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**2021 Annual Meeting**  
of the  
**Southern Christmas Tree Association**

**August 13, 14 & 15**

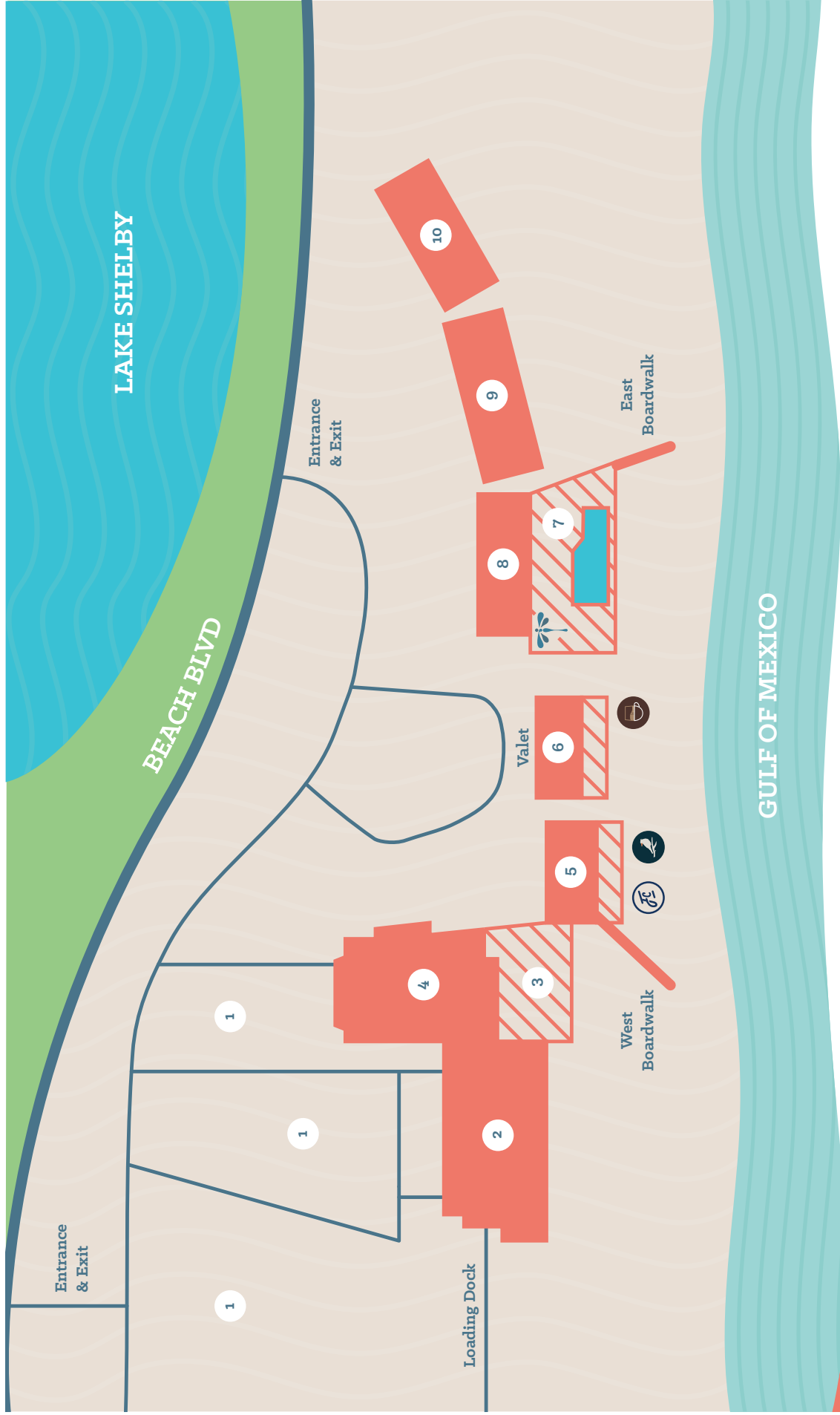
**Fish River Trees**  
**The Cabins at Fish River Trees**  
**Steve & Sandra Mannhard**

Farm Hosts  
13982 Woodhaven Dairy Road East  
Summerdale, Alabama 36580  
Telephone: (251) 988-8114; Email: [fishrivertrees@gulftel.com](mailto:fishrivertrees@gulftel.com)  
[www.FishRiverTrees.com](http://www.FishRiverTrees.com)

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*The 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the SCTA and the 45<sup>th</sup> since the founding of ACTGA & LaMsCTGA!*



- 1. **Parking**
- 2. **Meeting Spaces**
  - Live Oak I, II, III
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  - Boardroom
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- 3. **DUNES TERRACE**
- 4. **GULFVIEW BALLROOM**
- 5. **RESTAURANTS**
  - Foodcraft
  - Perch
- 6. **LOBBY**
  - Guest Registration
  - Roasted Oak Coffee & Wine Bar
  - Gift Shop
- 7. **POOL LANDING AREA**
  - Dragonfly Bar and Grill
  - Sandpiper Room
  - Fitness Center
  - Pool
- 8. **GUEST ROOMS**
- 9. **GUEST ROOMS**
- 10. **GUEST ROOMS**



[www.SouthernChristmasTrees.org](http://www.SouthernChristmasTrees.org)

August 13, 2021

Welcome to the 2021 annual meeting of the Southern Christmas Tree Association.

It is good to be back with everyone after delaying our conference due to CoVid concerns in 2020. I hope you all enjoy this time we have together to catch up with old friends, network, and share ideas.

