Sixth Annual Meeting

September 24 and 25, 1982
Monroe, Louisiana

Louisiana - Mississippi
Christmas Tree Growers' Association
DIAMONDS
ARE A TREE'S BEST FRIEND

So Don't Be Fooled By Imitations!

When you ship trees to market, be sure they are well protected against costly damage. Dress them in Kirk Vexar® "Tree-Tie" diamond-design plastic Netting.

Vexar is a proven product: A netting with consistently correct diameters; one that doesn’t zipper nor come apart—a plant netting in any weather.

Vexar has been field-tested against some tough conditions. It reduces loading damage, takes freeway trucking in better shape and delivers a highly saleable product to customers.

Granted, diamonds can be imitated but never duplicated. The same is true of Kirk Vexar "Tree-Tie" netting. The Kirk no-hassle assurance of quality comes only with the real thing.

The bottom line: A more profitable tree to sell.

Kirk's Vexar® Plastic Netting

Specifications:
- Offered on Kirk Tree-Tie® cartridges for all funnel opening sizes
- Cartridges are designed for the best production use on all Vexar Netting Tree Baler
- Packaged with 5 cartridges to a heavy gauge moisture-protective plastic bag
- Quality controlled by AMOCO and The Kirk Co.
- Each cartridge packages approximately 50 trees, depending upon the height of the trees

Refer to price sheets for cartridge specification, quantity pricing, and other information.

The kirk Co.

Home Office
P.O. Box 340, Puyallup, WA 98371
Phone: (256) 848-8701

Plant
P.O. Box 228, Zeeland, MI 49464
Phone: (616) 875-8165

Kirk Model 1200 Production Baler
From the Association Business Office

The La-Ms. Christmas Tree Growers' Association has grown from a group of 17 growers who met in Jackson, MS in December, 1976 to the nation's third largest Christmas tree association in 1981. Our 1981 membership of 516 was exceeded by only California with 612 and the entire Northwest with 524 members. The 1982 membership in our Association currently stands at 525, but is expected to reach 550 by year's end.

Our Association was granted a Mississippi Charter of Incorporation as an agricultural association with 25 charter members in December, 1976, and a Louisiana Charter in April, 1977. The first annual meeting was held September 17, 1977, in Hattiesburg, MS with approximately 93 people attending. Fritz G. Lindley was the first president of our Association (1976-77) and he was succeeded by Edward L. Blake (1978-79), Robert N. Eddy, Jr. (1980-81), and Wallace P. Swedenburg (1981 to present).

Welcome to the Sixth Annual Meeting in Monroe, Louisiana! Annual meetings are rotated between the two states with Louisiana hosting the meeting in even-numbered years and Mississippi in odd-numbered years.

Your Association is now a growing business with an executive secretary and a business office to serve the needs of its members. As your Executive Secretary, I thought you would be interested in how the business office functions and some of its activities.

The Business Office was officially established on July 1, 1981, by vote of the Board of Directors. The duties and responsibilities of the Business Office are contained in a legal contract between Resource Consulting International, Ltd. of Starkville and the Association for the period July 1, 1981, through December 31, 1983. RCI, Ltd. provides all office space, equipment, and staff and is paid on a per-member basis. The contract will be renewed and renegotiated on an annual basis.

The following table depicts the rapid growth of Association affairs and activities. As you can imagine, mailing newsletters, seedling notices, and meeting notices to 525 members and handling the business records for the 1982 budget of over $40,000 is a sizable job for any business office and a part-time Executive Secretary. Without the help of my wife Kathie and a small computer, the task would be impossible. Membership records, mailing lists, seedling orders, and business records are maintained on the computer. Kathie handles all of the computer records except the business records. If your address changes, you had better let her know or we'll lose you. Keeping up with member records is the most difficult task we have, particularly where the membership is in a farm or business name and we receive correspondence from an individual. If you correspond under a farm or business name, please let us know the appropriate member's name.

Examples of all computerized records are on display at the registration desk for you to examine. Be sure to check your name on the membership list, pick up your seedling confirmation notice, and pickup your copy of the membership directory.

Newsletters are prepared on a periodic basis, whenever I can get enough news together. I would like to have a quarterly newsletter, so please send me news about what you're doing, herbicide results, and the 'gadgets' you have designed or use. Just write the news item in longhand, I'll type it and edit it so everyone will think you're a real good writer.

If you need information or assistance, you can telephone the Business Office (601-323-3896) seven days a week. I am usually in the office before 8:00 a.m. and long after 5:00 p.m., so don't hesitate to call on the "cheap rates." Please remember, however, that your Executive Secretary is only part-time and needs a few hours sleep each night if he is going to earn a living as a consulting forester and keep the office open and furnished with equipment for Association use. I'm sorry I can't visit your operation when you have a problem, but the budget allows for only 5 days and 2,000 miles of official travel each year. Don't forget that your Country Agent is a valuable source of assistance and information.

