



20th Anniversary Convention



The Louisiana-Mississippi Christmas Tree Association: 20 Years of Service - Preparing for a New Era in Southern Christmas Trees *(Preliminary Agenda)*

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

- 7:00 p.m. Registration begins and Exhibitors continue to setup.
- 7:30 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

- 7:30 a.m. Complimentary fruit, muffins, and coffee - Exhibit room
- 8:00 a.m. Registration continues in lobby
Contest trees must be checked in
- 8:45 a.m. **Welcome and opening remarks - Ed Rawls, President LA-MS CTA**
Morning session moderator: Kevin Steele
- 9:00 a.m. **How to make money with a small, southern Christmas tree farm**
Bill Murray
- 9:45 a.m. **LA-MS CTA business meeting**
Election of directors
Financial reports - Michael May
National directors report - Clarke Gernon
- 10:30 a.m. Break - Visit with exhibitors
- 11:00 a.m. **Protecting Leylands against deer and other predators**
Jim Fowler
- 11:45 a.m. **Christmas tree contest rules and guidelines**
Clarke Gernon
- 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. Lunch - *Vote on tree contest winners*

- 1:30 p.m. Afternoon session moderator: Rob Eddy
LA-MS Christmas tree association: The first 20 years
 Howard Thomley & Raburn May, LA-MS board members
- 2:00 p.m. **Fertilization for Leyland cypress and other new species**
 Dr. Richard Large
- 3:00 p.m. Break - Visit with exhibitors
- 3:30 p.m. **Ideas to make your farm unique and attractive**
 David Bennett
- 4:30 p.m. Adjourn
- 6:00 p.m. Social hour
- 7:00 p.m. **Buffet Banquet: Moderator - Ed Rawls**
 Announcement of tree contest winners
 Entertainment: The Conque Brothers
 Door Prizes

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

- 7:00 a.m. Non-denominational religious service
- 8:15 a.m. Leave for Christmas Forest
- 9:00 a.m. **Welcome to Christmas Forest - Barton Bennett**
Walking/riding tour of the farm emphasizing cultural practices for Leyland cypress and other new species - Barton Bennett
 Big tree area (producing trees 12' - 20')
 Weed control
 Shearing techniques
 Growth related to pot size, etc.
 Planting studies - depth, bare rooting, etc.
Other items of interest:
 Food sales Potted trees
 Nursery Other species
- 10:30 a.m. **Free time and concurrent informal sessions around the Christmas Shop, nursery, and surrounding area**
 Especially for the ladies (in the Christmas Shop)
 Retail Christmas Shop operations - Andrea Bennett
 Creating artificial wreaths, etc. - Jennifer Bollinger
 Bring your own creations and talk about them.
 Flocking Leyland cypress (demo and hints)
 Hay rides around the farm
- 12:00 p.m. **Catered lunch**
 After lunch stay as long as you like. Visit and share information.

Directions To Christmas Forest from the Holiday Inn South

- 🌲 Take I-12 west. It will merge with I-10 west.
- 🌲 Bear right on I-110 north just before the Mississippi River bridge.
- 🌲 Take I-110 north past the airport until it dead ends into Highway 61.
- 🌲 Turn right on Highway 61 (heading north towards Natchez).
- 🌲 After 3 miles bear right on Highway 964 just before the overpass.
- 🌲 Continue north on Highway 964 exactly 10 miles to Christmas Forest.

