

LOUISIANA - MISSISSIPPI CHRISTMAS TREE ASSOCIATION

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601-857-2284

Dr. Bob Mills Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, LA 70815
504-388-2266

1999 Annual Christmas Tree Meeting
The Louisiana-Mississippi Christmas Tree Association

Friday, September 17 Treasure Bay Casino, Biloxi

- 4:00 p.m. Exhibitor Set-up Begins *Exhibit Chair Rob Eddy*
- 6:30 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting

Saturday, September 18 Treasure Bay Casino, Biloxi

- 7:30 a.m. Registration Opens. Exhibitor Area Open (Continental Breakfast)
- 7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. Registration of Trees for the Christmas Tree Contest. All LA-MS CTA Members may enter. *Contest Chair Dr. Bob Mills*

Morning Session Moderator – Harry May

- 8:45 a.m. **Welcome**
Al Acosta, President of LA-MS Christmas Tree Association
- 9:00 a.m. **Marketing Help From the MS Department of Agriculture and Commerce**
Commissioner Lester Spell, D.V.M.
- 9:45 a.m. **Choose-N-Cut in Texas – Interesting and New Ideas**
NCTA Insurance Program
Peter Hesslink, Vice President Soules Insurance Agency and Director Texas Christmas Tree Association
- 10:45 a.m. Break, Visit with Vendors, Vote on Tree Contest
- 11:15 a.m. **Identity and Control of Recent Leyland Cypress Diseases**
Dr. Ken Whitam, Division Leader of Plant Sciences Department and Extension Plant Pathologist, Louisiana State University

11:45 a.m.– 1:00 p.m. **Lunch (On Your Own)**

Afternoon Session Moderator - Pete Hartzog

- 1:00 p.m. **Insect and Mite Control in Christmas Trees**
Dr. Pat Harris, Extension Entomologist, Mississippi State Univ.
- 1:45 p.m. **Disease Control in Christmas Trees**
Dr. Frank Killebrew, Extension Plant Pathologist, MSU
- 2:30 p.m. **Break** – Visit with Vendors, Final Call for Votes on Tree Contest

- 3:00 p.m. **Important News from Around the Country**
Clarke Gernon, Director, National Christmas Tree Association
- 3:30 p.m. **Business Meeting - Al Acosta, President**
Election of Officers and Directors
- 4:30 p.m. Adjourn
- 5:30 p.m. **Reception** to honor Dr. Bob Mills, LA Extension Forester
- 6:30 p.m. Banquet Dinner and Entertainment
Tommy Joe Breaux – “A Cajun Night Before Christmas”
Best Christmas Tree Contest Awards
Auction – *Mr. T. Luster Auctioneer*

Sunday, September 19 Dabbs Christmas Tree Farm
12143 School Road, Saucier, MS
13 miles North of I-10 on Highway 67, follow signs

- 7:00 a.m. Vendor Set- Up
- 7:30 a.m. Coffee and Doughnuts
- 8:00 a.m. **Welcome** Charlie and Donna Dabbs, Owners
- 8:10 a.m. **“Christ - The Reason for the Season”** Reverend Mark McDaniel
- 8:45 a.m. **Tour of Farm and Management Practices** Charlie and Donna Dabbs
- 10:15 a.m. **Improved Techniques and Equipment to Apply Herbicides**
Dr. Bob Mills, LA Extension Forester
- 10:45 a.m. Break
- 11:00 a.m. **Equipment Show and “Trade Days” Begins**
Dust off your old equipment and bring it to sell or trade.
Visit with Vendors as they show off new equipment.
- 12:00 noon **Lunch at Farm**
Closing Comments, Meeting Adjourned Al Acosta
- 1:00 p.m. “Trade Days” Officially Closes

1999 ANNUAL MEETING

"TRADE DAYS"

If anyone is interested in buying, selling or trading any old or new equipment you may bring it to the farm on Sunday. This is a great opportunity to get rid of some equipment or add to your collection. Remember the old saying "One mans junk is another ones treasures."

Leyland Cypress

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More Salable Trees per Acre
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Can be shipped UPS (partial bareroot)



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National Director's Report

by Clarke Gernon

NCTA is starting to brace itself for the 1999 Christmas Season, the last of the second millennium A.D. I wonder what twists and turns the next century may have in store for our industry.

As I write these words, many names from the past crowd my mind; names like Fred Kohl, Bob Parker, Carl Schneider, Alden Main, Nash Roberts, Grif Rogillio and dozens of others. All, for one reason or another, no longer participate. For those of us who remain, I must believe that growing trees for Christmas is 2-parts business mixed with 3- or 4-parts passion. Even with all the ups and downs of past years, I am convinced it is a worthwhile venture.