A big "THANKS!" goes to Steve and Sandra Mannhard our farm hosts, Mike Buchart, our Executive Secretary, the Board of Directors, and all those who helped plan this conference. They have worked extremely hard planning and re-planning this meeting.

Almost everyone I've talked with had a great season in 2020 in spite of or perhaps because of CoVid-19. Recently, I toured 12 agritourism operations in and around the Pennsylvania area with members of the Tennessee Agritourism Association. Every stop reported strong sales continuing into the summer of 2021. The forecast is looking good for the upcoming pumpkin and Christmas seasons.

It is very tempting for us to get complacent with our advertising and social media presence during these times. I strongly encourage you to keep working at it. Many of us had a lot of new customers last year and some of our old customers did not return due to CoVid concerns. Keep reaching out to both of them. Keep them engaged and don't get complacent with your advertising. Covid has given us an opportunity to remind people of the value of fresh air, country settings, family values, and the charm of having a real Christmas tree.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve as your association president the last two years. It has been an honor. I pray you all remain healthy and have a great 2021 sales season.

**Michael May, President 2020/2021**

Lazy Acres Agritainment, LLC  
596 Lazy Acres Road, Chunky, MS 39323  
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[www.lazy-acres.com](http://www.lazy-acres.com)

SCTA

1830 West Fairview Drive, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70816 USA  
E-mail: [sctaes@gmail.com](mailto:sctaes@gmail.com); Telephone: 225.505.6335

*Proud member of the National Christmas Tree Association ([www.RealChristmasTrees.org](http://www.RealChristmasTrees.org))*



20210727



[www.SouthernChristmasTrees.org](http://www.SouthernChristmasTrees.org)

August 13, 2021

*Welcome to the Alabama Gulf Coast.*

Greetings fellow Christmas tree growers! Sandra and I are looking forward to welcoming all of you to our farm and the Alabama Gulf Coast.

The Lodge at Gulf State Park is a fabulous resort. Bring your beach stuff, bikes for rides in the park and your appetite. We have a very informative program planned, along with lots of "fun".

For the farm tour on Sunday, we have a very ambitious program with two separate agendas: one devoted to production topics with 15 separate stations ranging from trimming, herbiciding, fertilizing, planting, and staking topics to growing new varieties and Living Christmas Trees in containers and the second, running concurrently, will focus on "Other Farm Income" options from concession stand and gift shop operations to greenery sales and trends along with a planned tour of our rental cabins.

It will be very hot and humid, as you all know, so come prepared with hats, umbrellas, sunscreen, and anything that can keep the gnats away. They are particularly bad right now.

If you come early Sunday, we hope to have our Magi Camel ready for you to ride along with some fun and unusual animals in our manger scene. There will be some light refreshments.

We do not plan a lunch since it is way too hot outside and plenty of places are available to have lunch on your way home.

We are looking forward to visiting with everyone after a year off for that blasted CoVid.

Blessings to one and all and stay cool,

**Steve and Sandra Mannhard, 2021 Program Chair & Farm Host**

Fish River Trees and The Cabins at Fish River Trees

13982 Woodhaven Dairy Road East, Summerdale, Alabama 36580

Telephone: (251) 988-8114, Email: [FishRiverTrees@gulftel.com](mailto:FishRiverTrees@gulftel.com)

[www.FishRiverTrees.com](http://www.FishRiverTrees.com)

SCTA

1830 West Fairview Drive, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70816 USA

E-mail: [sctaes@gmail.com](mailto:sctaes@gmail.com); Telephone: 225.505.6335

*Proud member of the National Christmas Tree Association ([www.RealChristmasTrees.org](http://www.RealChristmasTrees.org))*



20210727



# The Southern Christmas Tree Association

## Officers and Directors

[Home](#)

### Officers

2020 - 2021

#### President

Michael May  
Lazy Acres  
596 Lazy Acres Road  
Chunky, MS 39323  
601x917x4196

#### Senior Vice-President

Steve Mannhard  
Fish River Trees  
13982 Wood Haven Dairy Road East  
Summerdale, AL 36580  
251x988x8114

#### Vice-President

Kevin Steele  
Steele's Christmas Tree Farm  
56459 Dollar Road  
Angie, LA 70426  
985x966x1041

#### Past President / Parliamentarian

Danna Day  
Old Days Farm  
131 Glynn Day Road  
Winnsboro, LA 71295  
318x805x6106

#### NCTA Representative

Kevin Steele  
Steele's Christmas Tree Farm  
56459 Dollar Road  
Angie, LA 70426  
985x966x1041

### Directors

2019 - 2020

2020 - 2021

#### Alabama Director

Paul Beavers  
Beaver's Tree Farm  
10093 Bradford Trafford Road  
Trafford, AL 35172  
205x527x1192

#### Alabama Director

Michael Duncan  
Neely Farms  
275 Dakota Road  
Thorsby, AL 35171  
205x389x1832

#### Appointment

#### Alabama

**Extension Director**  
Dr. Jeremy Pickens  
Extension Specialist  
Auburn University  
P.O. Box 8276  
Mobile, AL 36689  
251x342x2366

#### Louisiana Director

Tod Miller  
Christmas Town  
23237 Highway 1057  
Kentwood, LA 70444  
985x514x0660

#### Louisiana Director

Gray Anderson  
Grant Christmas Tree Farm  
& Syrup Mill  
716 Whitaker Road  
Grant, LA 70644  
337x789x3072

#### Louisiana

**Extension Director**  
Valerie West  
Area Forestry Agent  
LSU Ag Center  
204 Burt Boulevard  
Benton, LA 71006  
318x965x2326

