



TREEmendous News



Florida Christmas Tree Association's Newsletter

August 2012

FALL MEETING AT TALLAHASSEE ON SEPT. 29

Presidents Comments:

Look forward to seeing you at the **Florida Christmas Tree Association Fall meeting September 29, 2012**, at Wil and Linda Sellars and Franco & Segrid Camacho's farms near Tallahassee. Linda and I are planning to go down Friday evening and stay at the LaQuinta Inn at Exit 199 and I-10. Registration and details are attached.

Craig Sorensen, phone 800-394-6536 or 615-497-2299, is the new **Tim Mitchell's Yule Stand System representative**. Craig has sent us a page of **2012 Show Specials** which we have attached. You can order from the Specials or from the web site catalog for delivery at the Florida Fall Meeting.

Some of us are planning to also attend the GACTA Fall Meeting on September 8, 2012, near Gainesville, GA, at the Kinsey Family farm. You can get the details from the GACTA web site: www.gacta.com.

I've invited Joy Ezell, who is a representative for Bahco Pruning Tools. I met her at the Florida Agricultural Conference this spring in Sebring, FL. She had specials on pruning clippers and tree saws. See the Bahco Green Catalog at <http://mydigimag.rrd.com/publication/?i=78824>.

Marisol Alvares, from the Florida Department of Agriculture, will make a presentation on the Fresh from Florida Agricultural Program. Marisol is the person who meets the members making the Christmas Tree Presentation to the Governor and arranges the details.

We held a BOD meeting in Gainesville on July 1ST, where we discussed the Fall Meeting. We also decided to change our potential new member policy. We will try charging the Registration Fee of \$25 for the first meeting, but we will allow the Fee to be applied against the first year of a new membership. Invite anyone who is interested in becoming a potential member. Hope to see you at the Fall Meeting.
Michael



Mark Powell demonstrates trimming with a beneke at the Fall 2011 meeting

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Sept. 8, 2012 Georgia Christmas Tree Assoc. Fall Meeting
Gainesville,GA See: www.gacta.com
Hosts: Kinsley Farm
- Sept. 29, 2012 Florida Christmas Tree Assoc. Fall Meeting
Tallahassee, FL See www.fcta.com
Hosts: Wil Sellars & Franco Camacho
- Oct 16-18, 2012 Sunbelt Expo Moultrie, GA
www.sunbeltexpo.com
- November 7, 2012 Florida Ag Expo (Fruits & Veg) Balm, FL
www.floridaagexpo.com
- December, 2012 Trees to Governor (Sue Kossuth Hilton Biggs)
-

Florida Christmas Tree Association Officers and Board

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Medium stand	\$6.50	\$6.40	\$6.15
Super Medium stand	\$8.75	\$8.65	\$8.40
Large stand	\$10.25	\$10.00	\$9.60
Reinforced stand	\$21.25	\$20.25	\$19.50
5 Qt. Water Bowl	\$3.20	\$3.10	\$2.95
10 Qt Water Bowl	\$4.35	\$4.20	\$4.00
Tree Removal Bags			
50/case	\$48.75	\$45.00	\$44.00
Jumbo Tree bags 48/case	\$60.75	\$57.00	\$56.00
Kirk Netting	\$5.00 off per order		
Green & Red Netting	\$2.00 off per order		

All orders must be placed on or before September 21st

All orders must be paid in full and picked up by end of show

Agricultural Signs

From: Michael Songer [mailto:songerma@hotmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2012 10:34 AM

To: Basford, Adam

Subject: Do you have information on state sign ordinance recently passed?

