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Southern Christmas Tree Association



Annual Meeting

Birmingham, Alabama
January 20-22, 2006

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CURRY'S CHRISTMAS TREE FARM!

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SCTA MEMBER RESOURCES

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Speakers

Dr. Austin K. Hagan, a faculty member at Auburn University, has made many outstanding contributions to ornamental horticulture research. Dr. Hagan has served on the Auburn University faculty since 1980 where his specialty is plant pathology. In his current position, he spends 88 percent of his time on extension and 12 percent on research. He was previously on the faculty at Ohio State University where he earned his master's degree in Plant Pathology and doctor's degree in Plant Pathology. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in biology from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Hagan's extension service activities include contacts with nursery, greenhouse and landscape industry providing plant diagnostic consultations. He conducts seminars and short courses on a number of subjects and is involved with Certified Nursery training.

His research activities have focused on identifying herbaceous and woody ornamentals' resistance to disease, screening synthetic and natural fungicides for control of diseases affecting herbaceous and woody ornamental plants and developing a disease management program.

Dr. Katheryn Flanders is an extension entomologist and assistant professor at Auburn University. Her primary field of study is insect pests of grains and forages. Dr. Flanders is originally from Maine. She received a B.S. from Cornell, M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota, and has been working at Auburn for 11 years.

Beth Walterscheidt along with her husband Mike operate a Choose and Cut Christmas Tree farm outside of Austin, Texas. Since retiring from school teaching she enjoys life on the farm and conducts tours for thousands of school age youngsters.

Beth served as President of the Texas Christmas Tree Growers Association and went on to serve as their National Director to the National Christmas Tree Association. She was elected Vice President 4 years ago and is now serving as the current President of the National Christmas Tree Association. As President her goals are to help state associations take advantage of the many programs and projects that NCTA has to offer. By being here with us this week-end she is committed to that goal to help each and every one of us Sell Trees with NCTA.

Reginald Pulliam received a B.S. in accounting from LSU College of Business Administration in 1961. Reggie began work as a staff accountant with a small national CPA firm. In 1974, Reggie left the national firm to open his own CPA firm. After 25 years he sold his practice. He continues to work part-time from home for the business he sold.

In February, 1978, he planted his first Christmas tree. He and his wife Jo Ann sold their first tree in 1980. Reggie joined the LA-MS Christmas Tree Association in 1978 and served on the board for several years. He served as a National Director from 1985 to 1994. During that time he served as the National Association Secretary Treasurer for 4 years.

Banquet Speaker

Ron Sparks, Alabama Commissioner of Agriculture

The Commissioner born and raised in Fort Payne, Alabama, Ron Sparks has served as Alabama's Commissioner of Agriculture and Industries since January 2003. In his early years, Sparks worked alongside his grandmother at the local sock mills while attending high school. He later entered the United States Coast Guard and served as a member of the U.S. Coast Guard Honor Guard and Coast Guard Search and Rescue. While serving his country, he received numerous commendations and letters of merit, including the United States Coast Guard Commendation Medal for Meritorious Service in the Performance of Duty.

After completing his service in the Coast Guard, Sparks graduated from Northeast State Community College and in 1978, at the age of 24, became one of the youngest County Commissioners ever elected in the State of Alabama. He has also owned two successful businesses in the Fort Payne area and has worked in the television industry.

In 1993, Sparks was appointed Director of the local 911 System and was instrumental in designing and implementing the on-line program in DeKalb County. In 1998, he was elected the State President of Alabama 911. In 1999, Sparks was appointed as Assistant Commissioner of Agriculture & Industries, where he ran the day-to-day operations of the department.

In 2002, the voters of Alabama promoted him to Commissioner, with Sparks winning 54 out of 67 counties, including being the only statewide Democratic candidate to win Cullman County. On January 20, 2003, Sparks took his oath of office with his grandmothers holding the Bible. He is honored and distinguished to serve as one of Alabama's youngest Commissioners of Agriculture and Industries. By building a management team of some of the state's brightest men and women, Sparks has led the Department of Agriculture and Industries into a new era. In his Board of Registrar appointments, for example, Sparks was the only appointing authority to ensure that his appointments resembled the diversity of Alabama citizens.

In his first two years in office, Commissioner Sparks has raised the profile of his department to new heights. He has convened with national and international leaders, including Cuban President Fidel Castro, to pioneer new markets for Alabama's farmers. He has aggressively implemented new programs within the department such as the Farm to School program and oversaw the construction of two new state diagnostic labs in Auburn and Elba. In the post-9/11 era, Sparks has ensured that his department modernizes to protect Alabamians from new threats. He has long been an advocate of Country of Origin Labeling and consumer protection, and has adapted this focus to meet

new demands generated by the War on Terror. Sparks and his staff have worked diligently to help bring perpetrators of agriculture crimes to justice.

Sparks has also been active in his community, coaching youth athletics in the DeKalb County area for over 20 years. Professionally, Commissioner Sparks serves as President of the Southern Association of State Departments of Agriculture. He has three children: Misty Comfort, Sparky Sparks and Luke Sparks, and one grandchild, Jake.

