

Sixth Annual Meeting



September 24 and 25, 1982
Monroe, Louisiana



Louisiana - Mississippi
Christmas Tree Growers' Association

DIAMONDS ARE A TREE'S BEST FRIEND

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When you ship trees to market, be sure they are well protected against costly damage. Dress them in Kirk Vexar® "Tree-Tie"† diamond-design plastic Netting.

Vexar is a proven product: A netting with consistently correct diameters; one that doesn't zipper nor come apart—a pliant netting in any weather.

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Granted, diamonds can be imitated but never duplicated. The same is true of Kirk Vexar "Tree-Tie" netting. The Kirk no-hassle assurance of quality comes only with the real thing.

The bottom line: A more profitable tree to sell.

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Specifications:

- Offered on Kirk Tree-Tie† cartridges for all funnel opening sizes
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- Each cartridge packages approximately 50 trees, depending upon the height of the trees



*Reg. Trademark AMOCO Corp.

†U.S. and Canadian Kirk Co. Patents Pending

Refer to price sheets for cartridge specification, quantity pricing, and other information.



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The *kirk* Co.

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Plant

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From the Association Business Office

The La-Ms. Christmas Tree Growers' Association has grown from a group of 17 growers who met in Jackson, Ms. in December, 1976 to the nation's third largest Christmas tree association in 1981. Our 1981 membership of 516 was exceeded by only California with 612 and the entire Northwest with 524 members. The 1982 membership in our Association currently stands at 525, but is expected to reach 550 by year's end.

Our Association was granted a Mississippi Charter of Incorporation as an agricultural association with 25 charter members in December, 1976, and a Louisiana Charter in April, 1977. The first annual meeting was held September 17, 1977, in Hattiesburg, MS. with approximately 93 people attending. Fritz G. Lindley was the first president of our Association (1976-77) and he was succeeded by Edward L. Blake (1978-79), Robert N. Eddy, Jr. (1980-81), and Wallace P. Swedenburg (1981 to present).

Welcome to the Sixth Annual Meeting in Monroe, Louisiana! Annual meetings are rotated between the two states with Louisiana hosting the meeting in even-numbered years and Mississippi in odd-numbered years.

Your Association is now a growing business with an executive secretary and a business office to serve the needs of its members. As your Executive Secretary, I thought you would be interested in how the business office functions and some of its activities.

The Business Office was officially established on July 1, 1981, by vote of the Board of Directors. The duties and responsibilities of the Business Office are contained in a legal contract between Resource Consulting International, Ltd. of Starkville and the Association for the period July 1, 1981, through December 31, 1982. RCI, Ltd. provides all office space, equipment, and staff and is paid on a per-member basis. The contract will be renewed and renegotiated on an annual basis.

The following table depicts the rapid growth of Association affairs and activities. As you can imagine, mailing newsletters, seedling notices, and meeting notices to 525 members and handling the business records for the 1982 budget of over \$40,000 is a sizable job for any business office and a part-

time Executive Secretary. Without the help of my wife Kathie and a small computer, the task would be impossible. Membership records, mailing lists, seedling orders, and business records are maintained on the computer. Kathie handles all of the computer records except the business records. If your address changes, you had better let her know or we'll lose you. Keeping up with member records is the most difficult task we have, particularly where the membership is in a farm or business name and we receive correspondence from an individual. If you correspond under a farm or business name, please let us know the appropriate member's name.

Examples of all computerized records are on display at the registration desk for you to examine. Be sure to check your name on the membership list, pick up your seedling confirmation notice, and pickup your copy of the membership directory.

Newsletters are prepared on a periodic basis; whenever I can get enough news together. I would like to have a quarterly newsletter, so please send me news about what you're doing, herbicide results, and the "gadgets" you have designed or use. Just write the news item in longhand, I'll type it and edit it so everyone will think you're a real good writer.

If you need information or assistance, you can telephone the Business Office (601-323-3896) seven days a week. I am usually in the office before 8:00 a.m. and long after 5:00 p.m., so don't hesitate to call on the "cheap rates." Please remember, however, that your Executive Secretary is only part-time and needs a few hours sleep each night if he is going to earn a living as a consulting forester and keep the office open and furnished with equipment for Association use. I'm sorry I can't visit your operation when you have a problem, but the budget allows for only 5 days and 2,000 miles of official travel each year. Don't forget that your County Agent is a valuable source of assistance and information.

Please let me or your Board know how we can better serve your needs.

