

SPRING MEETING ACTIVITIES AND AREA ATTRACTIONS

The MeadowView Marriott Resort located in Kingsport, Tennessee will host the 2026 Spring meeting of the Mid-West Tool Collectors Association. Kingsport is located in eastern Tennessee in the Blue Ridge Mountains. The dates for the meeting are June 24-27. Room rate is \$148 for double occupancy. The rate is good three days prior and three days following the meeting. You can make your reservations directly online by going to **Book your group rate for Mid-West Tool Collectors Association**. Kingsport is home to Bays Mountain Park, a 3,500-acre nature preserve with 22 miles of hiking and biking trails, a 44-acre reservoir lake, nature center and museum, planetarium and native wildlife habitats. Bays Mountain is the nation's largest municipally-owned park. Area attractions include Bristol Motor Speedway, Allandale Mansion, Exchange Place, a living history farm, Netherland Inn, Davy Crocket birth place, numerous wineries and a downtown with numerous antique shops, cafes and boutiques.

The men's display theme for the Spring meeting will be "pre-1900 hand saws". The facility boasts a 26,000 sq. ft. trade and display room and plenty of space for our tailgate function on Thursday.

On Wednesday evening there will be a Welcome Dinner served at 6 PM. You must register in advance for the dinner as "walk ins" cannot be accommodated due to the need to order the food weeks in advance of the meeting. Following the dinner we will open the hospitality room for dessert and refreshments. Weather permitting the tailgate session will start early Thursday morning (bring a flashlight). The men's program on Thursday evening will feature a presentation by Jim Fox on identifying early Stanley marking gauges. Several individuals will be demonstrating their woodworking skills in the Trade Room on Friday. On Friday the Trade and Display room will open at 6:30 AM for display set up and loading in of tools. At 8:30 AM displays will be ready for viewing followed by tool trading at 10 AM. On Friday afternoon Eric Christensen will present a program on Stanley advertising. Friday evening we are expecting another great auction.

The Auxiliary display theme for the meeting is "My Favorite Thing(s)". Share with your fellow members some of your favorite collectibles. Thursday evening will feature Meet and Greet with introductions and the opportunity for sharing. Friday will include the book review and "Game Night". On Saturday the Auxiliary will host a brunch which is open to all.

For those members that can only attend on Saturday we again are offering registration for "Saturday Only" with the trade room opening at 7:00 AM. The What's It session will be held in the Trade Room at 10:30 AM. At 2:00 PM Wiliam Tillsdale will make a presentation on the history of the "double iron plane" and its function in wood working planes.

Saturday evening we will close out the meeting with a banquet, a short business meeting.

Multiple tours have been scheduled for Thursday which includes the Netherland Inn followed by lunch at the Riverfront Seafood restaurant (they have non-seafood items too). You will be ordering off their menu. The tour departs from the hotel at 9:10 AM. In the afternoon the bus will travel to Bristol, TN for a tour of the Bristol Motor Speedway, the fastest ½ mile track in the world, followed by a tour of the Tennessee Hills distillery where you will learn how they make legal moonshine. The tour includes sampling their moonshine. We ran out of time and unfortunately were not able to incorporate the 2 ½ hour tour to the Bell Helicopter Service Center. Note tours of Bell Helicopter are only available for group tours.

Bays Mountain Park and Planetarium

3,000-acre preserve offers hiking, native animal habitats, planetarium, freshwater aquarium, solar observatory and barge rides. Website: www.baysmountain.com

Allendale Mansion

More than a house, the Allendale Mansion, is the "White House" of Kingsport, Tennessee, first a home. Built by Ruth and Harvey Brooks as a working farm, Allendale still houses their fine furnishings, antiques and art. The barn, recently restored, once housed prize-winning cattle; the fertile fields were pasture to blue-ribbon Tennessee Walkers. The gardens, designed by President Eisenhower's landscape architect, provided a peaceful backdrop to the vibrant life of this 500-acre family. The Allendale Mansion is the first stop on Thursday's tour.

Website: www.allandalemansion.com

Netherland Inn

Tour scheduled for Thursday morning. Listed on the National Register of Historical Sites, the restored Inn faces the Old Stage Road in the heart of Kingsport's Boat Yard Park, an area along the Holston River that served as migratory spot for settlers to build boats for their westward trip during the mid-1700s. Originally built between 1802 and 1808 as a point from where he could ship salt westward it was later changed to an inn and tavern for travelers along the Old Stage Road. The Inn is filled with museum furnishings that depict an intimate study of life in one of the South's most important American frontier settlements. Behind the Inn is the Netherland Inn Log Cabin Children's Museum and Schoolhouse, featuring children's toys of the 18th and 19th centuries. Website: www.netherlandinn.com

Exchange Place

Exchange Place, is a living history farm. The site was once a community that served as a self-supporting plantation and relay station along the Old Stage Road. Exchange Place—The Preston Farm recaptures life in the early 1800s. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, six of the eight buildings are original, restored structures built between 1820 and 1850. The farmstead received its name from the "exchanges" of horses and currencies. As part of Exchange Place's commitment to preserve 19th century farm life, period livestock now reside at Exchange Place. The Exchange Place is the second stop on the Thursday. After the tour attendees will enjoy a catered lunch.

Bristol Motor Speedway

Bristol Motor Speedway and Dragway is one of the nation's popular motorsports venues and one of NASCAR's most formidable tracks. Race cars reach speeds in excess of 150 MPH on this half mile track thanks to the 45 degree banking making it the World's fastest half mile. The speedway is featured on our afternoon tour on Thursday which departs the hotel at 12:20 PM. The tour will include a lap around Bristol's high-banked turns and a ride down pit road.

Reminder that a badge is required to attend all events. Members will be "policing" the tailgate area so wear your badge. Registration personnel will be in the parking lot early Thursday morning to register if you did not have the opportunity to register on Wednesday afternoon.

For more information on our host hotel go to: www.MeadowViewResort.com. For information on Kingsport and the surrounding area go to: <http://www.visitkingsport.com>