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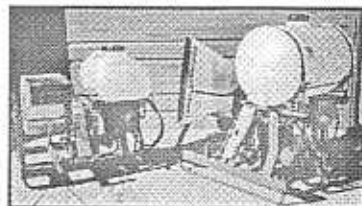
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Christmas Forest

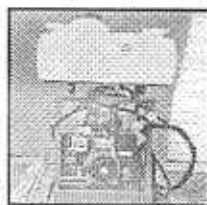
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Selling Trees With NCTA—Beth Walterscheidt

Objective: Participants will learn how the National Christmas Tree Association works for individual growers and how individual growers can use these tools to sell trees.

I. What it Means to be in Business

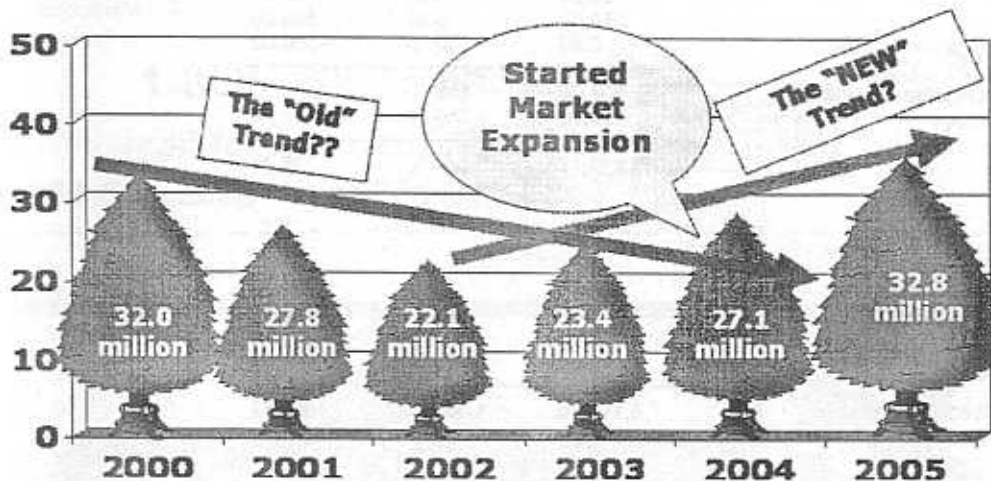
- a. Gains from a central location
- b. Individuality of each business

II. What NCTA has to offer and where you fit

- a. Handout of Committee Responsibilities
- b. Consumer Poll
- c. 2005 Media in the Southern Association area

III. What you can do with NCTA

IV. Questions



2005 Consumer Tracking Poll from Harris Interactive

Here is a quick summary from the telephone poll of 1,001 randomly selected consumers ... the results are a +/- 3.1%.

Consumers reported purchasing More Real Trees ... a lot more!

Up 21.1% ... 5.7 million more Real Trees purchased
\$213.3 MILLION increase in gross value to tree industry

Increased market share trees purchased in 2005

Up 2.9% to 78.0% of trees purchased

Real Tree market share ...

Up 4.0% to 29% of all trees displayed

Reported purchases compared with pre-season intentions

5% HIGHER than pre-season poll ... this is the first time in 6 years of the pre-season polls that actual reported purchases have been higher than the pre-season intentions

Reported purchase price

Down \$.70 to \$41.90

SCTA BUDGET REPORT
1/1/05 Through 12/31/05

Category Description	1/1/05 Actual	- Budget	12/31/05 Difference
INCOME			
Annual Meeting Income:			
Registration	390.00	0.00	390.00
Annual Meeting Income-Other	1,000.00	4,000.00	-3,000.00
TOTAL Annual Meeting Income	1,390.00	4,000.00	-2,610.00
Interest Inc	87.71	50.00	37.71
Magazine Income	468.00	450.00	18.00
Membership dues:			
2005	7,400.00	7,500.00	-100.00
Tip Contribution	1,480.00	0.00	1,480.00
TOTAL Membership dues	8,880.00	7,500.00	1,380.00
Newsletter Ads:			
2005	1,355.00	1,000.00	355.00
TOTAL Newsletter Ads	1,355.00	1,000.00	355.00
Spring workshop income:			
LA	155.00	0.00	155.00
MS	350.00	0.00	350.00
Spring workshop income-Other	0.00	500.00	-500.00
TOTAL Spring workshop income	505.00	500.00	5.00
Voluntary Contributions	238.00	150.00	88.00
TOTAL INCOME	12,923.71	13,650.00	-726.29
EXPENSES			
Annual Meeting Expense:			
Entertainment & Speakers	695.22	0.00	-695.22
Meals	1,456.22	0.00	-1,456.22
Meeting rooms	960.00	0.00	-960.00
Annual Meeting Expense-Other	0.00	4,000.00	4,000.00
TOTAL Annual Meeting Expense	3,111.44	4,000.00	888.56
Bank Charges	24.00	50.00	26.00
Business Office:			
Contract	4,000.00	4,000.00	0.00
Insurance	166.00	100.00	-66.00
Office Supplies	104.29	200.00	95.71
Print and Copy	37.97	100.00	62.03
Telephone	519.60	600.00	80.40
TOTAL Business Office	4,827.86	5,000.00	172.14
Director's meetings	0.00	200.00	200.00
Internet	209.90	250.00	40.10
Magazine	346.00	450.00	104.00
NCTA TIP Contribution	1,460.00	0.00	-1,460.00
Newsletter Expense	630.86	700.00	69.14
Postage and UPS	642.30	500.00	-142.30
Spring workshop expenses:			
LA	561.84	0.00	-561.84
MS	297.02	0.00	-297.02
Spring workshop expenses-Other	0.00	500.00	500.00
TOTAL Spring workshop expenses	858.86	500.00	-358.86
Travel	1,380.94	2,000.00	619.06
Uncategorized Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	13,492.16	13,650.00	157.84
TOTAL INCOME - EXPENSES	-568.45	0.00	-568.45

