agriculture in the region; (2) the importance of the Verde River in the sustainability and development of agriculture and commerce; (3) the establishment of a significant mining industry in the region; (4) the importance of this major riparian area to the health and resources of the region including the resurgence of endangered species such as bald eagles which are a highlight of the canyon tour; (5) the geology and formations important to resource development and expansion of rail services' impact on commerce; and (6) the story of the development of this region of the West through this gateway.

The train's locomotives are only two of ten remaining in North America, and are a significant piece of rail history that pull the vintage cars of the Verde Canyon Railway. A boxed lunch will be served on-board. A BBQ dinner buffet under the stars at the POCO Diablo Resort will follow at the end of the day.

For more information on the train tour, visit: www.verdecanyonrr.com. Bring your binoculars!

Please check the box on the Registration Form if you plan to participate or not. If you are, we will purchase a train ticket for you!

HOST CONTACTS

Please give us a call or an email with any questions. We look forward to seeing you in Sedona!

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