

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

*(short edition 20240906 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 and 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 grew 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 **Room Check-In Begins**  
**Lake Guntersville State Park, Lodge & Conference Center**
- 05:30 PM - 06:30 PM **SCTA Board Meeting**  
**Lake Guntersville State Park, Lodge & Conference Center - Boardroom**
- 05:00 PM - 07:30 PM **Registration**  
**Lake Guntersville State Park, Lodge & Conference Center - Lobby**
- See Brenda & Tim Parker of Hillside Christmas Trees or the executive secretary Michael Buchart. Registration will continue 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 (3<sup>rd</sup> year selling trees) and relocated to north Alabama where they started all over (sort of) again. They continued their membership even when they were in transition and nowhere near putting trees in the ground.
- 06:30 PM - 08:00 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. Please allow board members and their families to seat first in the board's designated area. Thank you.
- Both the Pinecrest Restaurant and the adjoining Hickory Lounge share a large patio that overlook 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. Discarded trees and greenery will be placed in a to-be-determined location for staff fishermen. Please be sure your spot is dry and swept. Thank you.

## Saturday, September 14

- 07:00 AM - 08:30 AM **Exhibitor, Auction Item, Tree & Wreath Competition Set-Up**  
**Grandview Conference Room & Foyer**  
*See above for setup.*
- 07:30 AM – 08:30 AM **Light Snacks and Coffee Sponsored by**  
**Evans Christmas Products**
- 07:30 AM - 08:30 AM **Registration**  
**Grandview Ballroom Foyer**  
Brenda & Tim Parker, Hillside Christmas Trees  
Michael Buchart, Executive Secretary
- 08:30 AM – 08:45 AM **Welcome, Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance**  
**Grandview Conference Room**  
**Opening Prayer**  
**Bentley Curry**, Curry Farms / NCTA/SCTA Representative  
**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**, Bass Christmas Tree Farm, Senior Vice-President 2024/2025  
General comments, introduction of officers & board members, farm hosts,  
vendors, recognition of 1<sup>st</sup> year members, guests, etc.
- 08:45 AM - 09:15 AM **Research Projects, Proposals, Ideas**  
**Steve Mannhard**, Fish River Trees & The Cabins at Fish River Trees,  
Past-President, 2024 Program Chair & Moderator  
**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**, Grant Farms, Moderator with Panel
- 10:00 AM – 10:30 AM **Break, Visit Vendors, Tree & Wreath Judging**
- 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM **Production, Sharing Session #1**  
**Steve Mannhard**, Fish River Trees & The Cabins at Fish River Trees,  
Past-President, 2024 Program Chair & 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. Member Submitted Questions, Issues, Topics & etc.
- 11:30 AM - 01:00 PM **Lunch Buffet, Pinecrest Restaurant**

- 01:00 PM – 02:00 PM **Production, Sharing Session #2**  
**Steve Mannhard**, Fish River Trees & The Cabins at Fish River Trees,  
Past-President, 2024 Program Chair & 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**, Fish River Trees & The Cabins at Fish River Trees,  
Past-President, 2024 Program Chair & 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**  
**Wesley Bass**, Bass Christmas Tree Farm, Senior Vice-President 2024/2025  
**Michael Buchart**, Executive Secretary
- 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  
2025 Louisiana Meeting / Farm Host?  
2026 Mississippi Meeting / Farm Host?
- 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 **Tree / Wreath Competition Recognition & Photographs**  
**Grandview Conference Room**  
**Wesley Bass**, Bass Christmas Tree Farm, Senior Vice-President 2024/2025
- 07:45 PM - 08:00 PM **Christmas Spirit Foundation**  
**Rick Dungey**, Executive Director
- 07:45 PM – 09:30 PM **Auction**  
**Bentley Curry**, Auctioneer, Curry Farms  
**Michael May, Barker**, Lazy Acres Agritainment  
**Cathy May**, Auction Recorder, Lazy Acres Agritainment

**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 while maintaining 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 despite being their first 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 farm store.

07:30 AM

**Gate Open**

Coffee, Donuts, Fellowship

08:30 AM - 09:00 AM

**Welcome**

**Wesley Bass**, Bass Christmas Tree Farm, Senior Vice-President 2024/2025  
**Benny & Susan Frazier**, Sunday Farm Hosts

**Devotion by Chris Johnson**, Senior Pastor, Albertville First Baptist Church

**The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America**

**Sargent (Honorably Discharged) W.T. "Tim" Parker**,

Force Recon & Combat Military Police, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Army

09:00 AM - 12:00 PM

**Farm Production, Tour & Demonstrations**

**Benny Frazier**

~10:30 AM - 12:00 PM  
(field tour departure)

**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.

*Remember, there is no need for physician prescribed sedatives or therapy - we have  
The Southern Christmas Tree Association and 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 a future annual meeting or workshop, please contact the executive secretary. The more input and options the better. The 2025 annual meeting will be in Louisiana and Mississippi 2026.*

## Presenter / Participant / Exhibitor Contact Information

**Brittany Anderson**, Talson Farms, 88 Arnold Pryor Road, Laurel, MS 39443; FB: Talson Farms; info@TalsionFarms.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.

### FRAZIER!!!!!!

**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)

Stephanie Evans & 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

## **SCTA Annual Meeting Topic / Question Sheet** (20240907)

This sheet has been provided as an opportunity to enter topics, questions and / or questions you would like to offer the president for consideration during our member sharing sessions. What is important for you to learn?

Please submit to Steve Mannhard, Michael Buchart or the registration desk as soon as possible. Steve will organize contributions into the appropriate sharing session or Sunday farm tour.

**Topic (s) / Question (s) / Concern(s), Etcetera:**