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2006 ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, January 21, 2006

Arlington room—Holiday Inn—Birmingham, AL

- 7:30 a.m. Registration and Exhibits open
- 8:45 a.m. Welcome and opening comments
- 9:00 a.m. Disease Control in Christmas Trees - *Dr. Austin Hagan* Bentley uses Extinguish
- 10:00 a.m. Break - Visit Vendors Best time: May-Oct mid-late June good
Award & Distance best for
- 10:15 a.m. Fire Ant Control - *Dr. Katheryn Flanders* ~~Ascend very cheap, good~~
- 11:00 a.m. 'What is the Southern Christmas Tree Association? You determine its future.'
Clarke Gernon/Bentley Curry Ascend very cheap, good
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch Check to see if ants are foraging
(potato chips) before you apply
for best results.
- 1:00 p.m. "Selling Trees with NCTA" - *Beth Walterscheidt*
- 1:45 p.m. Break - Visit Vendors
- 2:00 p.m. Tax Implications of Hurricane Katrina—*Reggie Pulliam*
- 3:00 p.m. Break - Visit Vendors
- 3:15 p.m. Business Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. Banquet: Guest speaker will be Ron Sparks, AL Commissioner of Agriculture
Note: There will be an auction following the guest speaker to raise funds for the SCTA. Everyone please bring an item that can be included in the auction.

Sunday, January 22, 2006

Beavers Christmas Tree Farm—Trafford, AL

- 8:30 a.m. Worship Service at Farm
- 9:00 a.m. Welcome to Beavers Christmas Tree Farm
- 9:15 a.m. Walking / Wagon ride Tour of Farm
- 10:30 a.m. Demonstration of flocking of Christmas Trees and Wreaths
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch at farm

SCTA

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Membership Report:

Alabama.....	19
Louisiana.....	29
Mississippi.....	28
Total.....	76

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Tilt , Ken AUBURN UNIVERSITY	420 Joy Drive Auburn , AL 36830		
Wadsworth , Frank Lucie WADSWORTH C'MAS TREE FARM	3266 Trotters Trail Wetumpka , AL 36093	334-567-6308	drflivingston@aol.com
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Peairs , Ricky Lisa WINDY HILLS FARM	8380 Hwy 963 Ethel , LA 70730	225-683-6828 225-683-4278	
Pepper , Joe Grace PEPPER CHRISTMAS TREE FARM	2181 Hwy 557 West Monroe , LA 71292	318-387-5172	
Porter , James Karen PORTER'S CHRISTMAS TREE FARM	61004 North Military Rd Slidell , LA 70461	985-641-4321	kfporter@bellsouth.net

