



TREEmendous News

Florida Christmas Tree Association's Newsletter



August 2010

FCTA Celebrates 30 Years

The Spring 2010 meeting of FCTA was held the weekend of May 22, in Crestview, FL, with visits to Dean and Joyce Schnoor's Whispering Pines and Vincent Grund's Bouvier Farms. The meeting began with breakfast at Ryan's and a short business meeting. We then drove to Whispering Pines for a light lunch followed by a hayride around the farm. After the tour of Schnoor's farm there was a slideshow, passing around of old photo albums, and discussion of the history of the 30 years since a small group of farmers met and formed the Florida Christmas Tree Association. In the evening there was a delicious dinner and anniversary celebration.

The following day we traveled to Vincent Grund's Bouvier Farms for a tour and discussion.

Some of the founders of FCTA:

Bill Murray, Joyce Schnoor, Dean Schnoor, Cathi Gregory, John Gregory, and Michael Songer.



Meeting Hosts with Anniversary Cake:

Vincent Grund, Joyce Schnoor, Michael Songer (FCTA President), Dean Schnoor



FALL MEETING

September 18-19, 2010

Meeting hosts will be
Tony and Debbie Harris at
Ergle Christmas Tree Farm
and Jewel Lay at Lazy Lay
Acres, Dade City

See details inside newsletter

If you have downloaded this newsletter from the website, please email Michael Songer at songerma@hotmail.com to confirm receipt.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Oct. 19-21,2010	Sunbelt Expo Moultrie, GA www.sunbeltexpo.com
Sept. 18-19, 2010	Florida Christmas Tree Assoc. Fall Meeting Dade City, FL Hosts: Tony & Debbie Harris and Jewel Lay
December, 2010	Trees to Governor ??
April 30-May 1, 2011	Florida Christmas Tree Assoc. Spring Meeting Tallahassee, FL Hosts: Franco and Sigrid Camacho

Florida Christmas Tree Association Officers and Board

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850-537-6362
vinman889@embarqmail.com

I'll have Cote Color to those who ordered in advance, and will have a few extras @ \$40 per jug. See you at the Fall Meeting. Michael



Dear FCTA Members:

Please join us in Dade City, September 17-19, for the fall 2010 Florida Christmas Tree Association's annual meeting. Your hosts, Tony and Debbie Harris (Ergle Christmas Tree Farm) and Jewel Lay (Lazy Lay Acres), have planned a slow-paced, but informative meeting showcasing farm diversification, so that we may learn a little, have some fun, and enjoy meeting and seeing one another again.

The Hampton Inn, Dade City, is providing a room rate of \$79.00, plus tax. Please reserve your room by mentioning the "FCTA room rate of \$79.00" before August 27th. You may receive the rate of \$79.00 after August 27th, but rooms may no longer be available. The Hampton Inn is located at 13215 U.S. Hwy. 301, Dade City. To reserve your room, call 352-567-5277.

To get to the Hampton Inn, drive south of downtown Dade City on Hwy. 301. After you drive through downtown (on the main north-south street through the center of Dade City which is Hwy. 301), and pass Wal-Mart, located south of downtown on the left, the Hampton Inn will be on the right side (west) of Hwy. 301. You will see Wendy's (fast food) on the right; just before you see the Hampton Inn sign and the Hampton. (This Hampton is not the Hampton that is located at I-75 and Hwy. 50.)

The Hampton Inn provides a self-serve breakfast for all registered guests. The breakfast bar includes a waffle maker, scrambled eggs and sausage or ham, biscuits, gravy, cereal, bagels, milk, juice and coffee.

The FCTA Board meeting will take place in the Hampton Inn meeting room at 8 P.M. on Friday night.

On Saturday morning, meet us at Ergle Christmas Tree Farm at 9:00 A.M. (Ergle farm is located at 3325 Treiman Blvd, which is Hwy. 301, 8 miles north of Dade City, look to your left (west) on Hwy. 301 as soon as you cross the Withlacoochee River bridge.) We plan to carpool to tour *Green World Path*, located about 15 miles west of the farm, at 1665 Donto Way, in Brooksville. *Green World Path* (www.greenworldpath.com) is a company that supports green growing. The company has developed over 30 products, including organic fertilizers that may be custom blended (and privately labeled), to meet specific needs. This company proudly claims that it can provide a cost savings of up to 40% of the usual cost of chemicals and fertilizers, while also providing products that are friendly to our environment.

