Friday Open-Farm Visit

Bass Christmas Tree Farm
103 Riley Road, Columbia, MS 39429
www.BassTrees.com
(601) 731-8232

Friday, August 11
10:00 AM - 02:00 PM Open-Farm Visit
Bass Christmas Tree Farm, Wesley & Sandra Bass
The open-farm visits are informal, non-structured events encouraging a look around the farm while providing opportunities to ask questions, share ideas and learn from other growers. Please depart by 2:00 PM so the hosts can prepare for following functions. The Holiday Inn Hattiesburg - North is a 30 minute, 38 mile drive to the east of Bass Christmas Tree Farm.

Sunday Farm Tour

Smith’s Christmas Tree Farm
793 Sanford Road, Moselle, MS 39459
Facebook: Southern Christmas Tree Farm
(601) 582-2642

Conference Venue

The University of Southern Mississippi
The Trent Lott National Center
118 College Drive, Hattiesburg, MS 39406
www.USM.edu/trent-lott-national-center/

Sponsors

First South Farm Credit
Shaw Singleton
PO Box 391, Hattiesburg, MS 39403
(601) 606-8121
www.FirstSouthLand.com

Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation
Chris Shivers
PO Box 1972, Jackson, MS 39215
(601) 408-7787
www.MSFB.org

Exhibitors

Evans Christmas Supply
www.EvansChristmas.com

Genuine Mississippi
www.GenuineMS.com

Steele’s SAJE
www.SteelesSAJE.com

Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation
Chris Shivers
PO Box 1972, Jackson, MS 39215
(601) 408-7787
www.MSFB.org

Evans Christmas Supply
www.EvansChristmas.com

Grant Farms
www.GrantChristmasTreeFarm.com

Mills Gourmet
www.MillsGourmet.com

Steele’s SAJE
www.SteelesSAJE.com

Friday, August 11
04:00 PM - 05:30 PM SCTA Board Meeting
Holiday Inn Hattiesburg - North: Gordonville II Meeting Room

05:00 PM - 07:00 PM Registration
Holiday Inn Hattiesburg - North: Pre-Function Area near Gordonville Rooms
See Brenda & Tim Parker, Parker Acres Farm, Bay Minette, Alabama. The Burger Theory Grill & Bar is a great place to fellowship and eat.
06:00 PM - 09:00 PM **Exhibitor, Auction Item, Tree & Wreath Competition Set-Up**
The University of Southern Mississippi - The Trent Lott National Center: Foyer
See Adam & Ali Carnes, Carnes Farms, Pontotoc, Mississippi. Look for placards identifying locations for placement. Auction items with donor name and retail value attached are to be placed on a designated table in the conference room. The Trent Lott National Center is a 5 minute, 1.8 mile drive south of the Holiday Inn. Free parking surrounds the center, including multi-level garage. Do not park in Red Zones or Reserved Parking. There is a service drive on the south side for vehicle unloading.

06:00 PM - 08:30 PM **Board Dinner: Mack’s on The River**
855 River Road, Hattiesburg, MS 39401, Telephone: (601) 582-5101
Facebook: Mack’s on The River. *Non board members are certainly welcome to Mack’s. There is plenty of space. Please, first allow seating of the board and their families in the designated area (side room). The restaurant is located 25 minutes, 22 miles north of the Holiday Inn.*

Saturday, August 12

07:00 AM – 08:30 AM **Exhibitor, Auction Item, Tree & Wreath Competition Set-Up**
The University of Southern Mississippi - The Trent Lott National Center: Foyer
See Adam & Ali Carnes, Carnes Farms, Pontotoc, Mississippi or Michael Buchart, Executive Secretary. Look for identification placards for placement. Auction items with donor name and retail value attached are to be placed on a designated table in the conference room. The Trent Lott National Center is 5 minutes, 1.8 miles south of the Holiday Inn. Free parking surrounds the center, including a multi-level garage. Do not park in Red Zones or Reserved Parking. There is a service ramp on the south side for trailer unloading or you can use two spaces end-to-end on the backside lot.