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE/FAX	EMAIL/WEBSITE
Potts , Marie MARIE'S TREES	1010 Doty Road Ferriday , LA 71334	318-757-4911	mpotts@cpsbla.us
Puckett , Charles Pat PUCKETT TREE FARM	23 Rosewood Drv. Monroe , LA 71203	318-343-1545	
Pulliam , Reginald Jo Ann KRINGLEWOOD C'MAS TREE	9110 Greenwell Spg. Pt. Hudson Zachary , LA 70791	225-658-4999 225-658-5247	kringlewood@bellsouth.net
Rawls , Don Barbara PRECIOUS MEMORIES FARM, LLC	455 Glen Acres Rd Calhoun , LA 71225	318-396-5113	stovep30@aol.com
Reed , Don LSU AG CENTER	4419 Idlewild Road Clinton , LA 70722	225-683-5891	dreed@agctr.lsu.edu
Vincent , Lloyd Lena VINCENT'S CHRISTMAS TREE FARM	17015 W. Hwy 700 Kaplan , La 70548	337-643-6380	
Weaver , Guss Deanna WEAVER'S CHRISTMAS TREE FARM	2999 Jolly Napier Rd Shreveport , LA 71119	318-635-1042	
Acosta , Al Lo CHILDRENS C'MAS TREE FOREST	177 Wind-N-Oaks Rd Carriere , MS 39426	504-682-3315	al1o2@datastar.net www.childrenstreeforest.com
Arrechea , John Lois SPRINGWOOD C'MAS TREE FARM	1507 Smallwood Drv Oxford , MS 38655	662-234-9299	arrechea@dixie-net.com
Avery , Mack Jackie AVERY'S CHRISTMAS TREES	180 Oscar Bond Rd Purvis , MS 39475	601-794-2307	
Bass , Wesley Ginny BASS TREES & SUPPLY, INC.	551 Delancey Robbins Rd Columbia , MS 39429	601-731-7661 601-736-2231	basstree@netdoor.com
Becker , Jay JAYWOOD FARMS	60 Hammock Road Carriere , MS 39426	601-799-2473	
Bergeron , Jerry Nancy HILL TOP FARMS	2869 Hwy 53 Poplarville , MS 39470	601-795-0706	hilltop@megagate.com
Brake , Bill Kim K&B FARM	300 Alliston Farm Place Florence , MS 39073...	601-845-3085	kbffarms2000@aol.com
Dabbs , Charlie Donna DABBS TREE FARM	12143 School Rd Saucier , MS 39574	228-832-9532	dabbsfrm@bellsouth.net www.dabbsfarm.com
Dicke , Stephen CENTRAL MS R & E CENTER	1320 Seven Springs Road Raymond , MS 39154	601-857-2284 601-857-2358	steved@ext.msstate.edu msucare.com
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Eddy , Bob LaRose EDDY'S CHRISTMAS TREE FARM	6813 Oahu Court Diamondhead , MS 39525	601-736-1313	saeddy@netdoor.com
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Hardy , Chip Mitzi HIPPIE HOLLOW TREE FARM	518 Muggie Hill Road Courtland , MS 38620	601-563-1449	
Hartzog , Pete Joan HOLLY TREE FARM	1201 Ferguson Mill Rd. Silver Creek , MS 39663	601-886-7747	hollytree_farm@hotmail.com

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE/FAX	EMAIL/WEBSITE
Holowach , Jim Mary TIMBERLAND FOREST PRODUCTS	502 County Rd 1349 Tupelo , MS 38804	662-840-8707	jholowach@dixie-net.com
Kushla , John MSU Forestry	P.O. Box 1690 Verona , MS 38879	662-566-2201	JDKushla@ext.msstate.edu
Lofton , Billy Judy LOFTON'S CHRISTMAS TREE FARM	1732 Hwy. 35 S Carthage , MS 39051	601-267-4306	
Luster , T. M. Betty MS. T'S TREES INC.	226 Luster Lane Clarksdale , MS 38614	662-624-2204 662-627-8148	tdaddy38614@yahoo.com
Marolt , Mike Debra PINE MOUNTAIN TREE FARM	43 Waukomis Lake Rd. Corinth , MS 38834	662-286-8157	
Massey , Larry ROSEBUD C'MAS TREE PLANTATION	5819 Gunter Rd. Walnut Grove , MS 39189	601-253-2285 601-253-2285	massey_larry@hotmail.com
McDaniel , Tommy Jo Nell OLE MCDANIEL C'MAS TREE FARM	Route 1 box 157F Sallis , MS 39160	662-289-1081	
Nichols , Jack Beth FREEDOM HILLS FARM	2580 Scott Road Hernando , MS 38632	901-491-2008	bhesser@bellsouth.net www.freedomhillschristmast...
Pigott , Terry Sherry CHRISTMAS MEMORIES TREE FARM	1098 Northwood Dr. Summit , MS 39666	601 276-3300 601 684-1925	pigott@telapex.com
Richardson , William Connie MR. BILL'S TREE FARM	4156 Church Rd Magnolia , MS 39652	601-783-6466 601-783-6258	
Smith , Roger Vondell SMITH'S CHRISTMAS TREES	793 Sanford Rd. Moselle , MS 39459	601-582-2642	smithtre@bellsouth.net
Swedenburg , Wally Carolyn SWEDENBURG'S C'MAS TREE FARM	979 S. Lehnberg Rd Columbus , MS 39702	662-328-9140 662-329-2233	lumber33@bellsouth.net
Thomley , Howard Mamie THOMLEY'S SANTA FOREST	50 Hegwood Rd Hattiesburg , MS 39402	601-264-2743 601-264-6815	hbthom5661@aol.com
Wilson , Larry Dottie KRINGLES KROP, LLC	P.O. Box 1873 Picayune , MS 39466	601-795-6302	larryanddottie@bellsouth.net www.kringleskrop.com

BYLAWS OF THE SOUTHERN CHRISTMAS TREE ASSOCIATION

The name of this Association shall be "SOUTHERN CHRISTMAS TREE ASSOCIATION" and its purpose shall be to improve the production and marketing of Christmas trees and related products.

ARTICLE I - MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Section 1. Members of the Association shall be persons, firms or organizations within but not limited to Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi, who are engaged in any phase of producing, marketing, and promoting Christmas trees or related products.

Section 2. Applications for membership must be accompanied with one years dues and are subject to approval by the Executive Committee.

