

## 2023 SCTA Annual Meeting Program

Hattiesburg, Mississippi

August 11-13, 2023

### Friday Open-Farm Visit

#### Bass Christmas Tree Farm

103 Riley Road, Columbia, MS 39429

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

(601) 731-8232

### Host Hotel

#### Holiday Inn Hattiesburg - North

6553 US Highway 49, Hattiesburg, MS 39401

[www.HolidayInn.com/HattiesburgN](http://www.HolidayInn.com/HattiesburgN)

(601) 990-9340

### 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/](http://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](http://www.FirstSouthLand.com)

#### Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation

Chris Shivers

PO Box 1972, Jackson, MS 39215

(601) 408-7787

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

### Exhibitors

#### Evans Christmas Supply

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

#### Grant Farms

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

#### Mills Gourmet

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

#### Fraser Knoll

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

#### The Kirk Company

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

#### Genuine Mississippi

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

#### Steele's SAJE

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

## 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 Holliday Inn Hattiesburg - North is a 30 minute, 38 mile drive to the east of Bass Christmas Tree Farm.*

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

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