Dr. Robert C. Parker
Executive Secretary

SEEDLINGS HANDLED BY THE ASSOCIATION

YEAR	MEMBERS	BUDGET	Va. Pine	Redcedar	Spruce Pine	Deodar Cedar
1977	57	\$ 570	137,000	9,750	3,000	11,000
1978	114	9,261	150,000	24,000	8,750	5,000
1979	185	10,778	264,500	52,000	10,000	—
1980	333	15,808	316,000	31,000	16,000	—
1981	481	39,955	488,000	40,000	13,000	—
1982	525	40,650	550,000	40,000	—	—

THE SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING

LA - MS CHRISTMAS TREE GROWERS' ASSOCIATION

September 24 & 25, 1982 Ramada Inn Monroe, Louisiana

Friday, September 24

- 9:00 a.m. REGISTRATION begins
 EXHIBITS Open Bob and LaRose Eddy
 Membership and Association Business Bob and Kathie Parker
 Local Arrangements Bill and Diane Pippin
- 10:00 a.m. CHRISTMAS TREE CONTEST Harry and Shirley May
- 10:30 a.m. MARKETING DISCUSSIONS (informal)
- 1:00 p.m. GENERAL ASSEMBLY Moderator: Mr. Nash Roberts
 Welcome President Wally Swedenburg
 Current Developments/State of the Art Dr. Bob Parker
 Record Keeping for the IRS and You Mr. Reggie Pulliam
 New Development in Texas Mr. James Chandler
 Weed Control Dr. Turner Davis
 Introduction to Technical Sessions Dr. Alden Main
- 3:00 p.m. CONCURRENT TECHNICAL SESSIONS: "New" and "Experienced" Growers
- SESSION A — NEW GROWERS Moderator: Mr. Jim King
 Soil Preparation and Fertilization Mr. Olin Curtis
 Insect and Disease Control Dr. Dale Pollet and
 Dr. Ken Whitam
 A,B,C's of Spray Equipment Mr. John Beige
 Everything Else Dr. Bob Parker
 General Discussion Speakers
- SESSION B — EXPERIENCED GROWERS Moderator: Barton Bennett
 Preparing for Choose and Cut Operations Mr. Larry Seal
 Preparing for Wholesale Operation Mr. Bruce Murphy
 Sale Contracts and Marketing Agreements:
 For the Grower/Seller Mr. Van Michael
 For the Buyer/Retailer Mr. Craig Collier
 Insect and Disease Control Update Ms. Pat Cobb
 General Discussion Speakers
- 6:00 p.m. SOCIAL (Cash Bar)
- 7:00 p.m. BANQUET — Tree Contest Winners

Friday



HARRY WAYNE ADDISON

Humorist, Author and Philosopher

A lifelong resident of the Monroe, Louisiana area, Harry Wayne Addison was raised in Swartz, Louisiana, and is a graduate of Ouachita Parish High School. He also attended North-east Louisiana Junior College.

Addison served in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II. He participated in 5 battles as a Platoon Sergeant and Forward Observer, and was awarded the Bronze Star for bravery.

Active in local organizations, Addison has held many positions of authority. He is a Past President of the West Monroe Kiwanis Club; has served on the Board of Directors of the West Monroe Chamber of Commerce; is a member of the West Monroe Board of Realtors, the Rotary Club of Monroe, and the National Speakers Association. Addison is also a member of Parkview Baptist Church, where he works with Silent Friends.

Addison is the owner of Harry Addison Real Estate and Appraisals and is a member and Past President of the Society of Real Estate Appraisers. He has been married for 41 years and has 3 children and 4 grandchildren.

Annually making 70 to 80 speeches, Addison enjoys relating to people through his speaking engagements. He is the author of "Write That Down for Me, Daddy" and "R.F.D. #3."

Speaker



CHRISTMAS TREE RESEARCH AT MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

W. W. ELAM

1. Two plantations of Virginia pine produced from various seed sources were established. The seedlings were grown for the study by Kimberly-Clark in their Alabama nursery. One plantation is located near Columbus, MS. The objective of this region-wide study is to determine the best seed sources for the various states. Measurements and survival checks will be made next year.
2. A test of the use of subterranean clover in growing Christmas trees was established in 1980. *Trifolium subterranean* L. was planted with the idea that it would serve as a nitrogen source for the trees and may also help control weeds by either allelopathic effects or by a mulching effect. It was compared with different rates of ammonium nitrate.

In the clover plots trees were shorter than in other plots, and the type of predominant weeds were perennials rather than annuals. Apparently the clover is effective in controlling some annuals. However, perennials such as Johnson Grass which have established root systems thrive, probably due to utilization of the nitrogen fixed by

the clover. It appears that increased competition for the tree seedling is responsible for the slower growth.