Section 3. The annual dues shall be established by the Board of Directors as needed for the operation of the Association with approval by majority vote of the members present and voting at any annual or special meeting of the Association. Annual dues shall be due on January 1 of each calendar year and members whose dues are not paid by April 1 of each year shall automatically become ex-members. A \$10.00 reinstatement fee will be assessed to ex-members whose dues are post-marked after April 1 each year.

Section 4. The annual dues of new members joining the Association during the last three (3) months of the calendar year shall be applied toward dues for the following year unless current membership is a specified requirement for utilization of specific and/or current privileges or services.

Section 5. Lifetime membership may be awarded by the President, with the approval of the Board of Directors, for outstanding service rendered to the Association. Lifetime members are non dues paying members.

Section 6. Associate membership may be awarded by the President, with the approval of the Board of Directors, for people in the Extension Services or any other organization that supports the Association. Associate members are non dues paying members.

ARTICLE II - GOVERNING BODY

Section 1. The Officers of the Association shall consist of the duly elected President, Senior Vice-President, Vice-President and Secretary-Treasurer. The term of office for each will begin on January 1 of the calendar year following the election and end on December 31st.

- A. The President of the Association shall be elected at the annual meeting of the Association for a one (1) year term of office. The Office of President will rotate among the three states in alphabetical order (i.e., AL, LA, MS) beginning with Alabama.
- B. The Senior Vice-President shall be elected at the annual meeting of the Association for a one (1) year term of office. The Office of Senior Vice-President will rotate among the three states in alphabetical order beginning with Louisiana.
- C. The Vice-President shall be elected at the annual meeting of the Association for a one (1) year term of office. The Office of Vice-President will rotate among the three states in alphabetical order beginning with Mississippi.
- D. An Secretary-Treasurer of the Association may be elected at each annual meeting for a one (1) year term of office with the term ending on December 31 of the following calendar year.
- E. An Executive Secretary may be hired on an annual contract basis by the Board of Directors to assume all or part of the duties of the Secretary-Treasurer. The Executive Secretary position shall be an ex-officio and non-voting member of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors.

Section 2. The Board of Directors of the Association shall include the President, Senior Vice-President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer and no more than nine (9) Directors selected in the following manner:

- A. Six (6) Directors shall be elected by the membership. Two (2) Directors will serve from each of the three states. One member from each state is to be elected as Director during each annual meeting to serve a two (2) year term such that three (3) Directors will be elected at each annual meeting.
- B. Three (3) Directors may be appointed by the President subject to approval by a two-thirds vote of the elected members of the Board of Directors. These appointed Directors shall be the State Extension Representative from Auburn University, Louisiana State University, and Mississippi State University.

Section 3. The National Director to the National Christmas Tree Association (NCTA) shall be elected by Association members who are members of NCTA from the National Director nominees selected by Association membership at an annual meeting. National Director nominees shall be current members of this Association and NCTA at all times if elected. The list of one or more nominees shall be forwarded to the NCTA which mails ballots to current NCTA members within the Association membership. The National Director shall be an ex-officio, voting member of the Board of Directors and the term of office will be determined by NCTA bylaws. *[Pending approval of the merger of the ACTA and the LA-MS CTA by vote of the two memberships, the current National Directors from both associations will be allowed to complete their terms of office. Upon completion of the terms, an election for one (1) National Director will be held according to association bylaws.]*

Section 4. The Association Parliamentarian shall be the outgoing President who shall assist the current President at all meetings of the Association and Board of Directors in administering Robert's Rules of Order for the conduct of meetings. The Parliamentarian shall be a voting member of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors and the term of office will continue until replaced by the next outgoing Presi-

dent.

ARTICLE III - OFFICE TENURE AND REPLACEMENT

Section 1. The tenure of all duly elected officers shall be one year with term of office ending December 31 of the calendar year following election by the membership at the Association annual meeting. If, for any reason, an election of officers is not held during any year or annual meeting, the officers last regularly elected shall hold office until their successors are duly elected. In such case, the newly elected officers will take office immediately.

Section 2. Any Director or elected Officer's tenure in office may be terminated by death, resignation tendered in writing to the Executive Committee, or removal by two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors for the reasons of:

- A. Inability to fulfill the duties of the office due to physical or mental disability.
- B. Inefficiency and/or incompetence.
- C. Conduct detrimental to the Association
- D. Other sufficient causes.

Section 3. In the event the President cannot complete his term of office, the President shall be succeeded by the duly elected Senior Vice-President. Subsequently, the Vice President will be moved to the position of Senior Vice President. Upon assuming the office vacated by the President, the former Senior Vice-President shall appoint a member of the Association to fulfill the vacated office of Vice-President, subject to the majority approval of the Board of Directors.

Section 4. In the event the Senior Vice-President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, Parliamentarian or Director cannot complete his term of office, the President shall appoint a member of the Association to fulfill the remainder of the term subject to the majority approval of the Board of Directors.

