



TREEmendous News



Florida Christmas Tree Association's Newsletter

August 2013

FALL MEETING AT GAINESVILLE SEPT. 28-29

Presidents Comments:

Bob and Joyce Neilson have planned an exciting Fall Meeting. They have a very interesting farm that sells both locally grown trees and northern trees. The farm is located on a flat and very sandy area. They have a little Zoo, nice buildings, and a neat operation. They have planned both Lunch and a Low Country Boil Dinner at the farm. Tentative program inside.

Craig Sorensen, Tim Mitchell Supplies and Tree Stands, (800-394-6536 or 615-497-2299) (See Advertisement) plans to attend. Also, Joyce Ezell, (850-320-2900) will have Bahco Pruning Tools and Michael Songer will have Coty Color, but please email, songerma@hotmail.com or phone 904-272-3890 and leave a message by Sept 1st to benefit from Free Freight to the Fall Meeting. Otherwise, it costs about \$28. per 5 gal case to have shipped.

On Sunday we have been invited to John and Cathie Gregory's farm inside Gainesville. In contrast, the Gregory farm is located in a very hilly and shaded area. For new and interested potential growers, these farms are model operations run primarily by two people, with some limited temporary helpers.



Sigrid and Franco Camacho delivered trees to the Governor in December 2012

Tell your county agent and potential members that the **Treemendous News** can be viewed and printed in color from our web site: www.flchristmastrees.com.

Place your hotel reservations and orders for pickup at the Fall Meeting promptly.

Southern Forestry Products is a new advertiser in this issue. See their ad for shearing knives.

Members can buy a FCTA license plate for only \$1 at the Fall Meeting!

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Sept. 14, 2013	Georgia Christmas Tree Assoc. Fall Meeting Cummings,GA See: www.gacta.com Hosts: Dennis & Sandra Bottoms
Sept. 28, 2013	Florida Christmas Tree Assoc. Fall Meeting Trenton, FL See www.flchristmastrees.com Hosts: Bob & Joyce Neilson John & Cathie Gregory
Oct 15-17, 2013	Sunbelt Expo Moultrie, GA www.sunbeltexpo.com
December, 2013	Trees to Governor

Florida Christmas Tree Association Officers and Board

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IN MEMORIAM

We are sad to report that our organization lost three more long-time members in the last year. They all contributed to our organization with their knowledge and experience and will be greatly missed.



DEAN SCHNOOR

Dean was a founding member of FCTA. He served as President, and was on the BOD. He and his wife Joyce have owned and operated Whispering Pines Christmas Tree Farm in Milton for many years.

Dean passed away January 8, 2013. He was born June 3, 1925 in Perry, Iowa, and graduated from West Point Military Academy in 1950. He was a veteran of more than 28 years, and retired as a Colonel from the US Army.

He had a Masters in Public Administration, and one of his not-for-profit activities included investigating complaints on attorneys for the BAR Association. This kind of work takes diplomacy, intelligence, and integrity. We admired him for this, as well as his other activities. We will miss a true friend, and a great individual.



DR. R. HILTON BIGGS

Hilton passed away on November 16, 2012. He was born on May 5, 1931. He was employed by the University of Florida, and was also instrumental in setting up the Florida Christmas Tree Association.

He and Sue Kossuth founded and operated BK Cedars from which many of us purchase small potted Cedars called Robin Blues for resale.

Hilton was a wealth of information. You could ask him a question, and he would tell you more than you could comprehend. He was a good friend and a good buddy.



FRAN THOMPSON

Fran passed away on November 28, 2012. She was one of our most loyal members. From the time she and Tom joined the FCTA, I don't believe they ever missed a meeting. Tom died just a few years ago, and Fran stayed a member until she died. Her warm personality made her a good friend to all our members.