This should point out to growers the extreme importance of vegetation control in establishing and maintaining a plantation. A full report will be issued on this study at a later date.

3. Preliminary steps have been taken to test the effects of chemical growth retardants on Christmas tree species to see if there is some role they could play in the culture of the trees.
4. Trials of various herbicides for weed control in Christmas trees, primarily Virginia Pine, are continuing.



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CHRISTMAS TREE CONTEST

To Be Featured at Annual Meeting

*“Bring Your Tree
and Show Your Quality”*

1. The exhibitor entering the tree must be a member in good standing of the LA-MS Christmas Tree Growers' Association.
2. Contest will be held outdoors.
3. Judging will be by three judges from outside the Association (judges selected, but to be announced after the judging).
4. The Grand Champion will be selected from the two state winners.
5. Judging will be Friday morning at 10:00 a.m.
6. Trees to be on grounds ready for judging by 10:00 a.m. Each tree will be numbered and labeled as to the state (LA or MS). Each tree must be standing independently, in stand or other container.
7. Securely tied to each tree a blank, sealed envelope containing the grower's name and address, telephone number, and location of tree farm.
8. Scoring: See Guidelines — Christmas Tree Judging.
9. No colorant is allowed; trees must be natural.
10. All trees entered must be plantation-grown and are required to be 6 feet to 8 feet in height from the bottom of the handle to the tip of the leader. Pine topleaders should conform to the tree's natural taper.
11. Winners will be selected for the two states and the Grand Champion selected from the State Winners. The two State Winners and the Grand Champion will be recognized at the banquet Friday night.

National Christmas Tree Contest Guide Lines — Christmas Tree Judging

State: _____ Date: _____ Tree No.: _____

Foliage	Insect and disease damage	
	Light no damage	- 50
	Medium	- 25
	Heavy	- 0 _____
Foliage	Density	
	Light	- 25
	Medium to Heavy	- 50 _____
Foliage	Freshness	
	Dry	- 0
	Fresh	- 25 _____
Handle	Not less than 6" or more than 1 3/4"	- 25
	for each foot of tree	- 15
	USDA Grades (4/1/73)	- 15
	No Handle	- 0 _____
Handle	Poorly Trimmed	- 0
	Well Trimmed	- 25 _____
Taper	0 to 40%	- 0
	40% to 90%	- 50
	90 +	- 25 _____
Top	Multi Top	- 0
	Too short	- 25
	Too long	- 25
	Right length	- 50
	Needleness	- 25 _____
Merchant-ability	Low	- 10
	Average	- 25
	Good	- 50 _____
Face Score	4 faces US premium	- 50
	3 faces US Grade 1	- 25
	2 adjacent faces US Grade or better	- 10
	Cull	- 0 _____
Damage	0 25 50 100	

- _____ Decided gap between whorls
- _____ Unduly long branches
- _____ Weak lower whorl
- _____ Hole in main body of tree
- _____ Uneven density
- _____ Weak branches
- _____ Curved stem
- _____ Crows nest
- _____ Multiple main stems
- _____ Noticeable dead twigs
- _____ Incomplete whorl
- _____ Other