Think last legislature passed a bill allowing agriculture more signs than may be allowed by local ordinances. Don't know ordinance number or the details. Thanks, Michael

To Michael Songer

From: **Basford, Adam** (Adam.Basford@ffbf.org)

Sent: Tue 8/14/12 10:45 AM

To: Michael Songer (songerma@hotmail.com)

Michael, the bill was HB 1197/SB 1132. The Statute is 604.50. Here's a brief description:

It exempts farm signs from the Florida Building Code and any county or municipal fees or codes, with some restrictions where city and county rules or codes still apply:

1. Signs cannot be placed within 100 feet of any church, school, cemetery, public park, reservation, or playground, or state or national forest.
2. Signs cannot be lighted in any way that causes glare or distracts or impairs the vision of motorists
3. Signs cannot be decorated with the words "stop" or "danger".
4. Signs cannot obstruct the view of approaching vehicles.
5. Signs cannot be located on the right of way of public thoroughfares.

Hope this helps!

Adam

Adam D. Basford Director of National Affairs Florida Farm Bureau Federation Adam.Basford@FFBF.org

FLORIDA CHRISTMAS TREE ASSOCIATION
Fall Meeting ~ September 29, 2012
REGISTRATION

PLEASE PRINT

NAME(s) THAT YOU WANT ON NAME TAG _____

E-Mail _____

FARM/COMPANY NAME _____

Address if changed:
City/State/Zip _____

REGISTRATION FEES:

REGISTRATION: \$20.00/Advance; \$25 at meeting \$ _____

LUNCH \$10, BBQ AT SELLARS FARM

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TOTAL \$ _____

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TO: **Jack Ewing**
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Suwannee Democrat

Live Oak — Southeastern Suwannee County landowners need to be on the look out for Cinara aphids, senior forester Brian Cobble said. “The insect outbreak has grown to epidemic proportions. The tiny insects are currently feeding on slash pines, on six different slash pine stands, with 328 acres identified in the outbreak location. The known number of aphids is in the millions and could be under-estimated,” Cobble said.

There was a pest alert recently released by the Florida Division of Plant Industry regarding the Genus of Aphids. It stated that the Cinara aphids came in to Florida on fresh-cut Christmas trees imported from other states. According to Susan Halbert, taxonomic entomologist for the FDPI, the Cinara aphids “do not transmit any human or animal pathogens. There is no need to treat the trees with insecticide.” The aphids look like “engorged ticks” but they have only six legs and are harmless to humans and animals because they only feed on their host plant Halbert said.

The insects were reported in early January, Cobble said, in a pine stand on 256th Street, five miles east of O’Brien. “The tiny sap -sucking insects have since been noted in more adjacent pine stands within the last three weeks and seem to be continuing to expand their current population size,” Cobble said. Aphids and ants thrive together, Cobble said. He added that the ants feed on the honeydew excretion from the aphids. He said that evidence shows that many Cinara species cannot survive without the ants. “One of the reasons an ‘Aphid Bloom ’ can be so serious, is that female aphids can reproduce without the assistance of the male, for several consecutive generations,” Cobble said.

According to the Ohio State University Extension office, “Heavy populations may stunt shoot elongation or cause some needle drop. These aphids produce considerable amounts of honeydew which is soon covered with black sooty mold. Cinara attacks to seedlings have been known to kill some plants,” For more information on aphids, or to report a possible outbreak, contact Cobble at 386-364-5314.

North Carolina Extension

Aphids also effect older Sand Pine trees. Shake trees and use household insect spray very lightly if aphids are found on tree.

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SEEDLINGS ALERT

Superior Nursery at Lee, Florida. Phone 850-971-5159 They have bare root Southern Red Cedar (\$208..per thousand) for this year.. They have Sand Pine, Spruce Pine, and Virginia Pine seedlings (\$84. per thousand.) available for the Fall Season.

Dwight Stansel Farm & Nursery, 5553 164th St, Wellborn, FL 32094, Phone 386-963-2827, e-mail [dsfntte@windstream.net] raises bare root Southern Red Cedar which they sell for \$210. per thousand.

The Division of Forestry--Andrews Nursery, Chiefland, FL, Phone 352-493-6096, currently has bare root Sand Pine at \$45. per thousand. Seeds have become scarce and they are not currently producing the containerized Sand Pine.