Please let me or your Board know how we can better serve your needs.

Dr. Robert C. Parker
Executive Secretary

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>MEMBERS</th>
<th>BUDGET</th>
<th>Va. Pine</th>
<th>Redcedar</th>
<th>Spruce Pine</th>
<th>Deodar Cedar</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1977</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>$570</td>
<td>137,000</td>
<td>9,750</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>11,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>1978</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>9,261</td>
<td>150,000</td>
<td>24,000</td>
<td>8,750</td>
<td>5,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>10,778</td>
<td>264,500</td>
<td>52,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>333</td>
<td>15,808</td>
<td>316,000</td>
<td>31,000</td>
<td>16,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>481</td>
<td>39,955</td>
<td>488,000</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>13,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1982</td>
<td>525</td>
<td>40,650</td>
<td>550,000</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THE SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING
LA - MS CHRISTMAS TREE GROWERS' ASSOCIATION
September 24 & 25, 1982  Ramada Inn  Monroe, Louisiana

Friday, September 24

9:00 a.m.  REGISTRATION begins
EXHIBITS Open  ..................................................  Bob and LaRose Eddy
Membership and Association Business  ..................................  Bob and Kathie Parker
Local Arrangements  ..................................................  Bill and Diane Pippin

10:00 a.m.  CHRISTMAS TREE CONTEST  ......................  Harry and Shirley May

10:30 a.m.  MARKETING DISCUSSIONS [informal]

1:00 p.m.  GENERAL ASSEMBLY  ......................................  Moderator: Mr. Nash Roberts
Welcome  .............................................................  President Wally Swedenburg
Current Developments/State of the Art  ..................................  Dr. Bob Parker
Record Keeping for the IRS and You  ..................................  Mr. Reggie Pulliam
New Development in Texas  ...........................................  Mr. James Chandler
Weed Control  .......................................................  Dr. Turner Davis
Introduction to Technical Sessions  ...................................  Dr. Alden Main

3:00 p.m.  CONCURRENT TECHNICAL SESSIONS: "New" and "Experienced" Growers
SESSION A — NEW GROWERS  .....................................  Moderator: Mr. Jim King
Soil Preparation and Fertilization  ....................................  Mr. Olin Curtis
Insect and Disease Control  ..........................................  Dr. Dale Pollet and
Dr. Ken Whitam
A,B,C's of Spray Equipment  ...........................................  Mr. John Beige
Everything Else  .....................................................  Dr. Bob Parker
General Discussion  ..................................................  Speakers

SESSION B — EXPERIENCED GROWERS  .................  Moderator: Barton Bennett
Preparing for Choose and Cut Operations  ..........................  Mr. Larry Seal
Preparing for Wholesale Operation  ..................................  Mr. Bruce Murphy
Sale Contracts and Marketing Agreements:
For the Grower/Seller  ................................................  Mr. Van Michael
For the Buyer/Retailer  ...............................................  Mr. Craig Collier
Insect and Disease Control Update  ..................................  Ms. Pat Cobb
General Discussion  ..................................................  Speakers

6:00 p.m.  SOCIAL [Cash Bar]

7:00 p.m.  BANQUET — Tree Contest Winners

Friday
HARRY WAYNE ADDISON
Humorist, Author and Philosopher

A lifelong resident of the Monroe, Louisiana area, Harry Wayne Addison was raised in Swartz, Louisiana, and is a graduate of Ouachita Parish High School. He also attended Northeast Louisiana Junior College.

Addison served in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II. He participated in 5 battles as a Platoon Sergeant and Forward Observer, and was awarded the Bronze Star for bravery.

Active in local organizations, Addison has held many positions of authority. He is a Past President of the West Monroe Kiwanis Club; has served on the Board of Directors of the West Monroe Chamber of Commerce; is a member of the West Monroe Board of Realtors, the Rotary Club of Monroe, and the National Speakers Association. Addison is also a member of Parkview Baptist Church, where he works with Silent Friends.

Addison is the owner of Harry Addison Real Estate and Appraisals and is a member and Past President of the Society of Real Estate Appraisers. He has been married for 41 years and has 3 children and 4 grandchildren.