Section 5. In the event the National Director cannot complete his term of office, the highest ranking officer of the Association who is a member of NCTA shall appoint a member of the Association to fulfill the responsibilities of the individual being replaced until such time as a National Director can be elected in accordance with NCTA bylaws. The appointee will be subject to the majority approval of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IV - DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Section 1. The President shall preside at all Association meetings, serve as Chairman of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee, administer and supervise all affairs of the Association, promote the welfare of the Association, appoint all committee chairpersons subject to the majority approval of the Board, and assume other duties and responsibilities as delegated to him by majority approval of the Board of Directors.

Section 2. The Vice-Presidents shall assist the President in the conduct of all meeting and Association affairs and assume other duties and responsibilities as delegated by the President and Board of Directors. The Senior Vice-President will preside in the absence of the President. The Vice President will preside in the absence of the President and Senior Vice President.

Section 3. The Secretary-Treasurer shall take the minutes of all meetings of the Association and Board of Directors, serve as custodian of all Association records, give proper notice to Directors and Members of meetings, receive all monies and deposit same in the name and to the credit of the Association in such depositories as may be designated by the Board of Directors, make payments for authorized debts and obligations in accordance with subsequent sections of the Bylaws, maintain accounting and financial records in the manner prescribed by the Board, make financial reports to the Board and the Membership at the annual meeting, and conduct the financial affairs of the Association in the manner prescribed by the Board, including but not limited to, the filing of all state and federal documents as required by law.

Section 4. The Executive Secretary, if contracted by the Board of Directors, shall work directly under the supervision of the President and shall perform those duties and responsibilities of the Secretary-Treasurer as specified in the annual contract approved by majority vote of the Board of Directors.

Section 5. The Board of Directors shall have the vested responsibility of the direction and management of the affairs of the Association and shall administer all finances and programs of the Association. The President, as Chairman of the Board, shall make an annual report to the Association membership at the annual meeting.

Section 6. The National Director shall represent the Association on the NCTA Board of Directors in accordance with the majority approval of the Association Board of Directors. He shall attend NCTA Board Meetings and other authorized NCTA meetings and shall perform all duties and responsibilities as specified by majority approval of the Board. He shall make reports to the Board on the status of NCTA affairs and programs at board meetings and to the Association membership at each annual meeting.

Section 7. The Parliamentarian shall assist the President at all meetings of the Association in interpreting and administering Robert's Rules of Order for the conduct of the meetings and shall perform other parliamentary duties and responsibilities as specified by the President, subject to majority approval of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE V. - ELECTIONS

Section 1. At least thirty (30) days prior to the annual meeting, the President shall appoint a Nominating Committee consisting of one (1) member from each state in the Association. Immediately following the appointment of the Nominating Committee the Secretary-Treasurer shall mail a notice to all Association members indicating the names and mailing addresses of the Nominating Committee members. The notice shall include a request for nominations to be mailed to any Committee member. All nominations sent to the Nominating Committee shall contain the signatures of at least three (3) current members and a statement outlining the nominee's qualifications. Nominations must be received at least fifteen (15) days prior to the annual meeting.

Section 2. At least seven (7) days prior to the annual meeting of the Association, the Nominating Committee shall submit a list of all qualified nominees and their qualification statements to the Secretary-Treasurer for each office to be filled.

Section 3. The Secretary-Treasurer shall prepare the official ballot for distribution to the members attending the annual meeting from the list prepared by the Nominating Committee.

Section 4. During a special or annual meeting of the Association, the President shall introduce the nominees to the members present prior to the casting of ballots. After the President's introduction, each nominee will be allowed to address the members present for a period not to exceed three (3) minutes with no seconding speeches.

Section 5. The President shall advise the members present that floor nominations are not accepted as specified by the Association Bylaws and only one ballot will be cast per member in good standing. The meeting hall will then be sealed so that no one can enter; those who leave will not be allowed to return until the voting is completed.

Section 6. The President shall appoint three (3) members of the Board of Directors, one (1) from each state, who are not nominees on the ballot, to receive and count the ballots. The Nominating Committee Chairperson shall act as an observer during the ballot counting. After the ballots are counted, the Nominating Committee Chairperson will report the election results to the members present. The Secretary-Treasurer will record the election results in the official minutes of the Association records.

Section 7. The President will then request a motion to destroy the ballots and, upon hearing such a motion, will request a verbal vote to destroy the ballots. Once the vote has passed the President will direct the Nominating Committee Chairman to destroy the ballots.

Section 8. In the event of a tie vote for any office, the Board of Directors shall vote by secret ballot to determine the winner.

ARTICLE VI - FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Section 1. The fiscal year of the Association shall begin on the first day of January each year and end on the last day of December of the same year.

Section 2. The annual meeting of the Association shall be held at least once each fiscal year and at other times as may be designated by the Board of Directors. The Board shall designate the time, place, and duration of such meetings. The Secretary-Treasurer shall ascertain that notice of such meetings be made, in writing, to the Association membership at least thirty (30) days prior to the scheduled meeting.