Total
Points _____

Tree Contest

THE SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING

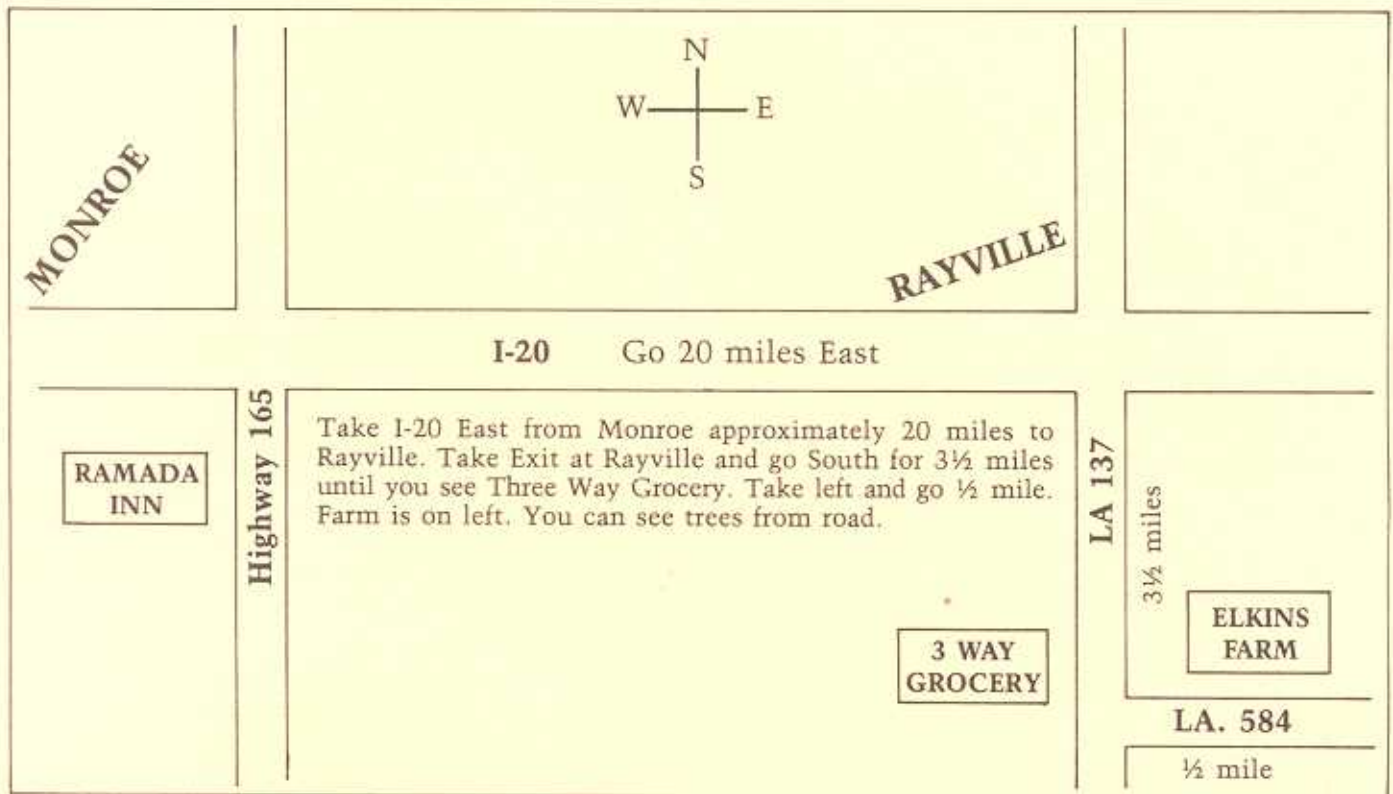
LA - MS CHRISTMAS TREE GROWERS' ASSOCIATION

September 24 & 25, 1982 Ramada Inn Monroe, Louisiana

Saturday, September 25

- 8:30 a.m. ASSOCIATION BUSINESS SECTION
 Status of the Association President Wally Swedenburg
 Financial Report and Business Office Dr. Bob Parker
 Election of Officers and Directors Dr. Alden Main
 Other Business President Wally Swedenburg
- 9:30 a.m. Travel to Field Session on Charles Elkins Farm
- 10:00 a.m. Field Demonstrations and Discussions
- 12:00 noon BOX LUNCH
- 1:00 p.m. Field Demonstrations continue

*Prizes - Tickets
 THANK EX. F*



Saturday



LSU RESEARCH REPORT

Report to Technical Committee, Regional Project S-128 on DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION, AND MARKETING OF CHRISTMAS TREES by S. C. Hu and Paul Y. Burns, LSU School of Forestry & Wildlife Management, Baton Rouge, LA 70803, August 16, 1982.

Test plantings of promising species and varieties.

Survivals at the end of the first year of our spring, 1981 plantings were: Virginia pine 87% and Mondell pine 46%. Survival of deodar cedar at the end of 1981 (after 3 years in the field) was 64%; this species continues to show some promise, although it is slower growing than Virginia and spruce pines.

Tree selection and breeding. We are cooperating in the S-128 Virginia pine seed source study. We planted according to directions: 800 measurement trees at Lee Forest January 6, 1982, and 800 measurement trees at Idlewild Experiment Station January 27, 1982. At each location there are 5 blocks with 16 seed sources and 10 trees of each source in each block. Survivals as measured in May were 99% at Lee Forest and 94% at Idlewild.

Weed control. A test of herbicides applied as pre-emergence sprays on February 22, 1982, over the top of newly planted 1-0 Virginia pine seedlings showed that acceptable mortality rates (0-10%) on crop trees 3 months after spraying were provided by Solicam at 2½ lbs./acre, Goal 2E at 1 lb. and 2 lbs., Atrazine at 5½ lbs., and Atrazine at 2¾ lbs. plus Surflan 75W at 2¾ lbs. Unacceptable mortality (15-30%) occurred on plots treated with Solicam at 5 lbs./acre, Atrazine at 2¾ lbs. plus Bladex at 2¾ lbs., Princep 80W at 5 lbs., and Princep 80W at 5 lbs. plus Surflan 75W at 2 lbs. Based on a combination of safety on crop trees and good weed control, Goal 2E at 2 lbs./acre and Atrazine at 2¾ lbs./acre plus Surflan at 2¾ lbs./acre were best of the 9 treatments. Taking cost into consideration, the Atrazine-Surflan treatment is preferable.