#### Mississippi Director

Wesley Bass  
Bass Christmas Tree Farm  
103 Riley Road  
Columbia, MS 39429  
601x731x8232

#### Mississippi Director

Lowell Worthey  
Worthey Tree Farm  
60025 Worthey Lane  
Amory, MS 38821  
662x305x2545

#### Mississippi

**Extension Director**  
Dr. John Kushla  
Mississippi State University  
5421 Highway 145 South  
Veronia, MS 38879  
662x566x2201

### Executive Secretary

Michael Bucht  
1830 West Fairview Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70816 USA  
Telephone: 225x505x6335; E-mail:(sctaes@gmail.com)

**Agenda**  
**2021 Annual Meeting**  
**Southern Christmas Tree Association**  
**August 13 – 15**

**Fish River Trees**

**The Cabins at Fish River Trees**

13982 Woodhaven Dairy Road East, Summerdale, Alabama 36580  
(251) 988-8114, [www.FishRiverTrees.com](http://www.FishRiverTrees.com)  
[www.AirBnB.com](http://www.AirBnB.com) "The Cabins at Fish River Trees"

**The Lodge at Gulf State Park – A Hilton Hotel**

21196 East Beach Boulevard, Gulf Shores, Alabama 36542  
(251) 540-4000, [www.LodgeAtGulfStatePark.com](http://www.LodgeAtGulfStatePark.com)

**Friday August 13**

**Parker Acres Farm**

10:00 am - 02:00 pm Informal Farm Tour: Parker Acres Farm, Tim & Brenda Parker. Located 16203 Old Ganey Road, Bay Minette, Alabama 36507 in Baldwin County approximately 60 miles north of Gulf Shores and six miles north of I-65 Exit 37 (Bay Minette & Rabun Road / Highway 287). Members since 2019, Tim & Brenda are entering their 2<sup>nd</sup> selling season and have graciously opened their gate for an informal look around while registrants are traveling to Gulf Shores. Telephones: (251) 937-0470 (Tim) & (251) 232-0138 (Brenda)  
[www.Parker-Acres-Farm.Business.site](http://www.Parker-Acres-Farm.Business.site); [www.Facebook.com/ParkerAcresFarm](http://www.Facebook.com/ParkerAcresFarm)



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Contact: Gray Anderson, 716 Whitaker Road, Grant, LA 70644; (800) 987-6635  
[www.GrantChristmasTreeFarm.com](http://www.GrantChristmasTreeFarm.com)

### The Lodge at Gulf State Park

03:00 pm - 06:00 pm Registration: The Lodge at Gulf State Park (Building 2)

05:00 pm - 10:00 pm Exhibitor, Tree & Wreath Set Up (Building 2)

06:00 pm - 07:00 pm SCTA Board Meeting (Building 2)

07:00 pm - 08:00 pm Board Dinner. Woodside Restaurant located 20249 State Park Road, Gulf Shores, AL 36542; telephone: (251) 923-3100; [www.WoodsideAtGSP.com](http://www.WoodsideAtGSP.com). Hotel shuttle service is available.

*Note: there is ample space at this nearby restaurant should any non-board members be tempted to dine.*



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### **Saturday August 14**

#### **The Lodge at Gulf State Park**

07:30 am - 08:30 am Registration (conference rooms Live Oak I, II, & III Building 2)

08:30 am - 09:00 am Pledge of Allegiance

Presidential Welcome: Michael May, Lazy Acres, Chunky, Mississippi

09:00 am - 09:30 am Christmas Tree Industry Trends: Steve Mannhard, Program Chair & Farm Host

Hurricane Disaster Updates: Steve Mannhard & Gray Anderson, Grant Farms, Grant, Louisiana

USDA Disaster Assistance Programs  
Hurricane Preparation & Recovery





09:30 am - 10:00 am Grass & Weed Control in Christmas Trees: Dr. Jeremy Pickens, Auburn University

10:00 am - 10:30 am Break with Vendors, Tree & Wreath Contest Judging

10:30 am - 11:30 am Member-to-Member Sharing Session #1

Moderator: Steve Mannhard

What to Do About Photographers: Gray Anderson

To Paint or Not to Paint: Bentley Curry, Curry Farms, Rayville, Louisiana

11:30 am - 01:00 pm Lunch Buffet in Conference Room

Honorable Rick Pate, Commissioner

Alabama Department of Agriculture & Industries

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2145 Lakeview Road, Byron, Georgia 31008 [www.byronlakeviewnursery.com](http://www.byronlakeviewnursery.com)

01:00 am - 02:00 pm Member-to-Member Sharing Session #2

Moderator: Michael May

Using ATM's on the Farm: Kevin Steele, Steele's Christmas Tree Farm,  
Angie, Louisiana

Using a Food Truck

To Open or Not to Open Prior To Thanksgiving: Mollie Anderson, Grant Farms,  
Grant, Louisiana

02:00 pm - 02:30 pm Break with Vendors, Tree & Wreath Contest Judging

02:30 pm - 03:00 pm Fertilization of Christmas Trees: Dr. Jeremy Pickens

03:00 pm - 03:30 pm Fish River Trees: A Story of Growth: Steve Mannhard

03:30 pm - 04:00 pm Business Meeting

04:00 pm - 06:00 pm Break with Vendors, Beach & Pool Time

06:00 pm - 07:00 pm Happy Hour Social on the Dunes Terrace (Building 2)

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**KEELSON PARTNERS**

07:00 pm - 08:00 pm Dinner Buffet (conference room)

