2017 Joint Annual Meeting

of the

Georgia Christmas Tree Association

and the

Southern Christmas Tree Association

August 4th, 5th & 6th

Valley Community Center
130 Sportsplex Drive, Valley, Alabama 36854
www.CityOfValley.com

Saturday Farm Tour

Gilbert Christmas Tree Farm
Ray & Joan Gilbert, Hosts
1230 County Road 296, Lanett, Alabama 36863
Chambers County
www.GilbertTreeFarm.com

Sunday Farm Tour

Wadsworth Christmas Tree Farm
Frank & Lucie Wadsworth, Hosts
3071 Dexter Road, Wetumpka, Alabama 36092
Elmore County
www.WadsworthChristmasTrees.com
August 5, 2017

Dear Fellow Growers and Vendors:

I have wanted to have a joint annual meeting between the Southern Christmas Tree Association and the Georgia Christmas Tree Association for a long time.

I felt by having a joint meeting we would be able to have better programs and more vendors. Both associations have incredible members and dedicated leadership with everyone doing a great job representing our fine Christmas tree industry. I want to encourage you to meet and make new friends while renewing old friendships. The most important part of our annual meetings is sharing ideas and learning from others. I have never been to an annual meeting and not learned something new to take back and incorporate in my farm operation.

I encourage you to visit and support our vendors as they are a vital part of hosting an annual meeting. They know their business and their product lines. Our exhibitors and advertisers are always available to assist you.

Special thanks go to Chuck Berry, Linda Wilson, Matthew Gay, Steve Mannhard and Michael Buchart who helped put this meeting together and especially to Frank Wadsworth for hosting the Sunday farm tour. Any member who has hosted a farm tour knows the amount of preparation involved. The GCTA and SCTA thank you Frank, Lucie and your crew for the tour. I want to encourage everyone to attend.

The annual meeting requires much effort to organize and produce. I hope that you will benefit.

Let's Keep it Real!

Ray Gilbert, SCTA President 2016 /2017
Gilbert Christmas Tree Farm, Lanett, Alabama

Proud member of the National Christmas Tree Association (www.christmastree.org)
2017 Joint Annual Meeting
of the
Georgia and Southern Christmas Tree Associations

August 4th, 5th & 6th
Valley, Alabama

Agenda

Conference Facility
Valley Community Center
130 Sportsplex Drive, Valley, Alabama 36854
www.CityOfValley.com, (334) 756-5290

Primary Lodging
Hampton Inn
4210 Phillips Road, Valley / Lanett, Alabama 36863

Saturday Farm Tour
Gilbert Christmas Tree Farm
Ray & Joan Gilbert
1230 County Road 296, Lanett, Alabama 36863
Chambers County
www.GilbertTreeFarm.com, (706) 585-5306

Saturday Farm Tour
Wadsworth Christmas Tree Farm
Frank & Lucie Wadsworth
3071 Dexter Road, Wetumpka, Alabama 36092
Elmore County
www.WadsworthChristmasTrees.com, (334) 399-1547

Friday, August 4th
Times are Eastern Daylight Saving Time

05:00 pm – 07:00 pm  On-Site Registration at Hampton Inn
05:00 pm – 08:00 pm  Exhibitor & SCTA Christmas Tree Competition Set-Up
                      Valley Community Center
06:00 pm – 07:30 pm  GCTA Board Dinner, to be determined
07:00 pm – 08:30 pm  SCTA Board Dinner, Milano’s, 373 Fob James Drive, Valley
08:00 pm – 09:00 pm  GCTA Board Meeting at Hampton Inn
09:00 pm – 10:00 pm  SCTA Board Meeting at Hampton Inn
Saturday, August 5th

Times are Eastern Daylight Saving Time
Location: Valley Community Center

07:30 am – 09:00 am  Exhibitor & SCTA Christmas Tree Competition Set-Up
07:30 am – 10:00 am  On-Site Registration GCTA & SCTA
09:00 am – 09:10 am  Welcome by Presidents Ray Gilbert (SCTA) and Matthew Gay (GCTA)
09:10 am – 09:20 am  Welcome by Ashley Crane, Executive Director
Greater Valley Area Chamber of Commerce
09:20 am – 09:50 am  Estate Planning
Mark Tippins, Attorney at Law
09:50 am – 10:10 am  Break, Visit Exhibitors
09:50 am – 10:10 am  Welcome by Ashley Crane, Executive Director
Greater Valley Area Chamber of Commerce
09:20 am – 09:50 am  Estate Planning
Mark Tippins, Attorney at Law
09:50 am – 10:10 am  Break, Visit Exhibitors
10:10 am – 10:40 am  Asset Protection Strategy
Mark Tippins, Attorney at Law