A small test of Nangeela subterranean clover (*Trifolium subterraneum*) was established on a site north of Baton Rouge in November, 1981. Seedlings of Virginia pine were planted on the site in February, 1982. It was hoped that the subclover would provide weed control and soil nitrogen; however, at the end of March the subclover was very sparse.

Other cultural practices. A test of stump culture was established in a Lee Forest Virginia pine plantation harvested in December, 1981 (at age 6 years). A total of 104 trees were in the experiment — 50 stumps with 1 branch left to turn up, and 54 stumps with 2 or more branches. The branches were slow to turn up. On July 1, 1982, all but the best branch was removed from the 2-or-more-branch stumps. However, at this time 40% of the one-branch trees

were dead, and 11% of the 2-or-more-branch trees were dead. The live trees, even after shearing, look rather ragged.

Consumer and market surveys. In the Baton Rouge area, most growers who had trees for sale in 1981 (mostly Virginia pine, with some spruce pine) sold by choose-and-cut; they generally sold all available trees. Prices ran about \$18 for a 6-foot tree to \$35 for a 10-foot tree. In a retail marketing test in Baton Rouge at a garden supplies store, 100 Virginia pines (not labeled as to species) were mixed with non-native species in the lot display. Virginia pines, which had cost the retailer \$11 per tree wholesale, were priced from \$19.95 to \$23.95, about the same as white spruce, Douglas fir, Scotch pine, and white pine. Consumer reaction to the Virginia pines was good; all 100 trees were sold, and there were no customer complaints. These 100 trees were carefully selected by the retailer from a plantation of 5-year-old trees located about 30 miles northwest of Baton Rouge.

Publications During the Past Year

- Hu, S.C. and Burns, P.Y. 1981. Marketing locally grown Christmas trees in Louisiana. *Limbs & Needles* 9(3):3.
- Hu, S.C. and Burns, P.Y. 1981. Christmas tree marketing studies in the Baton Rouge area. *LSU Forestry Notes* 132. 3 p.
- Hu, S.C. and Burns, P.Y. 1981. Velpar shows promise for weed control. *Am. Christmas Tree Jour.* 25(4):29.
- Hu, S.C. and Burns, P.Y. 1982. Cultural practices for Louisiana Christmas tree production. [Abstract only.] *Proc. La. Acad. Sciences.* Acpt. for pub.
- Hu, S.C., Main, A.C., and Burns, P.Y. 1982. Test of pre-emergent herbicides for weed control in a Louisiana Virginia pine plantation. *Am. Christmas Tree Jour.* Acpt. for pub.



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colors them natural
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colors them profitable
and
colors your customers happy!**



Kirk Christmas Tree Colorants are Better because...

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- They are more consistent in color.
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OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS 1982

OFFICERS

President Wallace P. Swedenburg
Route 4, Box 6
Columbus, MS 39701
601-328-9140

Executive Secretary . Robert C. Parker
Route 2, Box 706
Starkville, MS 39759
601-323-3896

Vice-President . James J. King
Route 1, Box 168-B
Hammond, LA 70401
504-567-9670

National Director . . . Robert N. Eddy, Jr.
4725 Burke Drive
Metairie, LA 70003
504-887-2753

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Louisiana

1982 Glen Allen
Route 3, Box 14
Amite, LA 70422

Thomas Prince
Fireside Plaza
Bldg. 7, Suite 7
Alexandria, LA 71301

1981- Charles R. Elkins
1983 1632 Madras
Baton Rouge, LA 70815

J. Griffin Rogillio
4024 Robert Street
Zachary, LA 70791

1982- Barton Bennett
1984 8313 O'Hare Court
Baton Rouge, LA 70806

Bill Pippin
2105 Maywood Drive
Monroe, LA 71201

Mississippi

1982 Jay Turner
208 Washington Street
Belzoni, MS 39038

Andy Smith
Route 5, Box 225
Meridian, MS 39301

1981- Edward Blake
1983 445 Pine Ridge Road
Jackson, MS 39206

Lawrence L. Seal
P. O. Box 135
Picayune, MS 39466

1982- Charles Hefner
1984 Route 1, Box 284
Caledonia, MS 39740

Pel Phares
Box 215
Woodville, MS 39669

DIRECTORS BY PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENT

Dr. Tony Hu
School of Forestry
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, LA 70803

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