We want you to join us in Biloxi, at the Treasure Bay Resort Hotel. Enjoy the beautiful beaches, sun, gaming, and shopping found on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. You will also be part of history by attending the final LA/MS Christmas Tree Association meeting of the 21st century. Don't forget to bring your best tree to enter in our annual contest!! See instructions for judging inside.
# LOUISIANA - MISSISSIPPI CHRISTMAS TREE ASSOCIATION

## OFFICERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>City, State, Zip</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Al Acosta</td>
<td>177 Wind N. Oaks Road</td>
<td>Carriere, MS 39426</td>
<td>601-445-9388</td>
<td><a href="mailto:aacosta@datastar.net">aacosta@datastar.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>David Gaude</td>
<td>561 Hwy. 61 South</td>
<td>Natchez, MS 39120</td>
<td>601-445-8166</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parliamentarian</td>
<td>Ed Rawls</td>
<td>1266 Big Four Road</td>
<td>Wiggins, MS 39577</td>
<td>601-928-9807</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Director</td>
<td>Clarke Gernon</td>
<td>8016 Hermitage Drive</td>
<td>Denham Springs, LA 70726</td>
<td>504-665-6535</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Secretary</td>
<td>David and Mimi Bennett</td>
<td>3501 Jim East Ave.</td>
<td>Zachary, LA 70791</td>
<td>504-654-7514</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lamsoffice@acl.com">lamsoffice@acl.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## DIRECTORS - LOUISIANA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>City, State, Zip</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barton Bennett</td>
<td>8313 O'Hara Court</td>
<td>Baton Rouge, LA 70806</td>
<td>504-927-3200</td>
<td><a href="mailto:treemen@southernrees.com">treemen@southernrees.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James King</td>
<td>26800 James King Road</td>
<td>Hammond, LA 70403</td>
<td>504-567-9670</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kevin Steele</td>
<td>56450 Dollar Road</td>
<td>Angie, LA 70426</td>
<td>504-848-5133</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mike Para</td>
<td>406 Magnolia Lane</td>
<td>Slidell, LA 70461</td>
<td>504-643-7518</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reginald Pulliam</td>
<td>8360 W. El Cajon Drive</td>
<td>Baton Rouge, LA 70806</td>
<td>504-928-7081</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joe Pepper</td>
<td>2181 Hwy. 557</td>
<td>West Monroe, LA 71292</td>
<td>318-387-5172</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## DIRECTORS - MISSISSIPPI

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>City, State, Zip</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Howard Thomley</td>
<td>50 Hegwood Road</td>
<td>Hattiesburg, MS 39402</td>
<td>601-264-2743</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Eddy III</td>
<td>P.O. Box 1142</td>
<td>Hattiesburg, MS 39402</td>
<td>601-582-7418</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wally Swedenburg</td>
<td>979 South Lehmberg</td>
<td>Columbus, MS 39702</td>
<td>601-328-9140</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rayburn May</td>
<td>596 Lazy Acres Road</td>
<td>Chunky, MS 39323</td>
<td>601-655-8264</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wesley Bass</td>
<td>551 Delaney Robbins Rd.</td>
<td>Columbia, MS 39429</td>
<td>601-731-7661</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Gray</td>
<td>60206 Hatley-Detroit Rd.</td>
<td>Amory, MS 38821</td>
<td>601-256-5037</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## DIRECTORS BY PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>City, State, Zip</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Stephen Dicke</td>
<td>1320 Steven Springs Road</td>
<td>Raymond, MS 39154</td>
<td>601-857-2284</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Bob Mills</td>
<td>Louisiana State University</td>
<td>Baton Rouge, LA 70815</td>
<td>504-388-2266</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1999 Annual Christmas Tree Meeting
The Louisiana-Mississippi Christmas Tree Association

Friday, September 17  Treasure Bay Casino, Biloxi
4:00 p.m.  Exhibitor Set-up Begins  *Exhibitor Chair Rob Eddy*
6:30 p.m.  Board of Directors Meeting

Saturday, September 18  Treasure Bay Casino, Biloxi
7:30 a.m.  Registration Opens. Exhibitor Area Open (Continental Breakfast)
7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.  Registration of Trees for the Christmas Tree Contest. All LA-MS CTA Members may enter.  *Contest Chair Dr. Bob Mills*

Morning Session Moderator – Harry May

8:45 a.m.  Welcome
Al Acosta, President of LA-MS Christmas Tree Association

9:00 a.m.  Marketing Help From the MS Department of Agriculture and Commerce
Commissioner Lester Spell, D.V.M.

