

Southern Christmas Tree Association
2026 Annual Meeting Agenda
Lazy Acres Farm Fun, Chunky, Mississippi
September 18 – 20

50th consecutive year of learning & fellowship beginning with the
Alabama Christmas Tree Growers Association
&
Louisiana Mississippi Christmas Tree Growers Association

Registration will be at the Drury Inn and Lazy Acres staffed by Brenda & Tim Parker, Hillside Potted Christmas Trees from Scottsboro, Alabama. If no one is present, feel free to pick up your name tags and program. Be sure to check your name off the registration list or leave a note at the desk for our records. Payment options: cash, check, Zelle.

Exhibitor, Tree & Wreath Competitor Setup is Friday afternoon and Saturday morning at Lazy Acres. Spots will be identified with a tag or see the executive secretary, registration staff or Michael May for locations. Tree and wreath competitors are reminded to complete the competition forms and confirm the ID tag to be hung. Competition coordinators: Christmas trees – Michael Duncan, Neely Farms; wreaths – Ali & Adam Carnes, Carnes Farms.

There will be **No Auction** this year. If you did bring an item, please consider giving it to Michael May to give out during different functions. Please communicate with Michael as soon as possible.

Friday, September 18th

3:00 PM - 6:00 PM	<i>Exhibitor, Tree & Wreath Setup, Lazy Acres Farm Fun</i>
4:00 PM - 6:00 PM	<i>Registration, Drury Inn (possibly continuing later in the evening)</i>
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM	<i>Board of Directors Meeting, Lazy Acres Farm Fun</i>
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM	<i>Board of Directors Dinner, T8 Fish and Smokehouse</i> 302 County Road 482, Meridian, MS 39301

Saturday, September 19th Lazy Acres Farm Fun

6:30 AM - 8:30 AM	<i>Registration, Exhibitor, Tree & Wreath Setup</i>
7:30 AM - 7:45 AM	<i>Opening Video of SCTA's 50th</i> <i>Prayer, The Pledge of Allegiance, Welcome</i> Jacob Wadsworth, SCTA Senior Vice-President, Wadsworth Christmas Tree Farm
7:45 AM - 8:30 AM	<i>Breakfast with Santa Presented by the Elves of Santa's South Pole Workshop</i> Create an ornament and become an elf.
8:30 AM - 9:00 AM	<i>Welcome to Lazy Acres Farm Fun & Introduction of Staff. How did we get here?</i> Michael May, Lazy Acres Farm Fun
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	<i>Finding & Keeping GREAT Employees: Go behind the scenes and discover how we hire 30-plus outstanding employees every year in less than three hours.</i> <i>Employee Recognition & "Farmily" Thanksgiving</i> Cathy May & Mikayla Chaney, Lazy Acres Farm Fun
10:00 AM - 10:30 AM	<i>Break: visit exhibitors, fellowship, judge trees & wreaths</i>

- 10:30 AM - 11:15 AM *Marketing: Creating Unique Photo Opportunities with Foam & More*
Cathy May & Mikayla Chaney, Lazy Acres Farm Fun
- 11:15 AM - 11:45 AM *SCTA Business Meeting:*
Election of Directors (2025/2026 term ends, new term 2027/2028)
National Directors Report (Bentley Curry, NCTA/SCTA Representative)
Logo (still developing, targeting 2027 annual meeting)
2027 Annual Meeting (looking for a Sunday farm host)
- 11:45 AM - 1:00 PM *Lunch, Trivia Game, maybe a special farm guest*
- 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM *Ask the Old Timers: Open Discussion of Various Topics*
Steve Mannhard, Fish River Trees & The Cabins at Fish River Trees

Research Update
Dr. Joshua Granger, Mississippi State University
- 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM *Food on the Farm & Walking Tour:* roasted nuts in the gift shop; ice cream at the Lazy Cow; fried pork skins at Porky's Pit Stop; dirty sodas, hot chocolate, loaded teas & more at The Happy Camper; kettle corn & lemonade; The Cookie Corner. Includes cost of goods sold & gross sales.
- 3:30 PM - 6:00 PM *Pig Races* (possible), followed by time to explore the farm or return to the hotel to freshen up for dinner.

Finish judging tree and wreath contestants. Judging ballots must be submitted by 6:15 PM to Michael Duncan, Neeley Farms, for trees and to Ali Carnes, Carnes Farms, for wreaths.
- 6:00 PM *The Bunny Banquet* Looking to generate additional income for your farm? We will explore opportunities to make money in the spring with Easter egg hunts. Bring your flashlight, Easter basket, and get ready to win prizes!