Southern Christmas Tree Plantation, (Bill Murray), Cordele, GA, (See advertisement) has Leland Cypress, Murray Cypress, and others in liners, in gallons and in three gallons. Phone 229-273-5748. The Murray Cypress seems to be the most disease resistant.

Aucker's Nursery, Williston, FL, (See Advertisement), phone 352-528-3889, has very nice Leland Cypress liners, and three to twenty-five gallon containerized. They were short of supply for last year. They have a very nice educational Web Site: www.auckersnursery.com

BK Cedars (Hilton Biggs and Susan Kossuth), Alachua, FL Phone 386-462-2060 has a good supply of three gallon and one gallon genetically improved Southern Red Cedar ('Robin Blue') suitable for initial or replacement planting. I get a few of these to sell to customers who are thinking of digging a small tree. It is easier than digging, and I plant whatever is left over. Michael

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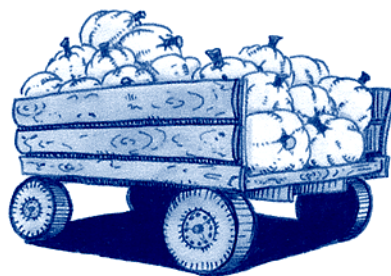


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First Annual All Florida AG Show April 25-26, 2012 Sebring, Florida

Linda and I attended the **First Annual Florida AG Show** in Sebring, Florida. I had a great time; she would rather go to Disney World. They had over 60 vendors from many areas but the show was tilted toward citrus, and various alternative crops.

The meeting started with a presentation by Adam Putnam, our Commissioner of Agriculture, and then went on to a presentation on Water Policy Today and in the Future. The theme was that there will be numerous demands for water and the Agricultural Community must stand together to guard our interests.

Florida Farm Bureau was one of the primary sponsors. They track legislation on many farm issues. For example, Florida passed a farm sign ordinance that supersedes most county ordinances. They are currently following child labor on farms legislation. Members can get a monthly update by email.

I talked with a representative of Stockosorb which manufactures superabsorbent polymers. They manufacture a product we know as Terra Sorbe which is marketed by another corporation. We have purchased this product from Wesley Bass in three pound units. We add about three table spoons in 2.5 gal of water in a 5 gal bucket to hold transplants on the way to the field for planting.

Stockosorb is sold in 55 pound bags, mostly to be disc into fields to hold more moisture for plants. This product is also marketed by another corporation in smaller quantities, but I haven't located a local vendor yet.

I talked with several vendors on irrigation materials, and received instructions and emitters. I'm planning to try some limited irrigation for new sand pine trees.

There were sessions on growing and marketing Blue Berries, peaches, and pomegranates. The cost of the two day program was \$25. per person paid in advance and \$45 paid at the event. The costs included light breakfast and a BBQ lunch with chicken and ribs for each of the two days. They are planning this to be an annual event. We brought home two shower heads, samples of Stockosorb, two avocado plants, and two calculators.

MAS 4-30-2012



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Be sure to check our website for more stimulus pricing on ribbons bows wreath picks and tags

