

Southern Christmas Tree Association
2024 Annual Meeting Program
September 13, 14 & 15
Guntersville, Alabama

(short edition 20240828 to be replaced by final program)

Friday Open Farm Visit

Moody Farms

1489 Valley Road, Oneonta, AL 35121
205.559.2814; MoodyFarms1489@gmail.com
Facebook: Moody Farms

Friday Open Farm Visit

Springfield Christmas Tree Farm

595 Mt. Vernon Drive, Boaz, AL 35957
256.558.4123; DSpring1953@gmail.com
Facebook: Springfield Christmas Tree Farm

**Lake Guntersville State Park,
Lodge & Conference Center**

1155 Lodge Drive, Guntersville, AL 35976
256.571.5440; www.AlaPark.com

Sunday Farm Tour

Frazier Christmas Tree Farm

559 Frazier Road, Albertville, AL 35950
256.293.6062; Frazier559@charter.net
Facebook: Frazier Farms

Friday, September 13

10:30 AM - 02:30 PM

Open-Farm Visit 1

Moody Farms, Lynn & Teresa Moody and David & Rachel Moody

Moody Farms planted their first Christmas trees in 2014 growing Virginia pine, Leyland cypress and Murray X on their 6-acre farm. For the second year, the Moodys will host their popular corn maize. The family has farmed agricultural products on this land for at least one hundred years. The property has welcoming street appeal where it is evident the whole family literally digs in.

Moody Farms is located 28 miles southwest of Springfield Christmas Tree Farm and 40 miles southwest of the Lake Guntersville State Park, Lodge & Conference Center.

Open-farm visits are informal, non-structured events providing opportunities to look around, ask questions, share ideas, meet other growers and fellowship.

12:30 PM - 04:30 PM

Open-Farm Visit 2

Springfield Christmas Tree Farm, Dana & Terri Springfield

Dana and Terri have been in the choose & cut Christmas tree business since they planted their first trees in 1979. The farmed land has been in their extended family for at least 75 years with each member increasing acreage. They have grown many species of trees including white pine and Norway spruce. When Teri and Dana speak, listen. Look closely at the pulpwood-size timber on their property. Those trees are a mixture of Christmas species that have grown substantially when Dana took a break from trimming. You think you have had a hard day? Dana is the epitome of strength and determination when most people would have quit. Their beautiful entrance invites you to an enchanted place.

Springfield Christmas Tree Farm is 18 miles south of the Lake Guntersville State Park, Lodge & Conference Center approximately mid-way between the lodge and Moody Farms.

Open-farm visits are informal, non-structured events providing opportunities to look around, ask questions, share ideas, meet other growers and fellowship.

- 04:00 PM - 05:30 PM **SCTA Board Meeting**
Lake Guntersville State Park, Lodge & Conference Center - Boardroom
- 05:00 PM - 07:00 PM **Registration**
Lake Guntersville State Park, Lodge & Conference Center - Lobby
- See Brenda & Tim Parker of Hillside Christmas Trees, Scottsboro, Alabama or the executive secretary Michael Buchart. Registration will also be Saturday morning in the Grandview Ballroom foyer. Tim and Brenda are the definition of the good folks of SCTA. They recently sold their Parker Acres Farm (3rd year selling trees) to move to north Alabama and start all over (sort of). They continued their membership even when they were in transition and nowhere near putting trees in the ground.
- 06:00 PM - 07:30 PM **Board Dinner**
Pinecrest Restaurant Seafood Buffet (dinner hours 4:00 PM - 9:00 PM)
- The Pinecrest Restaurant is known regionally for its Friday night seafood buffet. All registrants are encouraged to enjoy the popular seafood buffet.
- Both the Pinecrest Restaurant and the adjoining Hickory Lounge share a large patio that overlooks Lake Guntersville. It is a beautiful venue to eat, enjoy the scenery and fellowship. The executive secretary has been assured the Hickory Lounge is well stocked with systemic nutrients. Newcomers do not be bashful, gather with your fellow SCTA'ers.
- 06:00 PM - 09:00 PM **Exhibitor, Auction Item, Tree & Wreath Competition Set-Up**
Grandview Conference Room & Foyer
- Participants are encouraged to set-up Friday evening. Exhibitors will be in the area leading to the Grandview Ballroom. Placards will assign exhibitor tables. Tables will be placed in the ballroom for auction items. Be sure auction items are identified with donor name and approximate retail value. Yellow sticky notes will be available on the tables. Tree and wreath competitors will place their entries in designated tree spots or on empty easels. Suggestion: keep wreaths horizontal overnight before displaying on easels. In the absence of the executive secretary, see Michael Duncan of Neely Farms for the tree competition and Brittany Anderson of Talson Farms for wreaths. Please remove trees and wreaths Saturday night after the auction and that your spot is dry and swept. Thank you. The executive secretary will find out if there are any staff fishermen who would like the trees for fish habitat.