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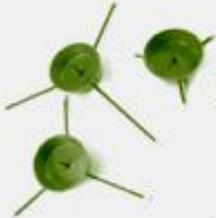
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Yule Stands	2013 Price	Show Price	Orders over \$2000 Price
Small stand ½" pin	\$3.90	\$3.75	\$3.50
Medium stand	\$6.50	\$6.20	\$5.90
Super Medium stand	\$8.75	\$8.55	\$8.25
Large stand	\$10.25	\$9.95	\$9.50
Reinforced stand	\$21.25	\$20.25	\$19.50
5 Qt. Water Bowl	\$3.20	\$3.00	\$2.85
10 Qt Water Bowl	\$4.35	\$4.20	\$4.00
Tree Removal Bags			
50/case	\$48.95	\$45.00	\$44.00
Jumbo Tree bags 48/case	\$60.95	\$57.00	\$56.00
Kirk Netting	\$4.00 off per order		
Coated Palm Gloves 1 dozen	M, L or XL		\$20.00

All orders must be paid and picked up by end of meeting.

**Craig will see you at the Fall meeting
 September 28th**

Tentative Agenda for Fall Meeting September 28 & 29th, 2013

9:00am **SATURDAY** Registration at Neilson's Christmas Tree Farm (**Bob & Joyce Neilson**)

DIRECTIONS: From Gainesville take HWY 26 West to Newberry, stay on HWY 26 five more miles to Caution Light. Go past the light and turn right into Rolling Hills subdivision. Look for Signs Phone 352-472-2340

9:30 Opening Comments and Introductions

10:00 Speaker: Barton Wilder, Alachua County Extension Agent

Topic: FUNGICIDES

11:00 Speaker: Hugh Thomas

Topic: Best Management Practices

12:00 BBQ Lunch at the Farm

1:30 Speaker: Jan Castanza

Topic: Weed Control & Calibrations

2:00 Vendors, Craig Sorensen, Tim Mitchell Tree Stands

Joyce Ezell, Bahco Pruning Tools

Tree Talk, and Farm Tour

4:30 Short Business Meeting

5:00 **DINNER AT THE FARM....LOW COUNTRY BOIL** Served at the Farm, an exciting experience.. and fellowship..

9:30 **SUNDAY**...Gregory's Tree Farm, 3605 NW 69th St, Gainesville, Fl 32606

Coffee, Donuts, Talk, and Farm Tour

Agricultural Signs

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

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

FLORIDA CHRISTMAS TREE ASSOCIATION
Fall Meeting ~ September 28-29, 2013

REGISTRATION per Farm/Co: \$20.00/Advance; \$25 at meeting = _____

Lunch \$8, BBQ @ Neilson's Farm

lunches _____ x \$ 8. = _____

Dinner \$10, low country boil with shrimp, sausage links,
corn on the cob, potatoes, etc. @ Neilson's Farm

dinners _____ x \$10. = _____

TOTAL = _____

SEND TO: John Gregory, 3605 NW 69th Street, Gainesville, FL 32606, with this form,
by Sept 21st. Please make checks payable to FCTA.

REGISTRATION (PLEASE PRINT)

Name(s) want on Name Tag(s) _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Farm/Co phone _____ Cell phone _____

Farm/Company Name _____

Address (street) _____

(city/state/zip) _____

Hotel: Best Western Gateway Grand, 4200 NW 97th Blvd, Gainesville, FL 32606
(go west off exit 490 one block; turn north). Toll free # 877-464-2378

\$80 for a double and \$85 for a king mini-suite

Ask for Florida Christmas Tree Assoc. price.

Call to make room reservations by Sept. 15th.