Without doubt, the most significant event for the Christmas tree industry in the recent past was the Earth Day exhibition in Washington. It proved to be an excellent opportunity to spread the word about the environmental benefits that surround the trees we grow. NCTA's booth was visited by more than 1,100 individuals during the 2-day session.

Linda Franzo was on hand to entertain and teach the youngsters. Linda is becoming well established at NCTA as our environmental spokesperson. She resides in the Slidell area and uses her substantial cooking and craft skills to communicate the positive relationship that Christmas trees have with the environment. Last Christmas season, Linda created the 'Giving Tree' decorated with wildlife edible ornaments. She showed the kids in Washington how to make potpourri with foliage from Carolina Sapphire and pine.

Linda has taught cooking classes to both adults and children for a number of years under the name of 'The Passionate Platter by CherryCafe'.

Bags of mulch from Christmas tree chipping operations along with seedlings were distributed to the visitors to emphasize the environmental friendliness of Christmas tree production.

After the discussions of the La/Ms CTA's June board meeting ended, the attendees toured the fungicide test plots at Shady Pond. The test program had been arranged by Dr. Ken Whitam, Plant Pathologist and Leader of the Plant Science Division of the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service. The goal of the test is to devise an effective means of controlling the disease found in Leyland cypress plantings across the South.

There are four groups of trees in the test area; three treated with fungicides each of different chemistry and an untreated check. The fungicides used include Daconil, Kocide and Quadris. Daconil is generically known as chlorothalonil. The active ingredient in Kocide is copper hydroxide and in Quadris it is azoxystrobin.

The test trees had been sprayed twice monthly beginning in mid-March. At the time of the June board meeting, all the trees (treated and check) were in relatively good condition. Healthy new growth could be seen in the lower portions of the previously damaged foliage.

But during the weekend of July 10 and 11, an abrupt change was seen in the check trees. Both the new growth and older foliage began to wither and die, just as had been seen in previous years. At that time, there was a marked and distinct difference between the treated trees and the check. And within the three test plots, the Quadris and Kocide treated trees seemed to be in the best condition.

The remainder of the Leyland inventory at Shady Pond had been sprayed with Quadris and thiophanate methyl (Cleary 3336) on an alternating basis and half as frequently as the test trees. The presence of the disease on the remainder of the Farm was only spotty. And mancozeb (Protect T/O) is now being used to increase the control when spraying thiophanate methyl. Its effectiveness has not as yet been evaluated.

Final grading of the control provided by the various fungicides will come later this summer.

The origins of Quadris are an interesting footnote to the study. Its active ingredient is *azoxystrobin*, a sophisticated chemical isolated in strobilurus mushrooms found in decaying wood. It was first identified by a Czech scientist in the 1973. He observed that the strobilurus seemed to have the ability to prevent the growth of other competing fungi within a certain distance of its own location (said to be allelopathic). The knowledge of this naturally occurring fungicide made its way to the Zeneca Agricultural Products Company in London through Germany in the mid 1980's. Zeneca now synthesizes strobilurin-A for use in the final product. The effectiveness of Quadris is further enhanced by its systemic action (relocated by the plant within itself to the more active growth areas) when applied to plant foliage. And beneficial fungi such as yeast and mycorrhizae are unaffected by azoxystrobin. It is a 'smart' fungicide.

Dr. Whitam will be discussing the entire project in more detail at the annual meeting this September. Be sure to attend.

Clarke
4Q99

DON'T FORGET TO ORDER YOUR SEEDLINGS!

Order forms were sent out in the June newsletter. If you need another order form please contact the business office, or you can pick one up at the annual meeting. 225-654-7514

We would like to give a special thanks to Clarke Gernon at The Shady Pond tree farm for letting us host our June board meeting at his farm. His farm was very nice. We look forward to planning our 2000 annual meeting at his farm.



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Louisiana - Mississippi Christmas Tree Association Tree Contest

INSTRUCTIONS:

Using NCTA's guidelines for contest tree judging (shown at left), examine each tree for the indicated characteristics.

Rank each tree according to its overall quality and marketability. Place the letter of the tree next to its ranking.

The tree that receives the most #1 votes will be our GRAND CHAMPION, regardless of its state of origin. The next tree receiving the most #1 votes will receive 1ST PLACE from either LA or MS. This process will continue until all PLACES are filled.

GUIDELINES - CHRISTMAS TREE JUDGING

(Included for reference only. Please make every effort to judge quality in each category listed below.)