We will leave *Green World Path* by 11:00 A.M. to go to *Coney Island* for lunch. A side room is reserved for our members so that we may enjoy lunch together. You can visit *Coney Island* on the web at www.coneyislanddriveinn.com to preview the menu of chili foot long hotdogs and other *Coney Island* treats. *Coney Island* is located at 1112 East Jefferson Ave., Brooksville. (Jefferson Avenue is Hwy. 50 east and you will drive past it on your way to *Green World Path* from the farm and on your way back to the farm.)

We will return to Ergle Christmas Tree Farm (Hwy. 50 east to Hwy. 301, right on Hwy. 301) by 1:00 P.M., and meet under the pole barn to discuss and learn more about irrigation products. Ronnie Chandler, from *TWC Distributors*, will demonstrate several irrigation options, including spray heads and emitters and also discuss water conservation and flow.

After the discussion of irrigation, Tony Harris will provide a tour of Ergle Christmas Tree Farm. In addition to Christmas Trees, you will see a u-pick/commercial blueberry operation, and a newly acquired hydroponic, no bending to u-pick, strawberry patch.

During the farm tour, Jack and Judy Ewing will also discuss farm related concession sales, discuss how to obtain a license to sell food concessions, talk about using the gift shop to increase sales, and discuss their most recent endeavor, a Pumpkin Patch and the potential of increasing profit by adding Pumpkins to our farms.

On Saturday evening we have planned for everyone to meet in the *Cypress Room* at *Kafe Kokopelli*, located downtown Dade City, for happy hour from 5:30 to 6:30 and to order dinner at 6:30 P.M. *Kafe Kokopelli* offers a Sunset menu for those of us with smaller appetites, priced from \$7.99 to \$12.99 and a full menu of pasta, seafood, chicken dishes, chops and steaks priced from \$10.99 to \$24.00. You may view the menu at www.Kafekokopelli.com. (Note: We will be able to order from the Sunset menu even though it typically ends at 6:00 P.M.)

Kafe Kokopelli's is located at 37940 Live Oak Avenue, downtown Dade City. If you leave the Hampton Inn and travel North on Hwy. 301 (7th Street through the center of town), turn right beside the large red brick bank building in the center of Dade City, the restaurant is located two blocks east of 7th Street on the corner of 6th Street and Live Oak Avenue. You may also park across the street from *Kafe Kokopelli's* at Boyett Insurance.

On Sunday morning, you will be treated to a 9:00 A.M. tour of Lazy Lay Acres, hosted by Jewel Lay. Lazy Lay Acres is located at 14920 Swift Road. From the hotel to the farm take 301 north, stay to the left on 7th Street, go to Meridian Avenue (4th light) and turn left (West). At the 2nd light turn right on 21st Street (north) then immediately turn left (west) onto Highway 578 (St. Joe Road). Go about 4 to 4 1/2 miles to Swift Rd. on the right. There will be a sign for the farm on the righthand side, that is white, blue, and green.

If you have questions or need assistance, please telephone 352-583-3647 (Debbie/Tony) or 352-567-6808 (Jewel). We are looking forward to seeing you in September!

Sincerely, FCTA Officers and Hosts -- *Tony, Debbie, and Jewel*



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Merry Christmas!

Florida

Christmas Tree Association

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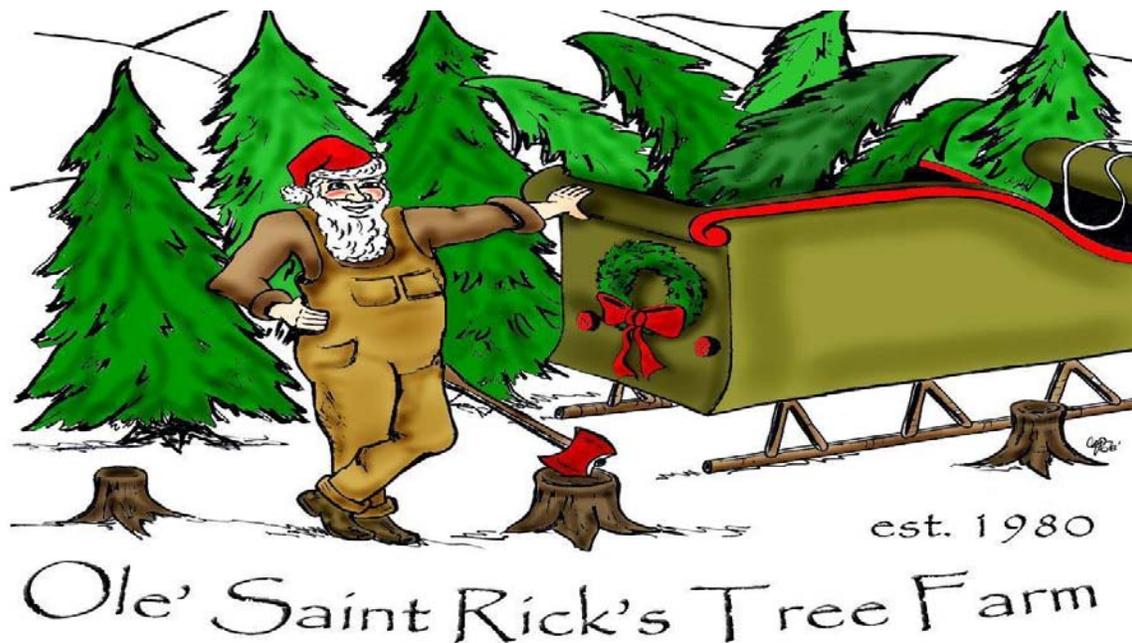
2010 Show Specials