9:45 a.m.  Choose-N-Cut in Texas – Interesting and New Ideas
*NCTA Insurance Program*
Peter Hesslink, Vice President Soules Insurance Agency and Director Texas Christmas Tree Association

10:45 a.m.  Break, Visit with Vendors, Vote on Tree Contest

11:15 a.m.  Identity and Control of Recent Leyland Cypress Diseases
Dr. Ken Whitam, Division Leader of Plant Sciences Department and Extension Plant Pathologist, Louisiana State University

11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  Lunch (On Your Own)

Afternoon Session Moderator - Pete Hartzog

1:00 p.m.  Insect and Mite Control in Christmas Trees
Dr. Pat Harris, Extension Entomologist, Mississippi State Univ.

1:45 p.m.  Disease Control in Christmas Trees
Dr. Frank Killebrew, Extension Plant Pathologist, MSU

2:30 p.m.  Break – Visit with Vendors, Final Call for Votes on Tree Contest
3:00 p.m. **Important News from Around the Country**  
Clarke Gemon, Director, National Christmas Tree Association

3:30 p.m. **Business Meeting - Al Acosta, President**  
Election of Officers and Directors

4:30 p.m. **Adjourn**

5:30 p.m. **Reception to honor Dr. Bob Mills, LA Extension Forester**

6:30 p.m. **Banquet Dinner and Entertainment**  
**Tommy Joe Breaux** - “A Cajun Night Before Christmas”  
Best Christmas Tree Contest Awards  
Auction - **Mr. T. Luster Auctioneer**

---

**Sunday, September 19**  
**Dabbs Christmas Tree Farm**  
12143 School Road, Saucier, MS  
13 miles North of 1-10 on Highway 67, follow signs

7:00 a.m. **Vendor Set-Up**

7:30 a.m. **Coffee and Doughnuts**

8:00 a.m. **Welcome** Charlie and Donna Dabbs, Owners

8:10 a.m. **“Christ - The Reason for the Season”** Reverend Mark McDaniel

8:45 a.m. **Tour of Farm and Management Practices** Charlie and Donna Dabbs

10:15 a.m. **Improved Techniques and Equipment to Apply Herbicides**  
Dr. Bob Mills, LA Extension Forester

10:45 a.m. **Break**

11:00 a.m. **Equipment Show and “Trade Days” Begins**  
Dust off your old equipment and bring it to sell or trade.  
Visit with Vendors as they show off new equipment.

12:00 noon **Lunch at Farm**  
Closing Comments, Meeting Adjourned Al Acosta

1:00 p.m. **“Trade Days” Officially Closes**
1999 ANNUAL MEETING

"TRADE DAYS"

If anyone is interested in buying, selling or trading any old or new equipment you may bring it to the farm on Sunday. This is a great opportunity to get rid of some equipment or add to your collection. Remember the old saying "One man's junk is another one's treasures."

Leyland Cypress

Faster Growth - Higher Quality
More Salable Trees per Acre
Higher Profits

Two sizes of Leylands:
Liner - the economy size .................. $1.15
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(call for prices on these other species)

Prices are FOB Christmas Forest
Minimum order = 100 plants
Gallon = nurseryman's gallon
Liner = 1/4 of a nurseryman's gallon (4" pot)
25% deposit required with orders
Can be shipped UPS (partial bareroot)

CHRISTMAS
FOREST

23696 Old Scenic Hwy.
Zachary, Louisiana 70791
(504) 927-5500
(504) 654-0144
National Director's Report
by Clarke Gernon

NCTA is starting to brace itself for the 1999 Christmas Season, the last of the second millennium A.D. I wonder what twists and turns the next century may have in store for our industry.