Saturday, September 14

- 07:00 AM - 08:30 AM **Exhibitor, Auction Item, Tree & Wreath Competition Set-Up
Grandview Conference Room & Foyer**
See above regarding setup.
- 07:30 AM – 08:30 AM **Light Snacks and Coffee Sponsored by
Evans Christmas Products**
7930 Zeigler Boulevard, Mobile, AL 36608
www.EvansChristmasProducts.com
(800) 832-4521; Julie@EvansAndCompany.com
- 08:30 AM – 08:45 AM **Welcome, Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance
Grandview Conference Room**
Opening Prayer: Bentley Curry, NCTA/SCTA Representative & Curry Farms.

**The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America:
Colonel (Retired) Larry J. Massey**, U. S. Army Reserve, Rosebud Christmas Trees

Welcome: Wesley Bass, Senior Vice-President 2024/2025 & Bass Christmas Tree Farm. General comments, introduction of officers & board members, farm hosts, vendors, recognition of 1st year members, guests, etc.
- 08:45 AM - 09:15 AM **Research**
Steve Mannhard, Moderator & Program Chair, Past-President Fish River Trees & The Cabins at Fish River Trees

Dr. Valerie West, Louisiana State University
Dr. Joshua Granger, Mississippi State University
Dr. Jeremy Pickens, Auburn University
Proposals / Ideas for Future Projects from The Audience
- 09:15 AM - 10:00 AM **Irrigation Systems That Work**
Gray Anderson, Moderator with Panel
Grant Farms
- 10:00 AM – 10:30 AM **Break, Visit Vendors, Tree & Wreath Judging**
- 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM **Production, Sharing Session #1**
Steve Mannhard, Moderator with Panel

A. The Great Drought & The Great Freeze - Damage Lessons Learned
B. Spraying for Insects Prior to Sales
C. Combining Herbicides and Fungicides: What works
D. Submitted Questions, Issues, Topics & etc. from Participants
- 11:30 AM - 01:00 PM **Lunch Buffet, Pinecrest Restaurant**

- 01:00 PM – 02:00 PM **Production, Sharing Session #2**
Steve Mannhard, Moderator with Panel
- A. The Great Tree Challenge:
Leyland Cypress vs. Murray Cypress
Blue Ice vs. Carolina Sapphire
 - B. Planting 2-inch, 1-gallon or 3-gallon Liners: Pros & Cons
 - C. To Flock or Not to Flock
 - D. More Submitted Questions, Issues, Topics & etc. from Participants
- 02:00 PM – 02:30 PM **Break, Visit Vendors, Tree & Wreath Judging**
- 02:30 PM – 03:30 PM **Various Topics, Sharing Session #3**
Steve Mannhard, Moderator with Panel
- A. Liability Insurance
 - B. Selling Fir Trees: Pros & Cons
 - C. To Trim or Not to Trim: Are We Over Trimming?
 - D. Fungicide Spraying: When to Start & Stop
 - E. More Submitted Questions, Issues, Topics & etc. from Participants
- 03:30 PM – 04:00 PM **Business Meeting**
- A. Turn in Tree & Wreath Ballots
Trees: Michael Duncan, Neely Farms
Wreaths: Brittany Anderson, Talson Farms
 - B. NCTA Report: Bentley Curry
 - C. Financial Report: Michael Buchart, Executive Secretary
 - D. Elections
 - E. Other Business
- 05:00 PM – 06:00 PM **Social Hour, Hickory Lounge** (cash bar)
- 06:00 PM - 07:30 PM **Dinner Buffet, Pinecrest Restaurant**
- 07:30 PM - 07:45 PM **Rick Dungey, Executive Director, Christmas Spirit Foundation**
Grandview Conference Room
- 07:45 PM – 09:30 PM **Auction**

Sunday, September 15

Frazier Christmas Tree Farm

Benny & Susan Frazier

559 Frazier Road, Albertville, AL 35950

Facebook: Frazier Farms; Frazier559@charter.net; 256.293.6062

Benny & Susan have always supported the Southern Christmas Tree Association and have maintained their membership for years without ever having attended a meeting because of their demanding business needs. Their dedication paid off when they recently sold their NAPA Auto Parts franchise. Now, they have been able to jump in with all four feet into SCTA and their farm. Benny and Susan did not hesitate to offer their place when SCTA planners approached them for the 2024 meeting. As you will see, the Fraziers have applied their successful business experiences into the now blossoming Frazier Christmas Tree Farm. Their Christmas light show is a go-to for the community. You cannot resist turning in when you pass their place.

