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.