Marsha Gray, Christmas Tree Promotion Board

08:00 pm - 08:15 pm Tree & Wreath Contest Winner Announcements: Michael May

08:15 pm - 10:00 pm Auction: Bentley Curry & Michael May

## Sunday August 15

### Fish River Trees Farm Tour

08:00 am - 09:00 am Light Breakfast Refreshments, Camel Rides, Manger Visits

09:00 am - 09:15 am Welcome: Steve & Sandra Mannhard, Hosts

09:15 am - 10:15 am Concurrent Session #1A

Christmas Tree Production: Steve Mannhard, Moderator

Station #1     Selling Container Trees

Station #2     Selling Pre-Cut Fir Trees

Station #3     Using Tree-Wheelers

Station #4     Herbicide Experiment Demonstration: Dr. Jeremy Pickens

Station #5     Fertilizer Demonstration: Steve Mannhard & Dr. Jeremy Pickens

Station #6     Planting Demonstration: Steve Mannhard & Gray Anderson

Station #7     Staking & Tree Rescue Demonstrations: Steve Mannhard, Larry Massey, Rosebud Christmas Trees, Walnut Grove, Mississippi, Shane Rawls, Precious Memories Christmas Tree Farm, Calhoun, Louisiana

Station #8     Trimming Demonstrations on Various Size & Types of Trees with Different Trimming Equipment: Steve Mannhard, Michael & Ethan Duncan, Neely Farms, Thorsby, Alabama, Kevin Steele, SAJE Shearing Machine, Angie, Louisiana



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09:15 am -10:15 am Concurrent Session #1B

Other on the Farm Income: Sandy Curry, Moderator, Curry Farms, Rayville, Louisiana

Gift Shop & Concession Stand Operations: Mikayla Carey, Lazy Acres,  
 Chunky, Mississippi  
 Greenery Sales & Trends

10:15 am -10:45 am Break

10:45-11:45 am Concurrent Session #1A, continued

Station #9 Alternative Species Examination - Blue Ice, Portuguese Cypress, Clemson Greenspire

Station #10 Disease Identification in Leyland Cypress

Station #11 Growing Virginia Pine - Planting to Harvest, Including Examination of New South Carolina Virginia Pine Improved Seedlings: Steve Mannhard & Michael Duncan

Station #12 Disease Resistant Leyland Cypress Leighton Green - Gernon Display: Steve Mannhard

Station #13 One Gallon vs. 2 Inch Liner Planting & Evaluation of Growth

Station #14 One Gallon Liner Display

Station #15 Growing Container-Grown Living Christmas Trees

10:45-11:45 am: Concurrent Session #1B, continued

SCTA planners are always looking for host farms. The board requests considerations for future annual meetings and for next year's Louisiana meeting. Anywhere in the state is fine and would be particularly interesting on a not-previously-visited farm. Yes, it does demand preparation since everyone wants their farm looking perfect. Look at it as early preparation for the selling season. A Sunday farm tour does not have to be a spectacular place but one where people can learn from the host's experiences, participants can learn from discussions and the host can learn from lots of free consultation. The 2022 planning committee will put together a program and assist the host, if necessary, organizing farm demonstrations with the support of fellow member farmers and the cooperative extension service. Additional expenses for hosting a Sunday farm tour or informal Friday farm tour (Johnny houses, refreshments, snacks, lunches, etc.) will be reimbursed by SCTA. Even if you are remotely interested, please be in touch with the executive secretary. The board would like to be positioned with a likely farm host when it meets January 2022.

Thank you for attending as we all have benefited and strengthened numerous relationships. Safe journey traveling home, take care on the farm, good luck preparing for The Season, try to enjoy it despite being wore out, but most importantly give thanks for our many, many blessings.

### **SCTA's Supporters:**

<b>Keelson Partners</b>	<b>Byron Lakeview Nursery</b>	<b>Kirk Company</b>
<b>Veldsma &amp; Sons / Peak Seasons</b>	<b>Fraser Knoll Supplies &amp; Equipment</b>	<b>Evans Christmas Products</b>
<b>Steele's Saje Shearing Machine</b>		<b>Grant Farms</b>

## The Line-Up: Facilitators / Speakers / Movers & Shakers



The Andersons  
Grant Farms

Gray and Mollie Anderson own and operate Grant Farms - a year round agritourism operation that includes a fine gift shop in Allen Parish, Louisiana where they provide family experiences for young and old. The Andersons are large producers of honey and grow containerized Christmas tree starters for the region. It all started with their old style cane syrup mill where they produce "The Real Stuff" as pure and real cane syrup as anywhere since 1983. Gray has served multiple director terms. Both he and Mollie are active SCTA members, have hosted several workshops, supported annual meetings as speakers and exhibitors and are valuable sources of knowledge. Contact: Grant Farms, 716 Whitaker Road, Grant, LA 70644; (800) 987-6635; [GrayAnderson88@Yahoo.com](mailto:GrayAnderson88@Yahoo.com); [www.GrantChristmasTreeFarm.com](http://www.GrantChristmasTreeFarm.com)

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Bentley & Sandy Curry  
Curry Farms

Curry Farms is a fourth generation property beginning with Bentley's great-grandfather, John Robinson, in the mid 1800's.

Bentley and Sandy planted their first 1,000 Virginia Pine in February of 1981 and sold the first trees during the winter of 1983. The entire family has helped develop the farm into an agritourism destination for the area. Since then, the selection of grown and pre-cut trees has expanded along with other enjoyable on the farm experiences. If growing Christmas trees is not enough, Bentley is a well known agricultural consultant.

The Currys have been very active members of SCTA, including the National Christmas Tree Association and the

Christmas Tree Promotion Board. Often representing SCTA during national meetings, the Currys bring the True South to wherever they travel.