As I write these words, many names from the past crowd my mind: names like Fred Kohl, Bob Parker, Carl Schneider, Alden Main, Nash Roberts, Grif Rogilio and dozens of others. All, for one reason or another, no longer participate. For those of us who remain, I must believe that growing trees for Christmas is 2-parts business mixed with 3- or 4-parts passion. Even with all the ups and downs of past years, I am convinced it is a worthwhile venture.

Without doubt, the most significant event for the Christmas tree industry in the recent past was the Earth Day exhibition in Washington. It proved to be an excellent opportunity to spread the word about the environmental benefits that surround the trees we grow. NCTA's booth was visited by more than 1,100 individuals during the 2-day session.

Linda Franzo was on hand to entertain and teach the youngsters. Linda is becoming well established at NCTA as our environmental spokesperson. She resides in the Slidell area and uses her substantial cooking and craft skills to communicate the positive relationship that Christmas trees have with the environment. Last Christmas season, Linda created the 'Giving Tree' decorated with wildlife eatable ornaments. She showed the kids in Washington how to make potpourri with foliage from Carolina Sapphire and pine.

Linda has taught cooking classes to both adults and children for a number of years under the name of 'The Passionate Platter by CherryCafe'.

Bags of mulch from Christmas tree chipping operations along with seedlings were distributed to the visitors to emphasize the environmental friendliness of Christmas tree production.

After the discussions of the La/Ms CTA's June board meeting ended, the attendees toured the fungicide test plots at Shady Pond. The test program had been arranged by Dr. Ken Whitam, Plant Pathologist and Leader of the Plant Science Division of the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service. The goal of the test is to devise an effective means of controlling the disease found in Leyland cypress plantings across the South.

There are four groups of trees in the test area; three treated with fungicides each of different chemistry and an untreated check. The fungicides used include Daconil, Kocide and Quadris. Daconil is generically known as chlorothalonil. The active ingredient in Kocide is copper hydroxide and in Quadris it is azoxystrobin.
The test trees had been sprayed twice monthly beginning in mid-March. At the time of the June board meeting, all the trees (treated and check) were in relatively good condition. Healthy new growth could be seen in the lower portions of the previously damaged foliage.

But during the weekend of July 10 and 11, an abrupt change was seen in the check trees. Both the new growth and older foliage began to wither and die, just as had been seen in previous years. At that time, there was a marked and distinct difference between the treated trees and the check. And within the three test plots, the Quadris and Kocide treated trees seemed to be in the best condition.

The remainder of the Leyland inventory at Shady Pond had been sprayed with Quadris and thiophanate methyl (Cleary 3336) on an alternating basis and half as frequently as the test trees. The presence of the disease on the remainder of the Farm was only spotty. And mancozeb (Protect T/O) is now being used to increase the control when spraying thiophanate methyl. Its effectiveness has not as yet been evaluated. Final grading of the control provided by the various fungicides will come later this summer.

The origins of Quadris are an interesting footnote to the study. Its active ingredient is azoxystrobin, a sophisticated chemical isolated in strobilurus mushrooms found in decaying wood. It was first identified by a Czech scientist in the 1973. He observed that the strobilurus seemed to have the ability to prevent the growth of other competing fungi within a certain distance of its own location (said to be allelopathic). The knowledge of this naturally occurring fungicide made its way to the Zeneca Agricultural Products Company in London through Germany in the mid 1980's. Zeneca now synthesizes strobilurin-A for use in the final product. The effectiveness of Quadris is further enhanced by its systemic action (relocated by the plant within itself to the more active growth areas) when applied to plant foliage. And beneficial fungi such as yeast and mycorrhizae are unaffected by azoxystrobin. It is a "smart" fungicide.

Dr. Whitam will be discussing the entire project in more detail at the annual meeting this September. Be sure to attend.

