



# TREEmendous News

Florida Christmas Tree Association's Newsletter



April 2010

## FCTA MEETING MAY 22

### Message from Michael Songer, President FCTA

Come join us on May 22, 2010 for our Spring Meeting and the 30 Year Anniversary of the Florida Christmas Tree Association in Crestview, Florida. We will start with a Breakfast at Ryan's Steak House located on the NW corner of the Intersection of I-10 and Hwy 85 near Crestview. Registration is from 8:00 to 8:30 am. Vincent Grund will review the plans for the day, and introduce some local guests. About 10:am we will proceed to Vincent Grund's Bouvier Farms for a tour of the farm and some discussion on Alternative Crops or Sources of Revenue.

Around Noon we will proceed to Whispering Pines for a lite lunch with Joyce and Dean Schnoor. They will cover the history of Whispering Pines which has been in the family for many years, and present their plan to turn over the activities of the farm to the next generation. This subject is on the minds of most of us. Many are reluctant to discuss this topic, but the best results require a plan and open discussion.

Next we will discuss the history of the first Thirty Years of the Florida Christmas Tree Association. It all began with an organization meeting in January, 1980 at the University of Florida. Hal Friensehner had written the By-Laws, and I think became the First President. Herb Attaway was there and I think became the President the second year. Tony Jenson became the Secretary, and he was with IFAS. Bill Murray was instrumental in setting up the FCTA, and he provided much information from the experiences of the Georgia Christmas Tree Association. I was there in my 78 Jeep, and froze on the way back to Orange Park. I was a novice but thought this might be interesting.

Dean Schnoor was there in the first year of the organization, and has been active as a, member, President and many years on the BOD. I would like to dedicate the Spring Meeting to Dean & Joyce Schnoor and the First Thirty Years of the FCTA.

We are trying to put together some facts about important people and events over the 30 year history of the Association. Please email your views and comments to: [songerma@hotmail.com](mailto:songerma@hotmail.com)

The Tentative Agenda for the Spring Meeting is included as a separate page.

We are striving for an easy relaxed fun Spring Meeting with a hayride around the farm, and at 5 PM we will have, **"It's 5 O'Clock Somewhere!!"** followed by **Our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner at the Schnoor Farm House.**

Now, pull out the Registration Form, make your motel reservations, and get your Registration Form in the mail. It was suggested that this time we provide a list of motels in the area (see attached) and let you make your own reservations. All the motels are on the I-10 and Hwy 85 interchange near Crestview. Ryan's Steak House is on the NW quadrant of the interchange. Linda and I will stay at the Quality Inn. Michael

BOD Meeting: May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010 8:00 PM Schnoor's Farm to discuss any last minute changes. See [BOD Meeting May 21<sup>st</sup> Outline](#).

The TreeMendous News has had a TreeMendous Computer Crash. This edition has been produced by using files from our old computer, from emails, and files on our laptops. We think we can recover files from our main hard drive, but not in time for the newsletter.

**Wesley Bass, of Bass Trees and Supplies, Inc.**, a longtime friend and vendor, is planning to attend our Spring Meeting at Schnoor's Farm. He has a new website, [www.basstrees.com](http://www.basstrees.com) and a new email [basstree@netdoor.com](mailto:basstree@netdoor.com). Wesley was one of our very first advertiser/vendors who came to Florida from Columbia, Mississippi when our group was very young. He has acquired the rights to manufacture the SAJE Shearing Machines, and his Son has joined the business. You can see his advertisement, and phone 1-800-530-7218 for supplies to be delivered at the Spring Meeting.

**Tommy Wagoner**, from Fraser Knoll Supplies and Equipment, Laurel Springs, NC is considering a trip to Florida for the Spring Meeting. See Web Site [www.fraserknoll.com](http://www.fraserknoll.com) or phone 1-877-352-7355.

Ryan's Steak House is located in the NW Quadrant of I-10 and Hwy 85.

**Trip to Vincent Grunds, 1577 Vinson Ray Rd, Baker, FL 32531**

From Ryan's take Hwy 85 north to Crestview. Then take Hwy 90 west to Fl 4 go 4.6 miles to Hwy 189, to 4 miles to Vinson Rd. TR to farm.

**Schnoor's Farm, 1603 Penton Rd, Milton, Fl 32570 (From Grunds)**

Go back to SR 189 and go South 2.5 miles, then turn Right on County Rd 4A go 2.5 miles. Slight right on FL 4 going West for 20.5 miles. TL on FL 87 south for 5.3 miles. Turn right on County Rd 178/ Spanish Trail and go 2.5 miles to Penton Road....turn left 1.2 miles to farm.

Vincent Grund will have maps at Ryan's on Saturday morning. I've included the addresses so you can check map quest or your navigational guides.