Contact: Curry Farms, 548 Robinson Drive, Rayville, LA 71269; (318) 728-6203  
[BentleyCurry@AOL.com](mailto:BentleyCurry@AOL.com); [www.CurryFarms.net](http://www.CurryFarms.net)

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Marsha Gray  
CTPB

The Christmas Tree Promotion Board is a national research and promotion program whose mission is to share the benefits of fresh Christmas trees with consumers through promotion, public relations and education, while engaging in research to better serve our customers and growers.

The first CTPB board was appointed in January of 2015 by then USDA Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack. The board is made up of Christmas tree producers representing production in the east, central and west regions of the U.S., along with an importer member.

The Christmas Tree Promotion Board contracted with Marsha Gray and Gray Management LLC for operations management.

Marsha serves as the Executive Director of the CTPB and had previously served as the Industry Communications and Program Director. Marsha brings 27 years of association management experience, including more than 14 years as the Executive Director of the Michigan Christmas Tree Association.

Contact: CTPB, PO Box 77, Howell, MI 48844; (800) 985-0773;  
[Marsha@ChristmasTreePromotionBoard.org](mailto:Marsha@ChristmasTreePromotionBoard.org); [www.ChristmasTreePromotionBoard.org](http://www.ChristmasTreePromotionBoard.org)

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Tim & Brenda Parker  
Parker Acres Farm

Tim and Brenda Parker have a beautiful three acre farm on hilly land located in Baldwin County approximately 60 miles north of Gulf Shores and six miles north of I-65 Exit 37 (Bay Minette & Rabun Road - Highway 287). Novices who planted in 2017 and became members in 2019, they are now entering their 2nd selling season.

Friday, they graciously opened their gate for members to look around while traveling to Gulf Shores. With a long career of honorable military and admirable law enforcement careers, the Parkers have brought their worldly experiences to Parker Acres. Contact: Parker Acres Farm, 16203 Old Ganey Road, Bay Minette, AL 36507; (251) 937-0470 (Tim) & (251) 232-0138 (Brenda);

ParkerAcresFarm@gmail.com  
www.Parker-Acres-Farm.Business.site



Rick Pate  
Commissioner

Rick Pate serves as the 30<sup>th</sup> Commissioner of Agriculture and Industries in Alabama.

He previously served as mayor of Lowndesboro, Alabama from 2004 until his election as Commissioner of Agriculture and Industries in January 2019. Under his leadership, the Department of Agriculture and Industries has administrated several new programs and navigated the challenges with COVID-19. From the state's new hemp program to making sure Alabama's food supply is safe, sustainable, and abundant during the pandemic, Commissioner Pate's leadership contributed to the success of all department challenges.

Growing up on a farm, running a business and serving as the mayor of a small rural town has given Commissioner Pate a unique perspective to bring to the office of the commissioner. He graduated from Auburn University School of Agriculture in 1978 and is married to Julie Dismukes. They have two children.

He has a genuine concern for the future of agriculture and the people of Alabama.

Commissioner Pate is mindful that by 2050, farmers will have to double food production to meet the needs of the world and that it will take visionary leaders who understand that we have to work smarter, not just harder, to achieve these goals. He plans to do his part by working with agriculture stakeholders and the people of Alabama to make a difference.

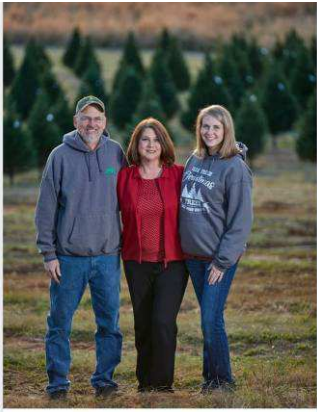
Contact: 1445 Federal Drive, Montgomery, AL 36107; (334) 240-7100; Ask-Me@AGI.Alabama.gov  
www.AGI.Alabama.gov



Steve & Sandra Mannhard  
Fish River Trees

Steve and Sandra Mannhard have owned and operated Fish River Trees for 30 plus years on the Gulf Coast east of Fairhope, Alabama. Fish River Trees is primarily a choose & cut farm but also produces container-grown living Christmas trees that can be decorated and planted later. Customers enjoy Santa, a manger scene with live animals including a camel, a tour aboard The Tannebaum Express, and a great atmosphere to enjoy a wonderful family Christmas tradition. Three new log cabins are located on the farm, providing a unique lodging experience for travelers and vacationers alike where Sandra insists on only the best quality services and amenities for a treasured stay. Steve has been a very active member of SCTA including serving multiple director terms and president. He is also active with the National Christmas Tree Association and the Trees for Troops Program.

Contact: 13982 Woodhaven Dairy Road East, Summerdale, AL 36580; (251) 604-7512; FishRiverTrees@gulftel.com; www.FishRiverTrees.com



Michael & Cathy May  
MiKayla Carey  
Lazy Acres

Lazy Acres Christmas Tree Farm was founded in 1980 by Rayburn and Shirley May near Chunky, Mississippi. In 2001, their son Michael and wife Cathy purchased the farm from his parents and have developed it into a year-round agritourism business offering weddings, seasonal and corporate events, a pumpkin patch, Christmas trees, a Christmas light show, and much more.