10:40 am – 11:00 am  Toys for Tots Foundation, A.T. Wilson
Trees for Troops, Greg Smith
11:00 am – 12:00 pm Webinar
A Very Special Tree –
The Hunt for a Disease Resistant Leyland at Shady Pond Tree Farm
Presenters:
Gray Anderson, Grant Christmas Tree Farm & Syrup Mill
Dr. John Frampton, Professor / Christmas Tree Geneticist, NCSU
Clarke Gernon, Shady Pond Tree Farm

12:00 pm – 12:30 pm Break, Visit Exhibitors
12:30 pm – 01:30 pm  Buffet Lunch, Valley Community Center

01:30 pm – 02:00 pm  Christmas Tree Promotion Board
                     Marsha Gray

02:00 pm – 02:30 pm  Whole Farm Revenue Protection
                     Heyward Baker, USDA – Risk Management Agency (retired)

02:30 pm – 02:45 pm  Break, Visit Exhibitors

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>02:45 pm</td>
<td>Deadline to Submit SCTA Christmas Tree Competition Ballots</td>
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<tr>
<td>02:45 pm – 03:45 pm</td>
<td>General Membership Business Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>04:00 pm – 06:00 pm</td>
<td>Farm Tour, Gilbert Christmas Tree Farm</td>
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<tr>
<td>07:00 pm – 10:00 pm</td>
<td>Buffet Dinner, Valley Community Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>08:00 pm – 08:30 pm</td>
<td>Dinner Speaker – Jody Fuller comedian, speaker, writer &amp; soldier</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:00 pm – 10:00 pm</td>
<td>SCTA Tree Contest Winners &amp; SCTA Auction Fundraiser</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 pm</td>
<td>All Exhibits and Christmas Trees Must Be Removed</td>
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</table>

Tim Mitchell's Yule Stand System

6437 East Exeter, Scottsdale, Arizona 85251
800.394.6536 / 602.956.9574; Facsimile: 602.778.9899
E-mail: info@timmitchellschristmastrees.com

www.timmitchellsyulestand.com
Sunday, August 6th

Times are Central Daylight Saving Time
Farm Tour, Wadsworth Christmas Tree Farm
09:00 am – 09:15 am  Worship Service on the Farm
09:15 am – 12:30 am  Christmas Tree Farm Tour and Demonstrations
12:30 am – 01:30 pm  Lunch
01:30 pm  Adjourn and return home safely!

Contact: Terry Robertson, 54 Samantha Place, Dadeville, AL 36853, (617)416-0788, Tradr65@gmail.com

Our Supporters:

Evans Christmas Products
Stephanie & Craig Evans, Julie Holland
(member, advertiser, exhibitor)

Fraser Knoll Farms
Tommy Wagoner
(member, advertiser, exhibitor)

Evans Christmas Products
Stephanie & Craig Evans, Julie Holland
(member, advertiser, exhibitor)

Keelson Partners
Tom Wilkins
(advertiser)

Grant Christmas Tree Farm & Syrup Mill
Gray Anderson
(member, exhibitor)

Fresh Cut Tech
Scott Edwards
(advertiser)

Kirk Company
TJ Roland
(advertiser, exhibitor)

Pennington Seed
Al Hubbard
(advertiser)

Steele’s Saje
Kevin Steele
(member, exhibitor)

Tim Mitchell’s Yule Stand System
Craig Sorensen
(exhibitor)

Peak Seasons \ Veldsm & Sons
Mark & Stephanie Clifford
(advertiser, exhibitor)

Swihart Sales Company
Roger Swihart
(advertiser)
Presenters

Gray Anderson
Grant Christmas Tree Farm & Syrup Mill
716 Whitaker Road, Grant, LA 70644 Allen Parish
www.GrantChristmasTreeFarm.com, (337) 789-3072, GrayAnderson88@Yahoo.com

Heyward Baker, retired program administrator, USDA, RMA - Crop Insurance Program
517 Singleton Avenue, Kingstree, SC 29556
(843) 356-0670, heywardbaker@yahoo.com

Ashley Crane, Executive Director
Greater Valley Area Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 205, Lanett, AL 36863
www.GreaterValleyArea.com, (334) 642-1411, ACrane@GreaterValleyArea.com

Dr. John Frampton, Professor / Christmas Tree Geneticist
North Carolina State University, Department of Forestry & Environmental Resources
Jordan Hall Addition 3219, Raleigh, NC 27695
www.cnr.ncsu.edu, (919) 515-7580, John_Frampton@ncsu.edu

Matthew Gay, President GCTA
Gay’s Christmas Tree Farm
2335 Tobacco Road, Augusta, GA 30906 Richmond County