07:30 AM - 08:30 AM **Registration**
The University of Southern Mississippi - The Trent Lott National Center: Foyer
See Brenda & Tim Parker, Parker Acres Farm, Bay Minette, Alabama or Mike Buchart, Executive Secretary.

08:30 AM – 09:00 AM **Opening Prayer:** Wesley Bass, Bass Christmas Tree Farm
**The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America:**
Colonel (Retired) Larry J. Massey, United States Army Reserve
Rosebud Christmas Trees, Walnut Grove, Alabama
**Welcome:** Steve Mannhard, President 2022/2023
Fish River Trees & The Cabins at Fish River Trees
Announcements, comments, guests, new member, sponsor & exhibitor introductions, etc.
**Breakout to concurrent sessions.**

09:00 AM - 09:30 AM **Research Projects**
**Concurrent Session 1A:** Main Conference Room
**Moderator:** Dr. Jeff Wilson, Mississippi State University
Dr. Joshua Granger, Mississippi State University, General Research
Dr. Jeremy Pickens, Auburn University: Herbicides, Fertilizers
Dr. Valerie West, Louisiana State University: General Research
Dr. Jeff Wilson, Mississippi State University: Native Christmas Tree Production

09:00 AM - 10:15 AM **Other Retail Sales Ideas (on-line & storefront) at The Farm**
**Concurrent Session 1B:** Classroom 102
**Moderator:** Wendy Ellis, Red Bird Farms & The Eagle Nest Floral Gift Shop
09:30 AM - 10:15 AM  **Disease Control in Christmas Trees**  
*Concurrent Session 1A, continued:* Main Conference Room  
**Dr. Alan Henn,** Mississippi State University

10:15 AM - 10:45 AM  **Break, Visit Vendors, Tree & Wreath Judging**

10:45 AM - 12:00 PM  **Member-to-Member Sharing Session**  
*Concurrent 2A:* Main Conference Room  
**Moderator:** Steve Mannhard  
Planting Stock Production, Planting Up  
Farm Diversity Ideas  
Other Topics Offered by Registrants

10:45 AM - 12:00 PM  **Using Social Media to Improve Sales**  
*Concurrent Session 2B:* Classroom 102  
**Moderator:** Debbie Skipper, Skipper Family Farms

12:00 AM - 01:00 PM  **Lunch Buffet** by USM, ARMARK, Main Conference Room  
**Speaker:** Chuck Berry, Berry’s Tree Farm, RCTB & National Christmas Tree Winner

01:00 PM - 02:00 PM  **Member-to-Member Sharing Session: Member Questions, Concerns, etc.**  
Main Conference Room  
**Moderator:** Steve Mannhard  
Topics Offered by Registrants

02:00 PM - 02:30 PM  **Break with Vendors, Tree & Wreath Judging**

02:30 PM - 03:15 PM  **Member-to-Member Sharing Session: Member Questions, Concerns, etc.**  
Main Conference Room  
**Moderator:** Steve Mannhard  
Topics Offered by Registrants

03:15 PM - 03:45 PM  **Business Meeting**  
**Steve Mannhard,** President 2022/2023  
Submit tree competition ballots to Michael Duncan.  
Submit wreath competition ballots to Brittany Anderson.  
*Upon completion of the business meeting, please vacate the area and help staff by leaving a clean place as they prepare for SCTA’s functions. Thank you!*

05:00 PM – 05:45 PM  **Social Gathering**  
**Holiday Inn Hattiesburg – North:** Burger Theory Restaurant & Bar (cash bar)

06:00 PM - 07:30 PM  **Dinner Buffet** by USM Catering – ARMARK  
**Speaker:** Steve Mannhard

07:15 PM - 07:45 PM  **Tree & Wreath Contest Winner Announcements & Pictures**

07:45 PM - 09:00 PM  **Auction:** Bentley Curry & Michael May
Sunday, August 13

Farm Tour – Smith’s Christmas Tree Farm, Host Robert Smith with The Entire Smith Family