Michael is the sitting president and has served as a director including the executive secretary. If there is an opportunity to make their land produce, the Mays will incorporate the idea into an enjoyable experience for visitors. Michael, Cathy and daughter MiKayla Carey are active members of the association while still managing a very busy farming and entertainment operation now known as Lazy Acres. Contact: 596 Lazy Acres Road, Chunky, MS 39323; (833) 327-6386  
LazyAcresFarm@hotmail.com; [www.Lazy-Acres.com](http://www.Lazy-Acres.com)

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Dr. Jeremy Pickens  
Auburn University

Dr. Jeremy Pickens is an extension specialist with Auburn University and serves as SCTA's Alabama Extension Director. He is also SCTA's "other" Go-To-Person. Dr. Pickens has brought a wealth of information to the association with his expertise in nursery and greenhouse production and other resources through Auburn University and the Alabama Extension Service. Contact: Ornamental Horticulture Research Center, College of Agriculture, Auburn University, P.O. Box 8276, Mobile, AL 36689; (251) 342-2366; [Jeremy.Pickens@Auburn.edu](mailto:Jeremy.Pickens@Auburn.edu); [www.ACES.edu](http://www.ACES.edu)

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Kevin Steele  
SAJE

Steele's Christmas Tree Farm is celebrating 42 years of continuous growing and selling award winning Christmas trees in Washington Parish, Louisiana. Beverly and Kevin are now raising their 3<sup>rd</sup> generation of Christmas tree growers!

Their farm offers over 4500 trees including a corn maze, pumpkin patch and petting zoo in the fall. Having traveled all over the United States while working in the medical profession they are committed on the farm creating memories lasting generations.

With the support of family, the Steele's have expanded the SAJE Shearing Machine into an expanding, full service, manufacturer and restorer of the well known SAJE.

The Steele family are active supporters of SCTA and continue to be involved in all aspects, including serving as a former executive secretary.

Contact: 56459 Dollar Road, Angie, LA 70426; (985) 966-1041; [sheridanrn@yahoo.com](mailto:sheridanrn@yahoo.com)  
[www.SteelesSaje.com](http://www.SteelesSaje.com) & [www.SteelesChristmasTreeFarm.com](http://www.SteelesChristmasTreeFarm.com)

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## **Comment Sheet**

### **Southern Christmas Tree Association**

If you have comments, suggestions and/or constructive criticism, please either contact the president, executive secretary or your state director or write your comments below and give to the executive secretary. SCTA intends to build upon years of gatherings to make the next one even better. Thank you.

SCTA: 1830 West Fairview Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70816; SCTAES@gmail.com

First & Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Farm Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Will you consider hosting an annual meeting Sunday farm tour?

Did this annual meeting satisfy your expectations?

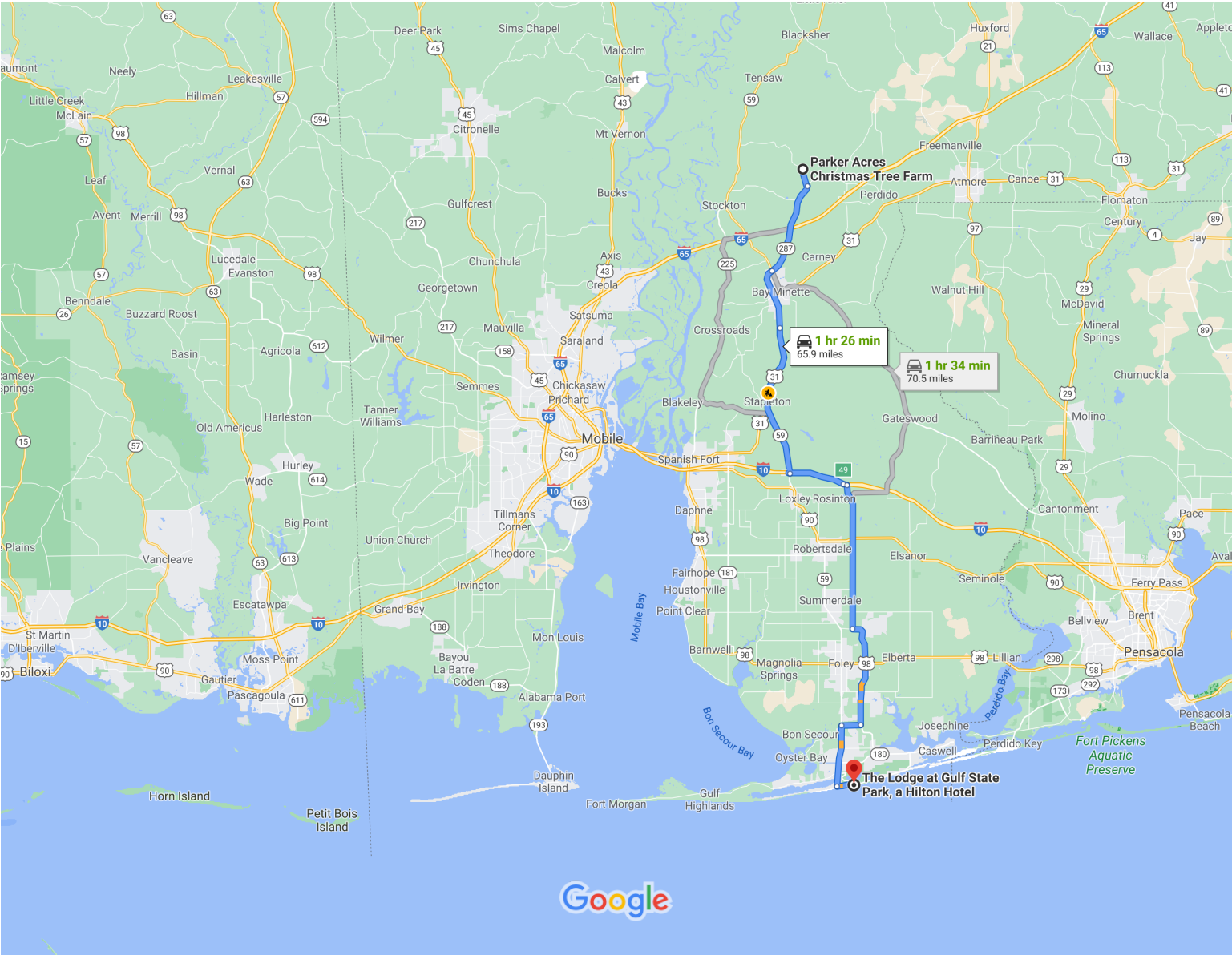
Any suggestions for improving annual meetings?