Clarke Gernon
Shady Pond Tree Farm
37226 Pine Street Extension, Pearl River, LA 70452 St. Tammany Parish
www.ShadyPondTreeFarm.net, (985) 863-5569, SPTF@CGernon.com

Ray Gilbert, President SCTA
Gilbert Christmas Tree Farm
1230 County Road 296, Lanett, AL 36863 Chambers County
www.GilbertTreeFarm.com, (706) 585-5306, RayGilbert@Mindspring.com

Marsha Gray, Industry Communication & Program Director
Christmas Tree Promotion Board
PO Box 3669, Littleton, CO 80161
www.ChristmasTreePromotionBoard.org, (800) 985-0773, Marsha@ChristmasTreePromotionBoard.org

Greg Smith, Past President GCTA 2013/2014 & Georgia Tree for Troops Coordinator
7 G’s Farm
2331 Old Kings Bridge Road, Nicholson, GA 30565
www.7GsFarm.WordPress.com, (706) 202-8936, Greg@7GsFarm.com

Mark Tippins, Attorney at Law
Private practice specializing in estate planning and asset protection.
118 North Ross Street #6, Auburn, AL 36830
(334) 821-3670, MTippins@BellSouth.net

A.T. Wilson
USMC, Toys for Tots Foundation
With Honor, LLC
2700 Ivy Mill Drive, Buford, GA 30519
www.WithHonorLLC.org, (770) 932-6031
Jody Fuller is a comic, speaker, writer, and soldier with three tours of duty in Iraq. He currently holds the rank of Major in the US Army Reserves. Jody is also a lifetime stutterer.

Growing up in Opelika, Alabama Jody had to overcome two things: poverty and stuttering. Enlisting in the Army after high school helped him overcome the poverty but the stuttering continues to pose unique challenges. After a 4 year stint as an Army medic, he returned home to attend college at Auburn University at Montgomery where he received a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration.

After 9/11, Jody returned to the Army by way of Officer Candidate School (OCS) at Fort Benning, Georgia. After OCS, he completed the Transportation Officer Basic Course at Ft. Eustis, VA, before being assigned to 2nd Infantry Division at Fort Lewis, Washington. In November 2003, he deployed to Iraq for a year with the 296th Brigade Support Battalion of the Army’s First Stryker Brigade, where he served as the platoon leader of the third largest platoon in the United States Army. In 2006, Jody left active duty Army to join the Alabama National Guard and deployed to Iraq two additional times. As of 2016, Major Fuller continues to serve in the Army Reserves.

When not in uniform, Jody performs all over the U.S. for a wide range of groups, including non-profits, corporations and disability groups. He also performs for troops at home and abroad. To date, he has performed for U.S. military personnel in 15 countries and counting. As a writer, his column can be read in 10 newspapers. He’s also been published 6 times in the popular Chicken Soup for the Soul series including: A Lifetime of Stuttering: From Lemons to Lemonade: 101 Positive, Practical, and Powerful Stories about Making the Best of a Bad Situation; Embracing my Uniqueness: Think Positive for Kids: 101 Stories about Good Decisions, Self-Esteem, and Positive Thinking; Miracles in Uniform: Miracles Happen: 101 Inspirational Stories about Hope, Answered Prayers, and Divine Intervention; and Tough Love: The Power of Gratitude: 101 Stories about How Being Thankful Can Change Your Life.

Jody is a member of two NSAs: the National Stuttering Association and the National Speakers Association. He lives in Opelika with his Ruby, his chocolate lab, and Abbey, his cat.

www.JodyFuller.com

Thank you!

Georgia Christmas Tree Association
120 Cordele Road, Hawkinsville, Georgia 31036
www.GCTA.com; Telephone (478) 919-8733; Email GCTA@Comsouth.net

Southern Christmas Tree Association
12263 Brookshire Avenue, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70815
www.SouthernChristmasTrees.org; Telephone (225)505-6335; Email SCTAES@Gmail.com

IT'S CHRISTMAS. KEEP IT REAL.
1. Head northeast toward S Phillips Rd
   25 s (0.1 mi)

2. Turn right onto S Phillips Rd
   0.3 mi

3. Continue onto Fob James Dr
   0.1 mi

4. Use the left 2 lanes to turn left to merge onto I-85 N
   0.1 mi

5. Take exit 79 for US-29 toward Lanett/Valley
   2.2 mi

6. Use the left lane to keep left at the fork and continue toward US-29 N
   0.2 mi
These directions are for planning purposes only. You may find that construction projects, traffic, weather, or other events may cause conditions to differ from the map results, and you should plan your route accordingly. You must obey all signs or notices regarding your route.