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Stands	Price	Price
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Medium stand	\$5.90	\$5.75
Super Medium stand	\$7.90	\$7.75
Large stand	\$9.50	\$9.35
Reinforced stand	\$19.50	\$18.95
5 Qt. Water Bowl	\$2.75	\$2.65
10 Qt Water Bowl	\$3.75	\$3.65
Tree Removal Bags		
50/case	\$46.00	\$42.00
Tree Preservative		
50/case	\$38.75	\$35.95
Kirk Netting	\$3.00 off per order [5 cartridges/bag]	
Red & White Netting	\$5.00 off per order [3 cartridges/bag]	

We
will see you at the September 18
Fall Meeting



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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 according to the person I talked with on the phone. They also have a new web site: www.superiortrees.net . I didn't find the same prices on the web site.

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 Containerized Improved Choctawhatchee Sand Pine at \$160. per thousand. They may also have some bare root Sand Pine at \$45. per thousand. Go to www.fl-dof.com to download an order form.

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.auckernursery.com

BK Cedars (Hilton Biggs and Susan Kossuth), Alachua, FL Phone 386-462-2060 has a good supply of five gallon (\$13.), three gallon (\$3.50) 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



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Photos From Spring Meeting 2010



Michael Songer and Vincent Grund receiving a plaque proclaiming it "Florida Christmas Tree Association Day" in Okaloosa County



Vincent Grund explains the operations on his Bouvier Farms



FCTA members have a hayride around Dean and Joyce Schnoor's farm

If you have any photos you'd like to include in the next newsletter, send them to Michael Songer.



FCTA members enjoy 30th Anniversary celebration

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Neilson's Deliver Trees to the Governor in December 2009



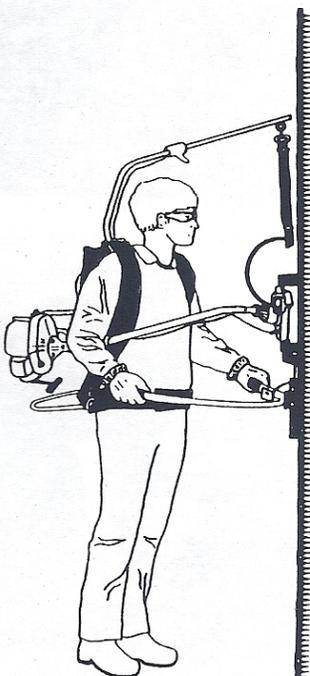
Joyce and Bob Neilson at StateCapitol



Governor Christ, Joyce, Bob, and Ag Commissioner Bronson

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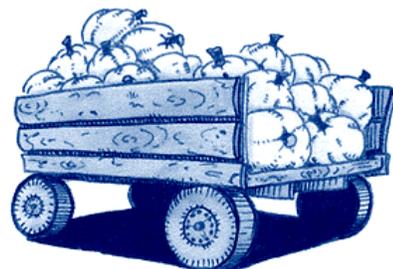


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Fall Meeting ~ Sept 18 & 19, 2010
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PLEASE PRINT

NAME _____
E-Mail _____

FARM/COMPANY NAME _____

Address if changed:
City/State/Zip _____

REGISTRATION FEES:

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

SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER 5:30 pm at Kafe Kokopilli
37940 Live Oak Ave, Dade City, FL This will be fun!
Cypress Room early bird menu. Individual payment.
Short Business Meeting following Dinner

EXHIBIT SPACE: Same as Registration fee for this meeting

Vendors can present **Show and Tell** items Saturday afternoon.
PLEASE MAKE REGISTRATION CHECK PAYABLE TO:

FCTA

Mail by Sept 12 to:

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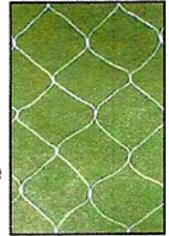


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26" x 2" x 520' x 5/bdl	\$117.00	\$87.00



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