Clarke
4Q99
DON'T FORGET TO ORDER YOUR SEEDLINGS!
Order forms were sent out in the June newsletter. If you need another order form please contact the business office, or you can pick one up at the annual meeting. 225-654-7514

We would like to give a special thanks to Clarke Gernon at The Shady Pond tree farm for letting us host our June board meeting at his farm. His farm was very nice. We look forward to planning our 2000 annual meeting at his farm.

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GUIDELINES - CHRISTMAS TREE JUDGING
(Included for reference only. Please make every effort to judge quality in each category listed below.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>FOLIAGE:</strong> (50%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presence of insects and/or diseases</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Density (appropriate for species)</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uniformity or balance (gaps, crown thinness, internal structure, weak branches or whorls)</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality of cultural work (long branches, multiple tops)</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleanliness</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HANDLE:</strong> (10%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length (min. = 6” ; max. = 12”)</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Well trimmed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TAPER:</strong> (10%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pines 40-90%, Firs, Spruces, Other 40-70%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOP:</strong> (10%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proper length, proportional to taper, full top, good needle coverage</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MARKETABILITY:</strong> (20%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consumer acceptance (first impression, color, taper, etc.)</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of good faces (USDA Standards)</td>
<td>10%</td>
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</table>

**RANKINGS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TREE LETTER</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>#13</td>
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<tr>
<td>#14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#15</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

Using NCTA’s guidelines for contest tree judging (shown at left), examine each tree for the indicated characteristics.

Rank each tree according to its overall quality and marketability. Place the letter of the tree next to its ranking.

The tree that receives the most #1 votes will be our GRAND CHAMPION, regardless of its state of origin. The next tree receiving the most #1 votes will receive 1ST PLACE from either LA or MS. This process will continue until all PLACES are filled.
2000-2002 DIRECTORS:

The following have been nominated to stand on the board of directors for a two year term.

You must be present at the business meeting which starts at 3:30 to turn in your ballot.

Please select 2 from each state.

**Louisiana:**
Joe Pepper  
Karen Porter

**Mississippi:**
Wesley Bass  
Rob Eddy

If there are any other nominations, you may call Mimi Bennett 225-654-7514.

---

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- Engine mounted on backpack frame with flexible drive shaft running to gearbox mounted on blades
- Blades hang at preset taper with full range control
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- 2' extension $265

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### 1999 Annual Meeting Pre-Registration

LA-MS CTA 23rd Anniversary Celebration
September 17-19, 1999
Treasure Bay Casino Resort
1-800-Pirate-9

<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spouse's Name:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Farm or Company Name:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Address:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zip Code:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone:</td>
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<td>Email:</td>
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</table>

### Pre-Registration Fee (Must be submitted by September 3, 1999)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ticket Packages:</th>
<th>CTA Member</th>
<th>Non Member</th>
<th>Late Fee (After Sept 3)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Complete &quot;His and Hers&quot; Registration (Meetings, reception banquet, luncheon)</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>$130</td>
<td>+$20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extra Person, (Per Farm) (Meetings, reception banquet, luncheon)</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>+$15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Complete &quot;Individual&quot; Registration</td>
<td>$70</td>
<td>$100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extra Banquet Tickets (Sept 18)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adult</td>
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<td>Child (Under 12)</td>
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<td>Extra Luncheon Tickets (Sept 19)</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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### Product

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Total Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tree Tags (Per Thousand)</td>
<td>$55.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stickers (Per Thousand)</td>
<td>$40.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caps</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackets</td>
<td>$30.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patches</td>
<td>$2.50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lapel Pins</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Video Tape (A Southern Christmas Tale)</td>
<td>$10.50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Must call hotel to make room reservations by August 17, 1999
From: Louisiana - Mississippi Christmas Tree Association
P.O. Box 681
Zachary, Louisiana 70791

TO:

Call or write to receive our free catalogs
1-800-242-2019

- Growers Product Catalog
- Christmas Tree Retailer Supply Catalog
- Transplant and Nursery Stock Price List
- Cut Christmas Tree Price List

Let our 38 years in the tree business work for you.

THE CAMPBELL CO.
P.O. Box 780
Highway 21 East
Wautoma, WI 54982

Office 920-787-4653
Toll Free 1-800-242-2019
Fax 920-787-3696