Section 3. Board of Directors meetings or special meetings of the Association can be called by the President, Board of Directors, or petition from fifteen (15) or more members of the Association. Notice of such meetings to be given by the Secretary-Treasurer, in writing, to the Board of Directors or membership at least thirty (30) days prior to the scheduled meeting. There shall be at least three (3) scheduled Board of Directors meetings each year.

Section 4. A quorum at Association meetings shall consist of those members present, so long as sufficient notice has been provided the Directors or membership as specified in Sections 2 and 3 above.

Section 5. Position bonds shall be furnished by the Association with a commercial bonding company for the Secretary-Treasurer, Executive Secretary, and such other persons as authorized by the Board of Directors. The bonding company and amount of the bond shall be determined by the Board of Directors with the premium and associated costs to be paid by the Association.

Section 6. The President shall develop, with recommendations from the Budget and Finance Committee, an annual budget for the next fiscal year covering all activities of the Association for the approval of the Board of Directors.

Section 7. All financial accounts of the Association shall be reviewed at least annually by a Certified Public Accountant (CPA). The CPA will be selected by the President, with majority approval of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall have the authority to specify type, intensity, and frequency of financial audits. The CPA will prepare an audit report for the Board of Directors and the President will insure that this report is presented to the membership at the next annual meeting. Review of the Secretary-Treasurer's financial records shall be made annually by the Budget and Finance Committee.

Section 8. No loan shall be made by the Association to any member, employee, elected or appointed officer or Director, consultant, or other representatives of the Association.

Section 9. The Board of Directors shall have sole authority to enter into contracts for goods and services with any person or firm on behalf of the Association. All contracts between the Association and another entity shall be approved by a majority of the Board of Directors and signed by an Officer of the Association.

Section 10. At the end of each meeting of the Association, it shall be the responsibility of the President and Secretary-Treasurer to meet with meeting chairpersons and to settle and pay all legitimate expenses created by the meeting.

Section 11. The Secretary-Treasurer, or Executive Secretary, shall be authorized to expend up to fifty dollars (\$50.00), without the approval of the Executive Committee or Board of Directors, for necessary current expenses not specified in the approved annual budget.

Section 12. All bills, claims, and expenditures for items not specified in the approved annual budget or for amounts in excess of approved budget items shall be certified by the President of the Association before payment is made by the Secretary-Treasurer. All reimbursement vouchers, for any amount to any person, shall be approved in writing by the President.

Section 13. The Board of Directors shall have sole authority to employ and pay expenses of persons or firms necessary to carry on work of the Association.

Section 14. In the event the Association is dissolved or ceases to operate as a legally chartered corporation, its remaining assets and funds, after all legitimate debts and obligations are paid, will be divided equally between the Extension Forestry Departments of Auburn University, Louisiana State University, and Mississippi State University.

ARTICLE VII - AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Any Article or Section of these Bylaws may be amended, repealed, or changed at any annual meeting or special meeting by a majority vote of the members present and voting, provided that proposed amendments shall have been submitted in writing to each Association member at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting. Any amendment not postmarked ten (10) days prior to the annual or special meeting shall be passed only by unanimous vote of the members present.

ARTICLE VIII - COMMITTEES

Section 1. There shall be an Executive Committee of the Board of Directors which shall be composed of the President, Senior Vice-President, Vice-President, Parliamentarian, and Secretary-Treasurer or Executive Secretary. The Executive Secretary shall be an ex-officio and non-voting member and shall serve as recorder for these meetings.

