

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

(20260812)

Friday, September 18th

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

Saturday, September 19th Lazy Acres Farm Fun

6:30 AM - 9:00 AM *Registration, Exhibitor, Tree & Wreath Setup*
7:30 AM - 7:45 AM *Opening Video of SCTA's 50th*
Prayer, The Pledge of Allegiance, Welcome
Kevin Steele, Sr., SCTA President, Steele's Christmas Tree Farm

7:45 AM - 8:30 AM *Breakfast with Santa Presented by the Elves of Santa's South Pole Workshop*
Create an ornament and become an elf.

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM *Welcome to Lazy Acres Farm Fun & Introduction of Staff. How did we get here?*
Michael May, Lazy Acres Farm Fun

09:00 AM - 10:00 AM *Finding & Keeping GREAT Employees: Go behind the scenes and discover how we*
hire 30-plus outstanding employees every year in less than three hours.
Employee Recognition & Family Thanksgiving
Cathy May & Mikayla Chaney, Lazy Acres Farm Fun

10:00 AM - 10:30 AM *Break: visit exhibitors, fellowship, judge trees & wreaths*

10:30 AM - 11:15 AM *Marketing: creating unique photo opportunities with foam and more*
Cathy May & Mikayla Chaney, Lazy Acres Farm Fun

11:15 AM - 11:45 AM *SCTA Business Meeting: election of officers, national directors report, logo*

11:45 AM - 1:00 PM *Lunch, Trivia Game, Maybe a Special Farm Guest*
Rick Dungey, Trees for Troops

1:00 PM - 2:30 PM *Ask the Old Timers: an open discussion of various topics*
Steve Mannhard, Parliamentarian
Fish River Trees & The Cabins at Fish River Trees
Dr. Joshua Granger, SCTA Director, Mississippi State University
Dr. Jeremy Pickens, SCTA Director, Auburn 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 COGS & 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. 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!
- Tree & Wreath Competition Recognition*
- Entertainment* Todd Smith, Christian Illusionist Sebastopol, Mississippi

Sunday, September 20th Lazy Acres Farm Fun

- 7:30 AM - 8:00 AM *Coffee & Donuts*
- 8:00 AM - 8:15 AM *Devotion*
Bentley Curry, NCTA-SCTA Representative, Curry Farms
- 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 *Calibration of Spray Equipment*
Dr. Jeremy Pickens, SCTA Director, Auburn University
- Tree Shearing Demonstration*
Kevin Steele, Sr., SCTA President, SAJE Shearing Machine
- 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.

Travel safe returning home. We look forward to seeing you soon.
Good luck as you prepare for The Season.

Presenters

Rick Dungey, Executive Director, Christmas Spirit Foundation – Trees for Troops,
2650 South Hanley Road, Suite 100, St. Louis, MO 63144; www.ChristmasSpiritFoundation.org;
Info@ChristmasSpiritFoundation.org; 314.416.2245

Dr. Joshua Granger, SCTA Director, Mississippi State University, College of Forestry, Box 9681,
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Steve Mannhard, SCTA Parliamentarian, Fish River Trees & The Cabins at Fish River Trees,
13982 Woodhaven Dairy Road East, Summerdale, AL 36580; www.fishrivertrees.com;
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Cathy May & Mikayla Chaney, Lazy Acres Farm Fun, 596 Lazy Acres Road, Chunky, MS 39323;
www.Lazy-Acres.com; LazyAcresFarm@yahoo.com; 601.917.4193

Michael May, Lazy Acres Farm Fun, 596 Lazy Acres Road, Chunky, MS 39323; www.Lazy-Acres.com;
LazyAcresFarm@yahoo.com; 601.917.4196

Dr. Jeremy Pickens, SCTA Director, Auburn University, College of Agriculture, Department of
Horticulture, P.O. Box 8276, Mobile, AL 36689; www.ACES.edu; Jeremy.Pickens@Auburn.edu;
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Todd Smith, Christian Illusionist, 17543 MS-21, Sebastopol, MS 39359; www.ToddSmithMagic.com;
Todd@ToddSmithMagic.com

Kevin Steele, Sr., SCTA President, Steele's Christmas Tree Farm & SAJE Shearing Machine,
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