	Percentage
FOLIAGE: (50%)	
Presence of insects and/or diseases	10%
Density (appropriate for species)	10%
Uniformity or balance (gaps, crown thinness, internal structure, weak branches or whorls)	10%
Quality of cultural work (long branches, multiple tops)	10%
Cleanliness	10%
HANDLE: (10%)	
Length (min. = 6"; max. = 12")	
Well trimmed	10%
TAPER: (10%)	
Pines 40-90%, Firs, Spruces, Other 40-70%	10%
TOP: (10%)	
Proper length, proportional to taper, full top, good needle coverage	10%
MARKETABILITY: (20%)	
Consumer acceptance (first impression, color, taper, etc.)	10%
Number of good faces (USDA Standards)	10%

<u>RANKINGS</u>	<u>TREE LETTER</u>
#1	_____
#2	_____
#3	_____
#4	_____
#5	_____
#6	_____
#7	_____
#8	_____
#9	_____
#10	_____
#11	_____
#12	_____
#13	_____
#14	_____
#15	_____

2000-2002 DIRECTORS:

The following have been nominated to stand on the board of directors for a two year term.

You must be present at the business meeting which starts at 3:30 to turn in your ballot.

Please select 2 from each state.

Louisiana:

Joe Pepper
Karen Porter

Mississippi:

Wesley Bass
Rob Eddy

If there are any other nominations, you may call Mimi Bennett
225-654-7514.

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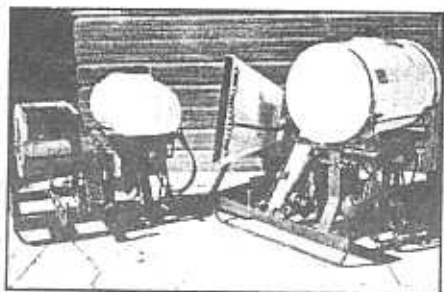
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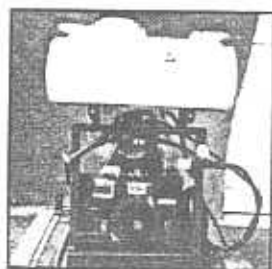
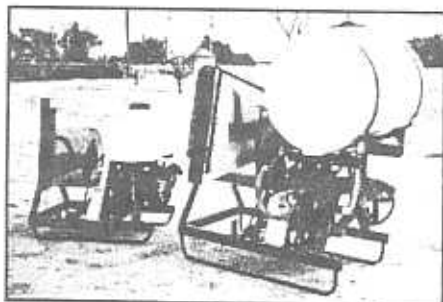
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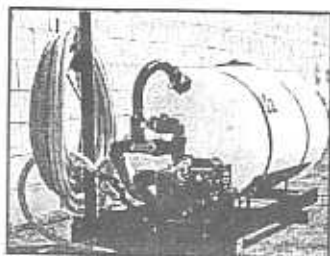
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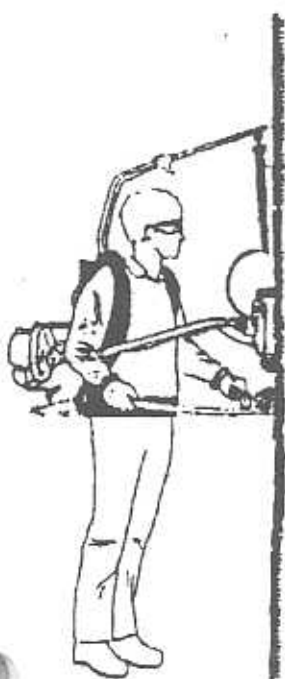
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**1999 ANNUAL MEETING PRE-REGISTRATION
LA-MS CTA 23ND ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION
SEPTEMBER 17-19, 1999
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PRE-REGISTRATION FEE (MUST BE SUBMITTED BY SEPTEMBER 3, 1999)

TICKET PACKAGES:	CTA MEMBER	NON MEMBER	LATE FEE (AFTER SEPT 3)
Complete "His and Hers" Registration (Meetings, reception banquet, luncheon)	_____ \$100	_____ \$130	+\$20 _____
Extra Person, (Per Farm) (Meetings, reception banquet, luncheon)	_____ \$50	_____ \$50	+\$15 _____
Complete "Individual" Registration	_____ \$70	_____ \$100	
Extra Banquet Tickets (Sept 18) Adult	_____ \$30		
Child (under 12)	_____ \$15		
Extra Luncheon Tickets (Sept 19)	_____ \$ 9		
TOTAL	_____	_____	_____
		Total Enclosed	_____

PRODUCT	UNIT PRICE	QUANTITY	TOTAL COST
TREE TAGS (PER THOUSAND)	\$55.00	_____	_____
STICKERS (PER THOUSAND)	\$40.00	_____	_____
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JACKETS	\$30.00	_____	_____
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-NOTES-

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