07:00 AM - 08:00 AM Coffee & Visit

08:00 AM - 08:15 AM Welcome: Robert Smith, Host, Smith’s Christmas Tree Farm

08:15 AM - 08:30 AM Morning Devotion: Reverend Paul Howayeck, Shelton Baptist Church

08:30 AM - 09:00 AM Presentation of The United States Flag:
Oliver Smith

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America:
Lilly Brady & Maggie Smith

Welcome, continued:
Robert Smith
Steve Mannhard, SCTA President
Chris Shivers, Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation, Sponsor

09:00 AM - 12:00 AM Farm Operations, Tour & Demonstrations - Under Shade then The Field
Farm history, current operations, and future farm plans - Robert Smith
Walking tour & equipment flocking demonstration - Brian Smith
Shearing & Safety Demonstrations - Kevin Steele, Steele’s SAJE
Planting & Rooting Stock Plants - Don Rawls, Precious Memories Shreveport
Freeze Damage Update - Dr. Jeremy Pickens, Auburn University
Chemical Use & Handling - Dr. Valerie West, Louisiana State University
Etcetera...

When Clear Barn

Garland/Wreath Design & Tips, Tree Tagging - Under Shade
Heather Brady, Carrie Smith & Laura Stringer, Smith’s Christmas Tree Farm
Brittany Anderson, Talson Farms, Laurel, Mississippi

12:00 PM Shovels Up, Gear Stored, Tractor Shut-Down, Feet Up - The End
The closing time is not set in concrete. If you have more questions and still need to look around – do so. When you depart homeward SCTA needs you to travel safe, work carefully, and return next year for more fellowship - this time in Alabama. Thank you!

Any comments, suggests, ideas or whatevers for the next annual meeting, please be sure to contact the incoming president 2024/2025 Kevin Steele or the executive secretary Michael Buchart. The more input the better.
Speaker Contact Information

Chuck Berry, Berry’s Tree Farm, 185 McCord Street, Covington, GA 30014, 770-602-6003, BerrysTreeFarm@gmail.com, www.BerrysTreeFarm.com

Wendy Ellis, Red Bird Farms & The Eagle Nest Floral Gift Shop, 460 Massey Road, Kosciusko, MS 39090, 601-562-9545, RedBirdFarmsMS@gmail.com

Dr. Joshua Granger, Mississippi State University, College of Forestry, Box 9681, Thompson Hall Room 321, Mississippi State, MS 39762, 662-325-0596, Joshua.J.Granger@MsState.edu, www.msstate.edu

Dr. Alan Henn, Mississippi State University Extension Service, Box 9655, Mississippi State, MS 39762, 662-769-9880, Ahenn@PlantPath.MSState.edu, www.msstate.edu

Reverend Paul Howayeck, Shelton Baptist Church, 2274 Monroe Road, Moselle, MA 39459, 601-582-8925, www.SheltonBC.org

Steve Mannhard, President 2022/2023, Fish River Trees & The Cabins at Fish River Trees, 13982 Woodhaven Dairy Road East, Summerdale, AL 36580, 251-988-8114, FishRiverTrees@gulftel.com, www.fishrivertrees.com

Dr. Jeremy Pickens, Auburn University, College of Agriculture - Department of Horticulture, P.O. Box 8276, Mobile, AL 36689, 251-342-2366, Jeremy.Pickens@Auburn.edu, www.ACES.edu

Debbie Skipper, Skipper Family Farms, 107 Gregg Drive, Macon, GA 31216, 478-286-1940, SkipperFamilyFarms1912@yahoo.com, Facebook: Skipper Family Farms

Dr. Valerie West, Louisiana State University, Ag Center Cooperative Extension, 204 Burt Boulevard, Benton, LA 71006, 318-965-2326, Vwest@agcenter.lsu.edu, www.LSUAgCenter.com

Dr. Jeff Wilson, Mississippi State University Extension, PO Box 1690, Verona, MS 38879, 662-566-8019, Jeff.Wilson@MSState.edu, www.MSUcares.com