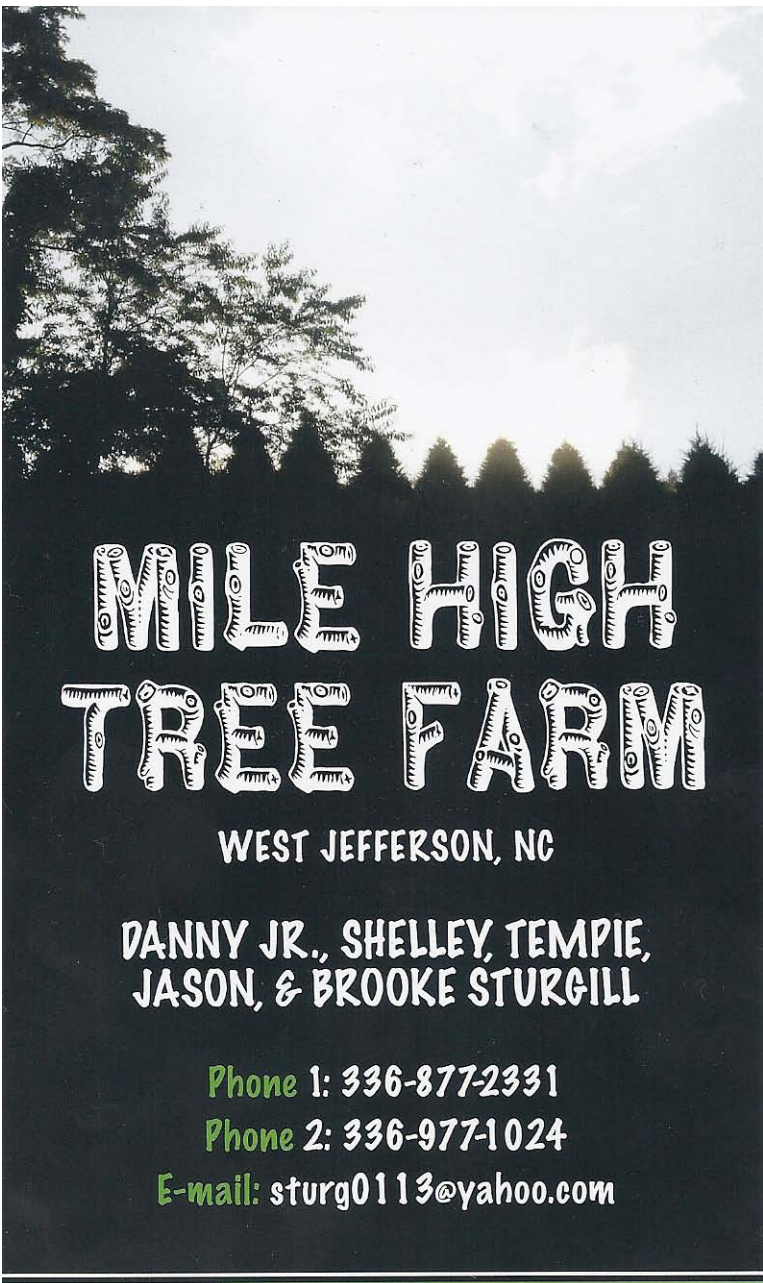
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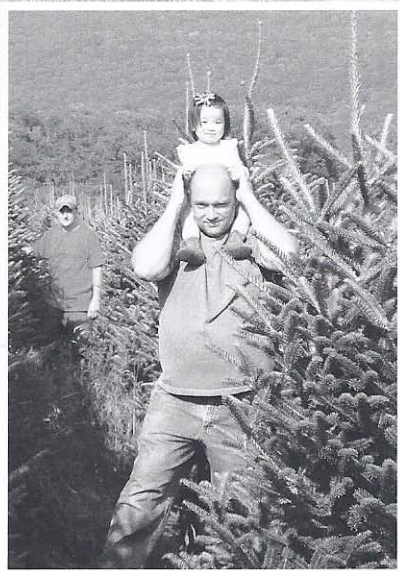