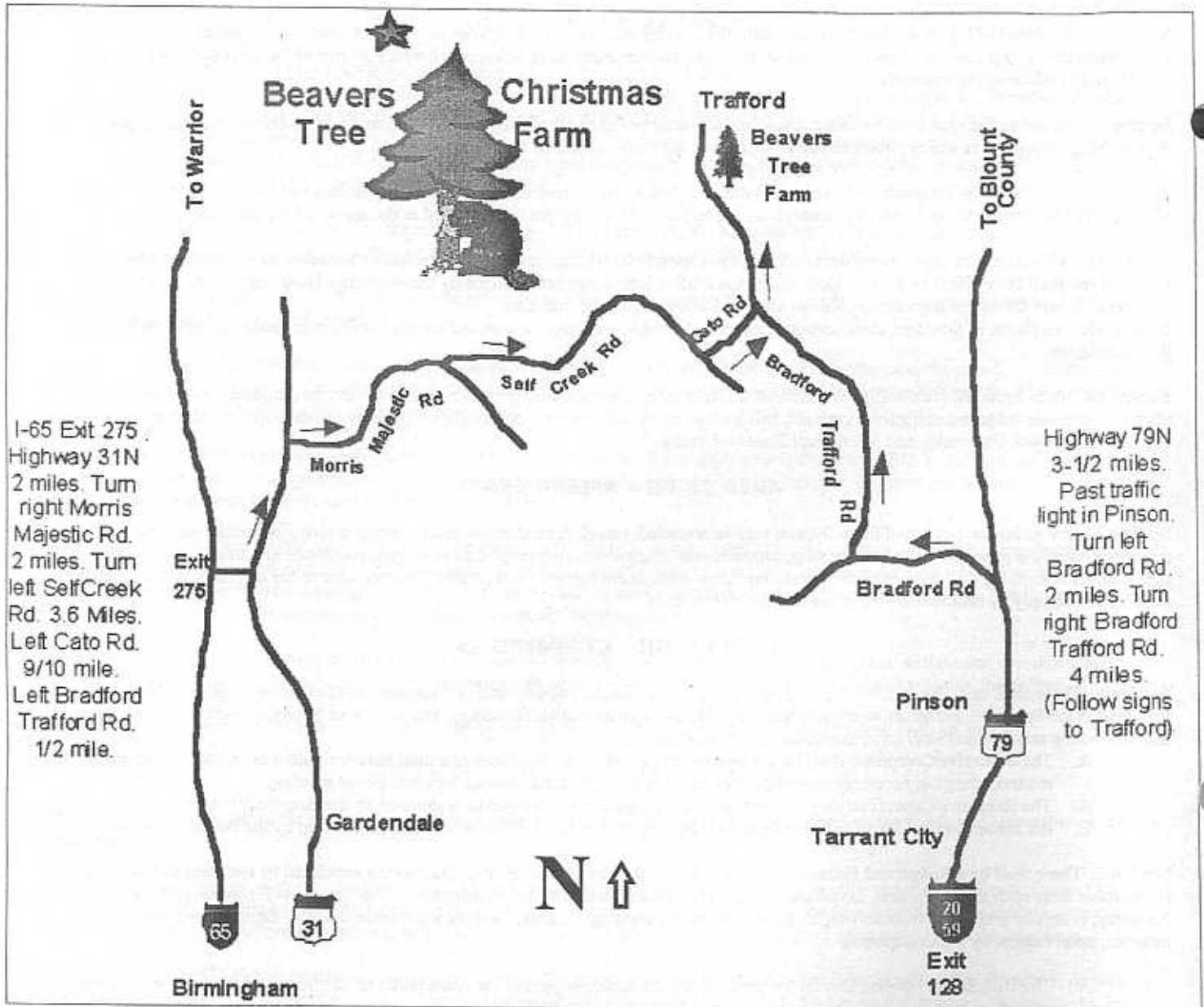
- A. The Executive Committee shall have a meeting at the call of the President and shall have the authority to act on emergency matters when it is necessary and when time considerations prohibit waiting for a full Board meeting.
- B. The Executive Committee may perform those duties and responsibilities as authorized by the Board of Directors.
- C. All actions of the Executive Committee shall be subject to the majority approval and ratification by the Board of Directors.

Section 2. There shall be a Budget and Finance Committee which shall be composed of a Chairperson appointed by the President and one (1) member from each state, Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi, as selected by the Chairperson. The Secretary-Treasurer, or Executive Secretary, is strictly prohibited from serving on this committee as a voting member, but may serve in an advisory capacity as a non-voting member, upon request by the Chairperson.

- A. The Budget and Finance Committee shall review the annual budget of the Association as developed by the President, revise, amend, or modify it as desired, and recommend its approval to the Board of Directors.
- B. The Budget and Finance Committee shall consider requests for extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures not provided for in the approved annual budget, and if deemed warranted, recommend approval thereof to the Board of Directors.
- C. The Budget and Finance Committee shall have the authority to perform unannounced inspections of the Secretary-Treasurer's financial records or records of anyone holding or administering funds of the Association. These reviews and inspections will be performed by the Chairperson and at least two (2) members of the Committee and they will be required to provide written reports of their findings, comments, and recommendations to the Board of Directors at a regularly scheduled meeting. Any problems discovered shall be resolved no later than the next Board meeting by the Secretary-Treasurer or individual who has been inspected/reviewed.
- D. The Budget and Finance Committee shall examine the audit report of records and finances of the Association as provided by the CPA who performed this service and make a report of its findings to the Board of Directors at the next scheduled Board meeting.

Section 3. The President shall have the authority to appoint the Chairperson of any committee recommended by the membership of the Association in annual or special meetings or on order of the Board of Directors and to specify the number of committee members and the committee functions. The Chairperson shall select the required number of Association members to serve on the committee, subject to majority approval by the Board of Directors.

These bylaws were passed by membership vote at a joint meeting between the Alabama Christmas Tree Association and the LA-MS Christmas Tree Association in Mobile, AL, on January 22nd, 2005.



I-65 Exit 275
 Highway 31N
 2 miles. Turn
 right Morris
 Majestic Rd.
 2 miles. Turn
 left Self Creek
 Rd. 3.6 Miles.
 Left Cato Rd.
 9/10 mile.
 Left Bradford
 Trafford Rd.
 1/2 mile.

Highway 79N
 3-1/2 miles.
 Past traffic
 light in Pinson.
 Turn left
 Bradford Rd.
 2 miles. Turn
 right Bradford
 Trafford Rd.
 4 miles.
 (Follow signs
 to Trafford)

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