- 07:30 AM Gate Open, Coffee, Donuts, Fellowship
- 08:30 AM - 09:00 AM Welcome by Wesley Bass and Benny & Susan Frazier
Devotion by Chris Johnson, Senior Pastor, Albertville First Baptist Church
Introductions, Farm History & Overview
- 09:00 AM - 12:00 PM Farm Production & Demonstrations
Benny Frazier
- ~10:30 AM - 12:00 PM Concurrent Session: Other than The Trees
Susan Frazier
Gift Shop Operations, Markets, Buying & Selling, Wreath Operation,
Santa Clause, Light Show, On-Site Events, etc.
- 12:00 PM - 01:30 PM Lunch
- 01:30 PM Close 'er down, lend a hand tidying up, last one out close the gate, drive home safely, good luck preparing for The Season, give it your all-out best for your farm guests come November, try to relax, start all over again, and finally plan on attending the 2025 Louisiana annual meeting. There is no need for physician prescribed group therapy - we have the SCTA. YOU!

Any comments, suggests, ideas or whatevers for the next annual meeting, please be sure to contact the president or the executive secretary.

If anyone would like talk about the possibility of hosting the next annual meeting or a workshop, please contact the executive secretary. The more input and options the better. Louisiana will be 2025 and Mississippi 2026.

Presenter / Participant / Exhibitor Contact Information

Brittany Anderson, Talson Farms, 88 Arnold Pryor Road, Laurel, MS 39443; FB: Talson Farms; info@TalsOnFarms.com; (601) 433-4794.

Gray Anderson, Moderator, Grant Farms, LLC, 716 Whitaker Road, Grant, LA 70644; www.GrantChristmasTreeFarm.com, GrayAnderson88@yahoo.com; (337) 789-3072.

Wesley Bass, Senior Vice-President 2024/2025, Bass Christmas Tree Farm, 103 Riley Road, Columbia, MS 39429; www.BassTrees.com; BassTreeFarm@gmail.com; (601) 731-8232.

Bentley Curry, NCTA/SCTA Representative, Curry Farms, Inc., 548 Robinson Drive, Rayville, LA 71269; www.CurryFarms.net, FB: Curry Farms, Inc.; BentleyCurry@AOL.com; (318) 728-6203.

Michael Duncan, Neely Farms, 1879 County Road 107, Randolph, AL 36792; www.neelyfarmschristmastrees.com; NeelyFarmsTrees@gmail.com; (205)389-1831.

Rick Dungey, Executive Director, Christmas Spirit Foundation, 2650 South Hanley Road, Suite 100, St. Louis, MO 63144; www.ChristmasSpiritFoundation.org; Info@ChristmasSpiritFoundation.org; (314) 416-2245.

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

Chris Johnson, Senior Pastor, Albertville First Baptist Church, 309 East Main Street, Albertville, AL 35950; www.AlbertvilleFBC.church; (256) 878-2291.

Steve Mannhard, 2024 Program Chair & Moderator, Past-President 2022/2023, Fish River Trees & The Cabins at Fish River Trees, 13982 Woodhaven Dairy Road East, Summerdale, AL 36580; www.fishrivertrees.com; FishRiverTrees@gulftel.com; (251) 988-8114.

Colonel (Retired) Larry J. Massey, United States Army Reserve, Rosebud Christmas Trees, 5819 Gunter Road, Walnut Grove, MS 39189; Facebook: Rosebud Christmas Trees; Massey_Larry@hotmail.com; (601) 201-8179.

Lynn & Teresa Moody (parents) and David & Rachel Moody, Friday Open-Farm Hosts, Moody Farms, 1489 Valley Road, Oneonta, AL 35121; Facebook: Moody Farms; MoodyFarms1489@gmail.com; (205) 559-2814.

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

Dana & Terri Springfield, Friday Open-Farm Hosts, Springfield Christmas Tree Farm, 595 Mt. Vernon Drive, Boaz, AL 35957; Facebook: Springfield Christmas Tree Farm; DSpring1953@gmail.com; (256) 558-4123.

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

Exhibitors

Evans Christmas Products (grower & tree lot supplies)

Julie Holland

7930 Zeigler Boulevard, Mobile, AL 36608

www.EvansChristmasProducts.com; Julie@EvansAndCompany.com; (800) 832-4521

Grant Farms, LLC (planting stock)

Gray Anderson

716 Whitaker Road, Grant, LA 70644

www.GrantChristmasTreeFarm.com, GrayAnderson88@yahoo.com; (337) 789-3072

Irrigation-Mart, Inc. (irrigation, drainage & wastewater systems & supplies)

Eric Houser

200 South Service Road East, Ruston, LA 71270

www.Irrigation-Mart.com; Eric.Houser@Irrigation-Mart.com; (334) 332-3624

Taylor Leigh's Christmas Trees

Don Mills

1465 Cordova Road, Germantown, TN 38138

www.TaylorLeighsChristmasTrees.com; MTMills424@yahoo.com; (901) 292-6929