Gilbert Christmas Tree Farm
1230 Chambers County Road 296, 2118 County Road 266, Lanett, AL 36863

7. Turn left onto US-29 N
   → Entering Georgia

8. Continue straight onto 3rd Ave

9. Continue onto S State Line Rd
   → Entering Alabama

10. Continue onto Chambers County 212

11. Continue onto Stateline Rd

12. Turn left onto Chambers County 296
   → Destination will be on the right

Gilbert Christmas Tree Farm
1230 Chambers County Road 296, 2118 County Road 266, Lanett, AL 36863
Get on I-85 S

1. Head northeast toward S Phillips Rd

2. Turn right onto S Phillips Rd

3. Turn right to merge onto I-85 S

Follow I-85 S to AL-229 N in Macon County. Take exit 26 from I-85 S

4. Merge onto I-85 S
5. Take exit 26 for AL-229 N toward Tallassee

Continue on AL-229 N. Take AL-14 W to Dexter Rd in Elmore County

6. Turn right onto AL-229 N (signs for Tallassee/E V Smith Ctr.)

7. Continue onto AL-14 W/Gilmer Ave
   Continue to follow AL-14 W

8. Turn right onto Haynes Rd

9. Turn right onto AL-170 E

10. Turn left onto Pierce Chapel Rd

11. Continue onto Dexter Rd

Wadsworth Christmas Tree Farm
3071 Dexter Rd, Wetumpka, AL 36092

These directions are for planning purposes only. You may find that construction projects, traffic, weather, or other events may cause conditions to differ from the map results, and you should plan your route accordingly. You must obey all signs or notices regarding your route.
SCTA Annual Tree Contest Rules

The Southern Christmas Tree Association (SCTA) shall hold a tree contest at its annual meeting for the purpose of promoting and rewarding excellence in the production of Christmas trees in the region and establishing eligibility of the winners for the National Christmas Tree Association’s (NCTA) National Christmas Tree Contest.

Eligibility of Entrants

- All current SCTA members are eligible to enter a tree in the contest.
- Members may enter more than one tree in the contest but only one tree per species.
- Each tree entered must be set up in the established display area not later than the official Saturday start time of the annual meeting.

Requirements of Entries

- All classes of commercially grown Christmas trees are eligible for entry in the contest, including both cut trees and container-grown trees. There will be no separate classes or categories of trees.
- Eligible trees must be no less than 6 feet in height and no more than 8 feet in height measured from the bottom of the handle to the tip of the leader.
- In the case of container trees, it will be measured from the bottom of the pot to the top of the leader. The container can be any size or shape except that the diameter of the top of pot cannot exceed 24 inches.
- Entries cannot be artificially colored or flocked.
- Entries cannot have branches or limbs that are wired, tied, or inserted in any fashion within the tree.
- Any tree failing to meet these requirements will be declared ineligible by the contest chairperson.

Entry and Balloting Procedures

- Members who enter a tree in the contest will notify the contest chairperson of their entry prior to the entry deadline (official Saturday start time of the annual meeting).
- The president of SCTA will appoint a three-person contest committee with a chairperson to supervise the contest procedures, balloting, and announcement of awards.
- The chairperson will attach a lettered tag to each entry and maintain a log of each entry detailing the entrant and the assigned number of his/her tree.
- The executive secretary will prepare ballots prior to the beginning of the meeting and include them in the registration packet.
- Balloting for the tree contest must conclude not later than start time of the general business meeting. Ballots will be collected by the contest chairperson and counted by the three-person contest committee.

Contest Awards and Recognitions

- A first, second, and third place award will be presented to the entries from each state that received the most votes.
- A contest Grand Champion and Reserve Champion will also be awarded to the two entrants receiving the most votes from among the winners from the three states.
- The Grand Champion and Reserve Champion will have the honor of representing the SCTA at the national contest sponsored by NCTA during the following year’s annual NCTA contest.
**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 its respective state (AL, LA, or MS). This process will continue until all PLACES are filled.

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### TREE CONTEST

**GUIDELINES—CHRISTMAS TREE JUDGING**

*Included for reference only. Please make every effort to judge quality in each category below.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>FOLIAGE: (50%)</strong></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>
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<tr>
<td><strong>HANDLE: (10%)</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Length (min. = 6”; max. = 12”)</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Well trimmed</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TAPER: (10%)</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Pines 40-90%, Others 40-70%</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOP: (10%)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Proper length, proportional to taper, full top, good needle coverage</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MARKETABILITY: (20%)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Consumer acceptance</td>
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<tr>
<td>(first impression, color, taper, etc.)</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of good faces (USDA Standards)</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Tree Letter</th>
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<td>#1</td>
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