Annually making 70 to 80 speeches, Addison enjoys relating to people through his speaking engagements. He is the author of "Write That Down for Me, Daddy" and "R.F.D. #3."
CHRISTMAS TREE RESEARCH
AT MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

W. W. ELAM

1. Two plantations of Virginia pine produced from various seed sources were established. The seedlings were grown for the study by Kimberly-Clark in their Alabama nursery. One plantation is located near Columbus, MS. The objective of this region-wide study is to determine the best seed sources for the various states. Measurements and survival checks will be made next year.

2. A test of the use of subterranean clover in growing Christmas trees was established in 1980. *Trifolium subterraneum* L. was planted with the idea that it would serve as a nitrogen source for the trees and may also help control weeds by either allelopathic effects or by a mulching effect. It was compared with different rates of ammonium nitrate.

In the clover plots trees were shorter than in other plots, and the type of predominant weeds were perennials rather than annuals. Apparently the clover is effective in controlling some annuals. However, perennials such as Johnson Grass which have established root systems thrive, probably due to utilization of the nitrogen fixed by the clover. It appears that increased competition for the tree seedling is responsible for the slower growth.

This should point out to growers the extreme importance of vegetation control in establishing and maintaining a plantation. A full report will be issued on this study at a later date.

3. Preliminary steps have been taken to test the effects of chemical growth retardants on Christmas tree species to see if there is some role they could play in the culture of the trees.

4. Trials of various herbicides for weed control in Christmas trees, primarily Virginia Pine, are continuing.

LANDSCAPE NURSERY
and
GARDEN SUPPLY

Specializing in Hard to Find Chemicals for Your Christmas Trees

Wholesale Nursery and Garden Supplies

504/542-1107
310 S. Cypress St.
Hammond, LA 70401
CHRISTMAS TREE CONTEST
To Be Featured at Annual Meeting

“Bring Your Tree and Show Your Quality”

1. The exhibitor entering the tree must be a member in good standing of the LA-MS Christmas Tree Growers’ Association.
2. Contest will be held outdoors.
3. Judging will be by three judges from outside the Association (judges selected, but to be announced after the judging).
4. The Grand Champion will be selected from the two state winners.
5. Judging will be Friday morning at 10:00 a.m.
6. Trees to be on grounds ready for judging by 10:00 a.m. Each tree will be numbered and labeled as to the state (LA or MS). Each tree must be standing independently, in stand or other container.
7. Securely tied to each tree a blank, sealed envelope containing the grower’s name and address, telephone number, and location of tree farm.
9. No colorant is allowed; trees must be natural.
10. All trees entered must be plantation-grown and are required to be 6 feet to 8 feet in height from the bottom of the handle to the tip of the leader. Pine topleaders should conform to the tree’s natural taper.
11. Winners will be selected for the two states and the Grand Champion selected from the State Winners. The two State Winners and the Grand Champion will be recognized at the banquet Friday night.

National Christmas Tree Contest Guide Lines — Christmas Tree Judging

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State:</th>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>Tree No.:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foliage:</td>
<td>insect and disease damage</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light</td>
<td>no damage</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heavy</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foliage:</td>
<td>Density</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light</td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium to Heavy</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foliage:</td>
<td>Freshness</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dry</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fresh</td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Handle:</td>
<td>Not less than 6’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or more than 1¼’</td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>for each foot of tree</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USDA Grades (4/1/73)</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Handle</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Handle:</td>
<td>Poorly Trimmed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Well Trimmed</td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taper:</td>
<td>0 to 40%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40% to 90%</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>90+</td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top:</td>
<td>Multi Top</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Too short</td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Too long</td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Right length</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Needlessness</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Merchantability:</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Face Score:</td>
<td>4 faces US premium</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 faces US Grade 1</td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 adjacent faces US Grade or better</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cull</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Damage:</td>
<td>0 25 50 100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unduly gap between whorls</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unduly long branches</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weak lower whorl</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hole in main body of tree</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Uneven density</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weak branches</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curved stem</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crows nest</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiple main stems</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noticeable dead twigs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incomplete whorl</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Points</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THE SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING
LA - MS CHRISTMAS TREE GROWERS' ASSOCIATION
September 24 & 25, 1982 Ramada Inn Monroe, Louisiana

Saturday, September 25

8:30 a.m. ASSOCIATION BUSINESS SECTION
Status of the Association ...................... President Wally Swedenburg
Financial Report and Business Office ............... Dr. Bob Parker
Election of Officers and Directors .................. Dr. Alden Main
Other Business .................................... President Wally Swedenburg

9:30 a.m. Travel to Field Session on Charles Elkins Farm

10:00 a.m. Field Demonstrations and Discussions

12:00 noon BOX LUNCH

1:00 p.m. Field Demonstrations continue

MONROE

RAMADA INN Highway 165

LA 137

3 1/2 miles

ELKINS FARM

3 WAY GROCERY

LA 584

1/2 mile

I-20 Go 20 miles East

Take I-20 East from Monroe approximately 20 miles to Rayville. Take Exit at Rayville and go South for 3 1/2 miles until you see Three Way Grocery. Take left and go 1/2 mile. Farm is on left. You can see trees from road.
LSU RESEARCH REPORT


Test plantings of promising species and varieties. Survivals at the end of the first year of our spruce, 1981 plantings were: Virginia pine 87% and Mondey pine 46%. Survival of deodar cedar at the end of 1981 (after 3 years in the field) was 64%; this species continues to show some promise, although it is slower growing than Virginia and spruce pines.

