

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

*The 50th consecutive year of learning and fellowship since the inception and later
joining of the
Alabama Christmas Tree Growers Association and the
Louisiana Mississippi Christmas Tree Growers Association.*

(preliminary agenda)

Friday, September 18th

3:00 PM - 6:00 PM	<i>Exhibitor Setup at Lazy Acres</i>
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM	<i>Board of Directors Meeting at Lazy Acres</i>
6:30 PM	<i>Board of Directors Dinner (location to be determined & announced)</i>

Saturday, September 19th

6:30 AM - 7:30 AM	<i>Exhibitor Set Up</i>
7:30 AM - 7:45 AM	<i>Opening Video of SCTA's 50th Prayer The Pledge of Allegiance Welcome Kevin Steele, Sr., President Steele's Christmas Tree Farm & SAJE Shearing Machine, Angie, Louisiana</i>
7:45 AM - 8:30 AM	<i>Breakfast with Santa</i> presented by the Elves of Santa's South Pole Workshop. Create an ornament and become an elf.
8:30 AM - 9:00 AM	<i>Welcome to Lazy Acres & Introduction of Staff How did we get here? Michael May, Lazy Acres Farm Fun</i>
09:00 AM - 10:00 AM	<i>Finding and Keeping GREAT Employees:</i> Go behind the scenes and discover how we hire 30 plus outstanding employees every year in less than 3 hours. <i>Employee Recognition & "Farmily" Thanksgiving</i> Cathy May & Mikayla Chaney, Lazy Acres Farm Fun
10:00 AM - 10:30 AM	<i>Break:</i> visit exhibitors, fellowship, judge trees & wreaths.
10:30 AM - 11:15 AM	<i>Marketing:</i> Creating unique photo opportunities with foam and more. Cathy May & Mikayla Chaney, Lazy Acres Farm Fun.
11:15 AM - 12:00 PM	<i>SCTA Business Meeting</i> - Election of officers, national directors report, discussion/selection of a new logo.
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	<i>Lunch, Trivia Game, Special Farm Guest</i>
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM	<i>Ask the Old Timers:</i> An open discussion of various topics. Steve Mannhard, Parliamentarian Fish River Trees & The Cabins at Fish River Trees, Summerdale, Alabama Use suggestion cards provided with registration. Submit to Steve Mannhard.

- 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. Hosted by Lazy Acres staff. Includes COGS & gross sales.
- 3:30 PM - 6:00 PM *Pig Races*, if 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. Thank you.
- 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!
- Entertainment*
Todd Smith, Christian Illusionist
Sebastopol, Mississippi
- Tree & Wreath Competition Recognition*

Sunday, September 20th

- 7:30 AM - 8:00 AM *Coffee & Donuts*
- 8:00 AM - 8:15 AM *Devotion*
Bentley Curry, National Christmas Tree Association-SCTA Representative
Curry Farms, Start, Louisiana
- 8:30 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
- 8:30 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 *Calibration of Spray Equipment*
Dr. Jeremy Pickens, SCTA Director
Auburn University, Mobile, Alabama
- Tree Shearing Demonstration*
Kevin Steele, Sr., President
Steele's Christmas Tree Farm & SAJE Shearing Machine, Angie, Louisiana
- 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 somewhere in Alabama. 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 so dates can be established and arrangements made.

Travel safe returning home. We look forward to seeing you again.

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