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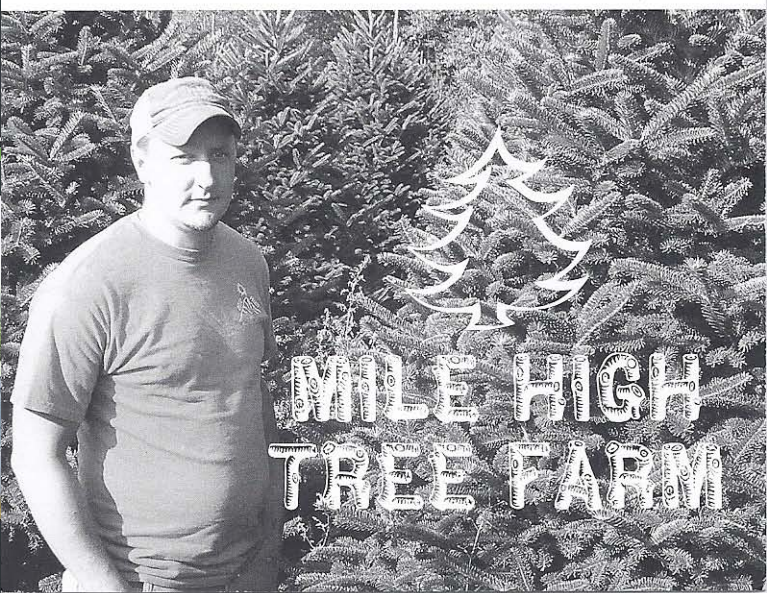
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Mile High Tree Farm, a family owned business, was established in 1990. On over 60 acres, you can find premium species, such as Fraser Fir, White Pine, Norway, and Blue Spruce. In season, we offer wreaths in an array of shapes and sizes along with various lengths of garland. Mile High Tree Farm caters to wholesale orders with competitive prices and provides retail services on the Atlantic Coast.

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8'-9' - \$28	13'-14' - \$100
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* We accept special orders for wreaths and garland with length, shape, & size of choice.

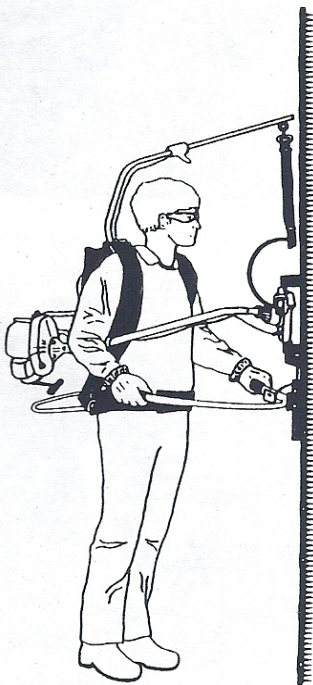


Jason and Brooke Sturgill from the Mile High Tree Farm, West Jefferson, NC, attended our meeting last year and are planning to be with us again. They have a selection of Fraser fir and other Northern Trees. Be sure to talk with them and make them feel welcome. New email: Jason@milehightreefarm.com

Tentative Agenda for Fall Meeting September 29, 2012

- 8:30 Registration at Havana Christmas Tree Farm (**Wil & Linda Sellars**)
2867 Hwy 27...(10 miles north of I-10)
- 9:00 Opening Comments and Introductions
- 9:15 Marisol Alvares, Fresh from Florida, Florida Dept of Agriculture
- 10:00 Joy Ezell, Bahco Pruning Tools
- 10:30 Break
- 10:45 Craig Sorensen, Tim Mitchell Supplies & Stands
- 11:00 Other Vendors (Helena Chemicals ?)
- 11:30 Farm Tour & Discussion Wil & Linda Sellars
- 1:00 BBQ Lunch at the Farm
- 2:00 Visit with Vendors and pick up Supplies
- 3:00 Leave for Bavarian Christmas Tree Farm, 4352 Safari Run
(Take I-10 east to Exit 209b...then go 8.6 miles east on Hwy 90 to Farm)
- 4:00 Tour Bavarian Christmas Tree Farm **Franco & Sigrid Camacho**
- 5:00 Tree Talk to discuss ideas and problems
- 6:00 PAELLA a Spanish Feast...veggies, rice, seafood, chicken & more
Served at Camacho's Farm ..an exciting experience.. and fellowship..
- 9:00 SUNDAY...Some may need to make arrangements to pick up purchases from Vendors
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