Tree selection and breeding. We are cooperating in the S-128 Virginia pine seed source study. We planted according to directions: 800 measurement trees at Lee Forest January 6, 1982, and 800 measurement trees at Idlewild Experiment Station January 27, 1982. At each location there are 5 blocks with 16 seed sources and 10 trees of each source in each block. Survivals as measured in May were 99% at Lee Forest and 94% at Idlewild.

Weed control. A test of herbicides applied as pre-emergence sprays on February 22, 1982, over the top of newly planted 1.0 Virginia pine seedlings showed that acceptable mortality rates (0-10%) on crop trees 3 months after spraying were provided by Solcut at 2½ lbs./acre, Goal 2E at 1 lb. and 2 lbs., Atrazine at 5½ lbs., and Atrazine at 2½ lbs. plus Surflan 75W at 2½ lbs. Unacceptable mortality (15-30%) occurred on plots treated with Solcut at 5 lbs./acre, Atrazine at 2½ lbs. plus Bladex at 2½ lbs., Princep 80W at 5 lbs., and Princep 80W at 5 lbs. plus Surflan 75W at 2 lbs. Based on a combination of safety on crop trees and weed control, Goal 2E at 2 lbs./acre and Atrazine at 2½ lbs./acre plus Surflan at 2½ lbs./acre were best of the 9 treatments. Taking cost into consideration, the Atrazine-Surflan treatment is preferable.

A small test of Nangelia subterranean clover (Trifolium subterreneum) was established on a site north of Baton Rouge in November, 1981. Seedlings of Virginia pine were planted on the site in February, 1982. It was hoped that the subclover would provide weed control and soil nitrogen, however, at the end of March the subclover was very sparse.

Other cultural practices. A test of stump culture was established in a Lee Forest Virginia pine plantation harvested in December, 1981 (at age 6 years). A total of 104 trees were in the experiment — 50 stumps with 1 branch left to turn up, and 54 stumps with 2 or more branches. The branches were slow to turn up. On July 1, 1982, all but the best branch was removed from the 2-or-more-branch stumps. However, at this time 40% of the one-branch trees were dead, and 11% of the 2-or-more-branch trees were dead. The live trees, even after shearing, look rather ragged.

Consumer and market surveys. In the Baton Rouge area, most growers who had trees for sale in 1981 (mostly Virginia pine, with some spruce pine) sold by choose-and-cut; they generally sold all available trees. Prices ran about $18 for a 6-foot tree to $35 for a 10-foot tree. In a retail marketing test in Baton Rouge at a garden supplies store, 100 Virginia pines (not labeled as to species) were mixed with non-native species in the lot display. Virginia pines, which had cost the retailer $11 per tree wholesale, were priced from $19.95 to $23.95, about the same as white spruce, Douglas fir, Scotch pine, and white pine. Consumer reaction to the Virginia pines was good; all 100 trees were sold, and there were no customer complaints. These 100 trees were carefully selected by the retailer from a plantation of 5-year-old trees located about 30 miles northwest of Baton Rouge.

Publications During the Past Year


This great “put on”
colors them consistent
colors them natural
colors them saleable
colors them profitable
and
colors your customers happy!

Kirk Christmas Tree Colorants are Better because...

- They are made with rigidly controlled computer measurements and exacting weight tolerances.
- They are more consistent in quality.
- They are more consistent in color.
- They are harmless to trees, will not wash off or wear off and are fadeproof.
- They are more economical because of the consistent quality allowing exact dilutions.
- They are better for dilution control because of consistent color pall-after-pall.
- They are “Made for Tree People by Tree People.” See label for details.

The kirk Co.

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1982

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Columbus, MS 39701
601-328-9140

Vice-President ... James J. King
Route 1, Box 168-B
Hammond, LA 70401
504-567-9670

Executive Secretary . Robert C. Parker
Route 2, Box 706
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Metairie, LA 70003
504-887-2753

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Mississippi State, MS 39762

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Department of Forestry
Mississippi State University
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