Any suggestions for new topics or types of speakers?

Any suggestions for improving field days / workshops?

General Comments:

(20210730)



Map data ©2021 Google, INEGI 5 mi

# Parker Acres Christmas Tree Farm

16203 Old Ganey Road Bay Minette, Bay Minette, AL 36507

## Take Rabun Rd to Bay Minette Bypass/Mcmeans Ave in Bay Minette

- ↑

1. Head southeast on Old Ganey Rd toward Stacey Rd

12 min (9.9 mi)

↘

2. Turn right onto Rabun Rd

1.5 mi

↘

8.4 mi



Continue on Bay Minette Bypass. Take AL-59 S and Baldwin Beach Express to Foley Beach Express

42 min (37.7 mi)

- ↑

3. Continue onto Bay Minette Bypass/Mcmeans Ave

ⓘ

Continue to follow Bay Minette Bypass

ⓘ

Pass by Advance Auto Parts (on the right in 2.5 mi)

5.5 mi
- ↑

4. Continue onto AL-59 S/US-31

ⓘ

Continue to follow AL-59 S

13.7 mi
- ↗

5. Slight right to merge onto I-10 E toward Pensacola

5.2 mi
- ↘

6. Take exit 49 toward Baldwin Beach Express

0.3 mi
- ↗

7. Keep right at the fork, follow signs for Gulf Shores/Orange Beach/Gulf State Park and merge onto Baldwin Beach Express

12.9 mi

Continue on Foley Beach Express to your destination in Gulf Shores

31 min (18.3 mi)

- ↙

8. Use the left 2 lanes to turn left onto Foley Beach Express

9.5 mi
- ↘

9. Turn right onto Coastal Gateway Blvd

1.7 mi
- ↙

10. Turn left onto AL-59 S/Gulf Shores Pkwy

ⓘ

Pass by Rita's Italian Ice & Frozen Custard (on the left in 5.3 mi)