Tree & Wreath Competition Recognition
Entertainment by Todd Smith, Todd Smith Magic

Sunday, September 20th Lazy Acres Farm Fun

- 7:30 AM - 8:00 AM *Coffee & Donuts*
- 8:00 AM - 8:15 AM *Devotion*
- 8:15 AM - 9:30 AM *Tree Sales Process, Music on Wagon Rides, Giant Candy Canes*
Field Preparation: skid steer stump puller, chains to mark rows, planting, etc
Michael May, Lazy Acres Farm Fun
- 8:15 AM - 9:30 AM *Elf Academy, Fluff Factory, Sand Art, Mrs. Claus' Kitchen*
Cathy May & Mikayla Chaney, Lazy Acres Farm Fun
- 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM *Break: Visit Exhibitors, Fellowship*

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM *Tree Shearing Demonstration & Spray Calibration*

Gray Anderson, Grant Farms

Field Management Discussion

Steve Mannhard, Fish River Trees

Apologies: originally scheduled were Dr. Jeremy Pickens, Auburn University for a presentation on calibration of spray equipment and Kevin Steele, Sr., Steele' SAJE Shearing Machine for a shearing demonstration. Both apologize for their absence.

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM *Personalized Ornaments, Gift Shops, The Tee Shop*

Cathy May & Mikayla Chaney, Lazy Acres Farm Fun

~11:00 AM Adjourn

The 2027 annual meeting will be in Alabama at a location yet to be determined. If you would like to "consider" hosting the Sunday farm tour, please be in touch with the president or executive secretary. SCTA leadership would like to identify a host farm as soon as possible to begin planning.

Travel safe returning home and work safely for a prosperous season.

We look forward to seeing you soon. Good luck.

Players

Gray Anderson, SCTA Director, Grant Farms, Presenter

716 Whitaker Road, Grant, Louisiana 70644

www.GrantFarmsFun.com; GrantFarms1983@gmail.com; 337.789.3072

Ali & Adam Carnes, Carnes Farms, Wreath Competition Coordinators

164 Hurt-Wood Road, Pontotoc, Mississippi 38863

Facebook: Carnes Christmas Tree Farm; CarnesFarmsPontotoc@gmail.com; 662.419.4894

Bentley Curry, NCTA/SCTA Representative, Curry Farms, Presenter

548 Robinson Drive, Rayville, Louisiana 71269

www.CurryFarms.net; BentleyCurry@aol.com; 318.366.3575

Michael Duncan, SCTA Director, Neeley Farms, Tree Competition Coordinator

275 Dakota Road, Thorsby, Alabama 35171

www.NeelyFarmsChristmasTrees.com; NeelyFarmsTrees@gmail.com; 205.389.1832

Dr. Joshua Granger, SCTA Director, Mississippi State University, College of Forestry, Presenter

Box 9681, Thompson Hall Room 321, Mississippi State, Mississippi 39762

www.msstate.edu; Joshua.J.Granger@MsState.edu; 662.325.0596

Steve Mannhard, SCTA Parliamentarian, Fish River Trees & The Cabins at Fish River Trees, Facilitator

13982 Woodhaven Dairy Road East, Summerdale, Alabama 36580

www.fishrivertrees.com; FishRiverTrees@gulftel.com; 251.988.8114

Cathy May & Mikayla Chaney, 2026 Farm Hostesses, Lazy Acres Farm Fun, Farm Hosts & Presenters

596 Lazy Acres Road, Chunky, Mississippi 39323

www.Lazy-Acres.com; LazyAcresFarm@Yahoo.com; 601.917.4193

Michael May, 2026 Farm Host, Lazy Acres Farm Fun, Farm Host & Presenter

596 Lazy Acres Road, Chunky, Mississippi 39323

www.Lazy-Acres.com; LazyAcresFarm@Yahoo.com; 601.917.4196

Players, continued

Tim & Brenda Parker, Hillside Potted Christmas Trees, Registration Coordinators
444 County Road, Scottsboro, Alabama 35768
HillsdaleChristmasTrees@gmail.com; 251.232.0138

Todd Smith, Todd Smith Magic, Entertainer
17543 MS-21, Sebastopol, Mississippi 39359
www.ToddSmithMagic.com; Todd@ToddSmithMagic.com

Jacob Wadsworth, SCTA Senior Vice-President, Wadsworth Christmas Tree Farm, Facilitator
3247 Dexter Road, Wetumpka, Alabama 36092
www.WadsworthChristmasTrees.com; JWadswor@icloud.com; 334.207.5981

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Dr. Joby Czarnecki & Dr. Jing Yang

Mississippi State University, Department of Plant and Soil Sciences

32 Creelman Street, Mississippi State, Mississippi 39762

www.msstate.edu; Joby.Czarnecki@msstate.edu; 662.325.5972



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