**TreeMendous News:** We have been considering sending the newsletter by computer, but not everyone has computers, and most do not have the same software. Jack may have hit upon a solution by placing the TreeMendous News on the Web Site. Let us know what you think...Thanks, Michael

Michael & Linda Songer  
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[songerma@hotmail.com](mailto:songerma@hotmail.com)  
Ph 904-272-3890

# FLORIDA CHRISTMAS TREE ASSOCIATION

Spring Meeting ~ May 22, 2010

## REGISTRATION

PLEASE PRINT

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address if changed:

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

REGISTRATION FEES:

REGISTRATION: \$10.00/Advance: per farm \$ \_\_\_\_\_

SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER 6:00 pm at Schnoor's Farm

Courtesy of Dean & Joyce Schnoor

HOW MANY \_\_\_\_\_

EXHIBIT SPACE: Same as Registration fee for this meeting

**Vendors** can present **Show and Tell** items Saturday afternoon at the farm.

PLEASE MAKE REGISTRATION CHECK PAYABLE TO:

**FCTA**

SEND TO ARRIVE WITH THIS FORM BY May, 15th

TO: **Jack Ewing**

**35317 Huff Road**

**Eustis, FL 32736**

**MAKE ROOM RESERVATIONS BY ASAP**

Motels on the I-10 and Hwy 85 Interchange at Crestview, Florida

**Comfort Inn** Senior Rate K-\$62.09 2Q-\$77.39

Deluxe Cont. Breakfast, Internet, Outdoor Pool 20,000 points

**Quality Inn** Senior Rate K or 2 Double \$63.00

Breakfast Buffet, Internet, Local Calls, Outdoor Pool 8,000 points

[www.choicehotels.com](http://www.choicehotels.com)

**Hampton Inn** \$80.

850-689-2378

[www.hampton.hilton.com](http://www.hampton.hilton.com)

**Jamison Inn** Senior Rate 2D\$68. K\$73

850-683-1778 Breakfast, Pool

[www.jamisoninns.com](http://www.jamisoninns.com)

**Days Inn** 850-682-8842      **Super 8** 850-682-9649

[www.wyndhamrewards.com](http://www.wyndhamrewards.com)

**BOD Meeting May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010 8:PM Schnoor's Farm**

# SEEDLINGS ALERT

**Superior Nursery at Lee, Florida.** Phone 850-971-5159 They have bare root Southern Red Cedar (\$196.per thousand) for this year.. They have Sand Pine, Spruce Pine, and Virginia Pine seedlings (\$80. per thousand.) available for the Fall Season.

**Dwight Stansel Farm & Nursery**, 5553 164<sup>th</sup> St, Wellborn, FL 32094, Phone 386-963-2827, e-mail [[dsfntte@alltel.net](mailto:dsfntte@alltel.net)] raises bare root Southern Red Cedar which they sell for \$225. per thousand.

**The Division of Forestry--Andrews Nursery**, Chiefland, FL, Phone 352-493-6096, currently has Containerized Improved Choctawhatchee Sand Pine at \$160. per thousand. They may also have some bare root Sand Pine at \$45. per thousand.

**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 for this season. Web Site: [www.auckersnursery.com](http://www.auckersnursery.com)

**BK Cedars** (Hilton Biggs and Susan Kossuth), Alachua, FL Phone 386-462-2060 has a good supply of three gallon (\$5.00) and one gallon (\$2.50) 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 what ever is left over. Michael

**Tentative Program**

# FCTA Spring Meeting      Saturday, May 22, 2010

**BOD MEETING:** Friday, May 21, 8:00pm Schnoor's farm

## **Saturday**

8:00 - 8:30      Ryan's Breakfast Room, Registration & Big Breakfast  
Junction I-10 & Hwy 85, Crestview, Fl

8:30 - 10:00    Welcome by County Commissioner John Jannazo  
Announcements and Directions

10:00-10:30    Travel to Bouvier Farms, Okaloosa County

10:30-Noon    Tour Bouvier Farms with Vincent Grund

12:00-12:30    Travel to Whispering Pines-

1:00 - 2:00    Lite Lunch with Dean & Joyce Schnoor at the farm

2:00- 3:30    Welcome and History of Whispering Pines Christmas Tree Farm  
(Handout)

History of Florida Christmas Tree Association

January, 1980 Organization Meeting at University of Florida

TREE TALK....Time line of events through the year.

3:30 - 4:30    Hayride around farm. See how the farm has been divided between two sons and their wives:  
Mike & Erica. Greg & Lisa. Tree blocks are color coded.

4:30 – 5:00    Display of farm equipment, shearing, pruning, etc.

5:00            It's 5 O'Clock Somewhere!! Tea, Lemonade, sodas, beer, mix drinks

6:00- Until    30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner at the Schnoor Farm House

**SUNDAY:** Have a safe trip Home....

# FCTA MOURNS LOSS OF TWO MEMBERS



**Tom Richards**

Tom Richards passed away on November 27, 2009. Tom was a sales representative for Tim Mitchell's Yule Stand System for many years. Tom, along with his wife Sylvia, attended nearly every meeting of the FCTA. His presence at our meetings will be greatly missed.



**Leonard Horne**

Leonard Horne passed away on August 13, 2009. He was a long-time member of FCTA and owner of Horne's Choose & Cut Christmas Trees in Jacksonville. His wife, Ola, is continuing to operate the farm. We will miss Leonard's good advice at our meetings.