5.4 mi
- ↙

11. Use the left 2 lanes to turn left onto E Beach Blvd

1.4 mi
- ↘

12. Turn right at Alabama's Coastal Connection/State Park Rd

0.2 mi
- ↘

13. Turn right

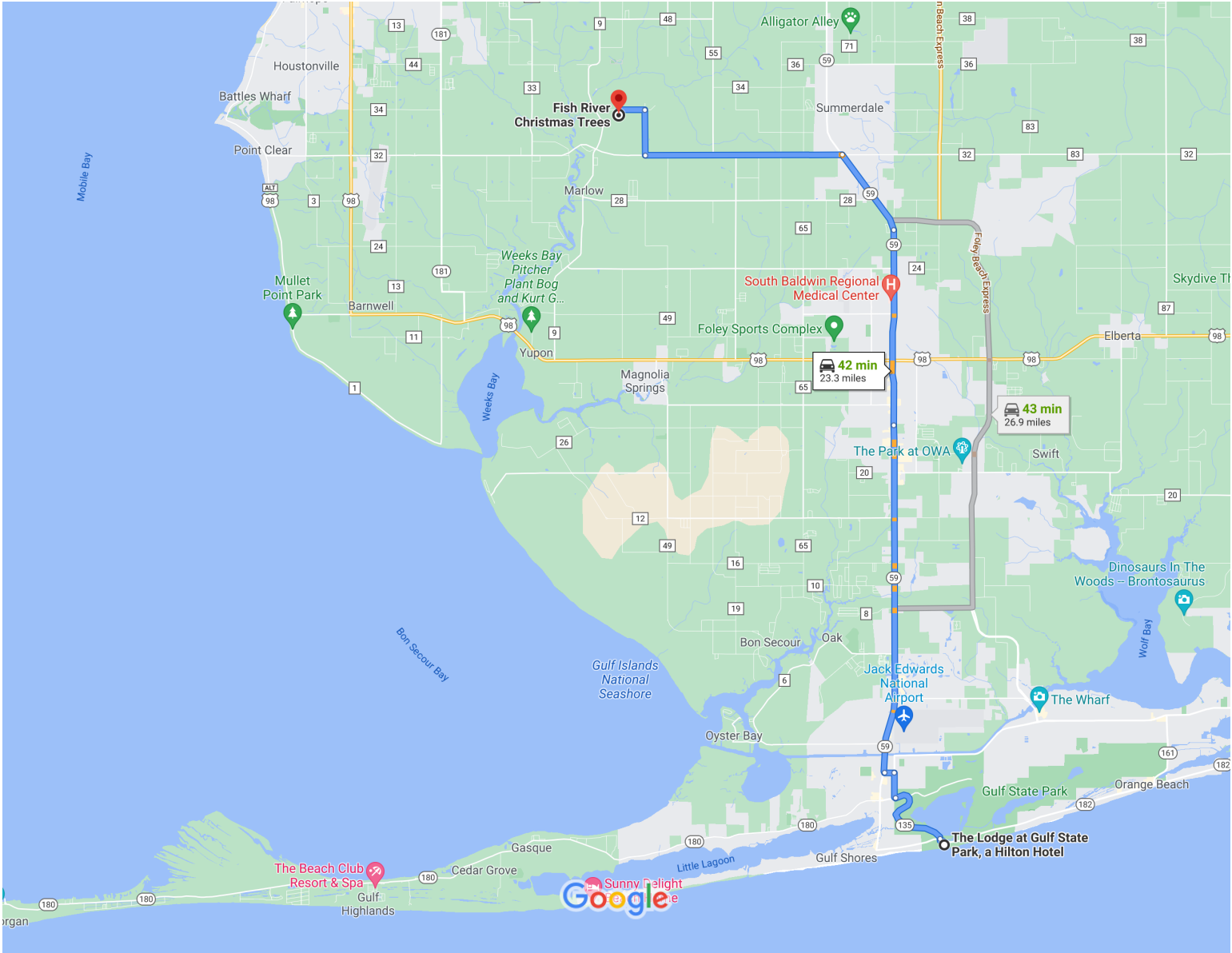
ⓘ

Destination will be on the right

226 ft

The Lodge at Gulf State Park, a Hilton Hotel

21196 E Beach Blvd, Gulf Shores, AL 36542



# The Lodge at Gulf State Park, a Hilton Hotel


21196 E Beach Blvd, Gulf Shores, AL 36542

## Continue to Alabama's Coastal Connection/State Park Rd


- 1 min (0.2 mi)
- 1. Head northwest
- 226 ft
- 2. Turn left
- 0.2 mi

## Take AL-59 N and Co Rd 32 to Harry Jones Rd


38 min (21.5 mi)

-  3. Continue onto Alabama's Coastal Connection/State Park Rd  




---

 2.1 mi
-  4. Turn right onto E 2nd St/Alabama's Coastal Connection  




---

 0.6 mi
-  5. Turn left onto E 20th Ave  


---

 0.2 mi
-  6. Turn right onto AL-59 N/Gulf Shores Pkwy
  -  Continue to follow AL-59 N
  -  Pass by Wendy's (on the right in 7.3 mi)


---

 7.8 mi
-  7. Continue straight onto AL-59 N/S McKenzie St
  -  Continue to follow AL-59 N
  -  Pass by Goodyear Auto Service (on the left in 1.3 mi)

---

 4.4 mi
-  8. Continue straight to stay on AL-59 N  


---

 2.0 mi
-  9. Turn left onto Co Rd 32  


---

 4.4 mi

#### Continue on Harry Jones Rd. Drive to Woodhaven Dairy Rd E

- 
- 3 min (1.6 mi)
-  10. Turn right onto Harry Jones Rd  

---

 1.0 mi
  -  11. Turn left onto Woodhaven Dairy Rd E  

---

 0.6 mi

## Fish River Christmas Trees

13982 Woodhaven Dairy Rd E, Summerdale, AL 36580

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**

(20210216)

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 (NCTA) National Christmas Tree Contest.

## **Eligibility of Entrants**

- All current, voting, grower members of SCTA in the states of Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi 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.
- *Added NCTA Rule:* entrants must be members in good standing of the NCTA at the time of the affiliated / state contest to be eligible to enter the NCTA contest.

## **Requirements of Entries**

- All classes of commercially grown Christmas trees grown on the member farm 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 Recognition**

- 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.



# TREE CONTEST

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

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

## 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.

<u>RANK</u>	<u>TREE LETTER</u>
#1	_____
#2	_____
#3	_____
#4	_____
#5	_____
#6	_____
#7	_____
#8	_____
#9	_____
#10	_____
#11	_____
#12	_____
#13	_____
#14	_____



# Wreath Contest Rules

*By action of the SCTA Board of Directors, the following rules will govern the operation of the wreath contest (established August 2019).*

**The SCTA shall hold a fresh wreath contest at its annual meeting for the purpose of promoting excellence in the growth and production of real Christmas trees and production of fresh wreaths in our region.**

## **ELIGIBILITY OF ENTRANTS**

- All current SCTA members are eligible to enter a wreath in the contest.
- Members may enter only one wreath per farm entity.
- Each wreath entered must be presented to the display area not later than the official Saturday start time of the annual meeting.

## **REQUIREMENTS OF ENTRIES**

- Only classes of locally and regionally grown Christmas tree greens/foliage may be used for the wreath.
- All wreaths must be made on a 12 inch ring.
- No artificial colorants may be used on the wreath.
- No decorations may be placed on the wreath.
- The use of clear products for moisture retention and needle hold is allowed.

## **ENTRY AND BALLOTING PROCEDURES**

- Members who enter a wreath 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 the 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 letter of his/her wreath.
- The executive secretary will prepare ballots prior to the beginning of the meeting and include them in the registration packet.
- Balloting for the wreath contest must conclude not later than start time of the general business session. Ballots will be collected by the contest chairperson and counted by the three-person contest committee.

## **CONTEST AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS**

- An overall first, second, and third place award will be presented to the entrants that receive the most votes.



# WREATH CONTEST SCORE SHEET

## BALLOT

**CONTESTANT LETTER:** \_\_\_\_\_

Category	Sub-Category	Enter Scores Below
		Excellent = 4 Good = 3 Fair = 2 Poor = 1
Foliage Condition & Color		
Workmanship		leave blank
	Uniform Density	
	Uniform Center Hole	
	Uniform Outside Perimeter	
	Construction Quality	
Craftsmanship		leave blank
	Little/No cut, Ends Visible	
	Choice of Material	
	Placement of Material	
Overall Appearance (Eye Appeal)		
Originality		
	<b>TOTAL SCORE:</b>	