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LOOKING BACK TO LAST YEAR



We met at Wil Sellars farm near Tallahassee



Joyce Ezell demonstrates tools and Sue Kossuth talks about her Robin Blue cedars



President Michael Songer presents a plaque to Jack Ewing for his service as treasurer



We had a delicious paella dinner at Camacho's

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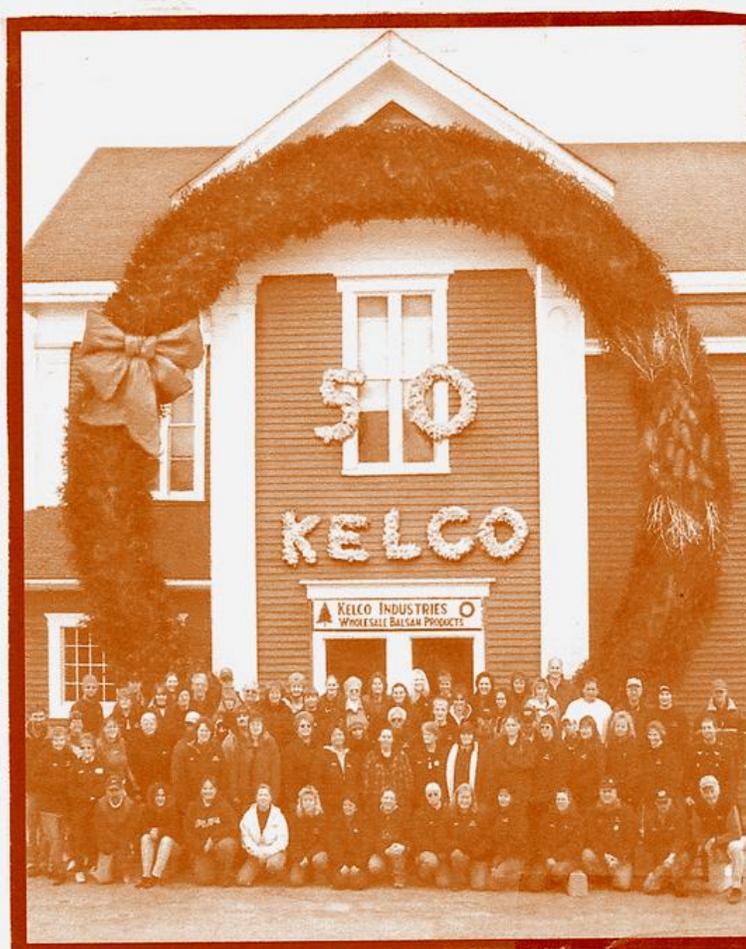


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SEEDLINGS ALERT

Superior Nursery at Lee, Florida. Phone 850-971-5159 They have bare root Southern Red Cedar (\$214..per thousand) for this year.. They have Sand Pine, Spruce Pine, and Virginia Pine seedlings (\$87. 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 \$218. per thousand.

The Division of Forestry--Andrews Nursery, Chiefland, FL, Phone 352-493-6096, currently has bare root Sand Pine at \$50. 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 have a very nice educational Web Site: www.auckersnursery.com

BK Cedars (Susan Kossuth), Alachua, FL Phone 386-462-2060 has a good supply of three 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 what ever is left over. Michael

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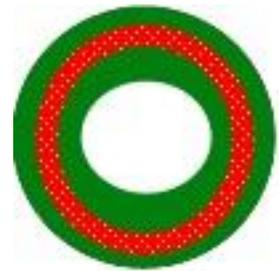
Flock and Flock Machines | Flame Retardant | Lot Supplies | Netting | Tree Removal Bags | Accessories
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MILE HIGH TREE FARM

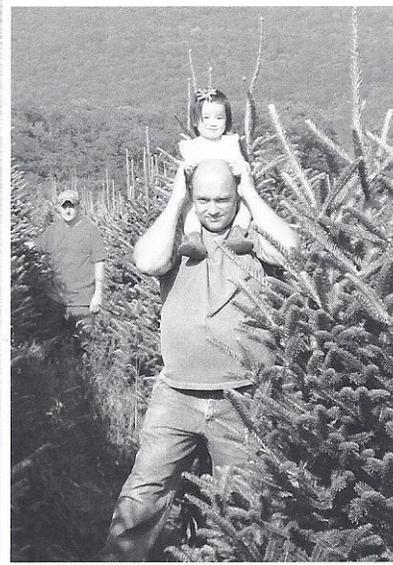
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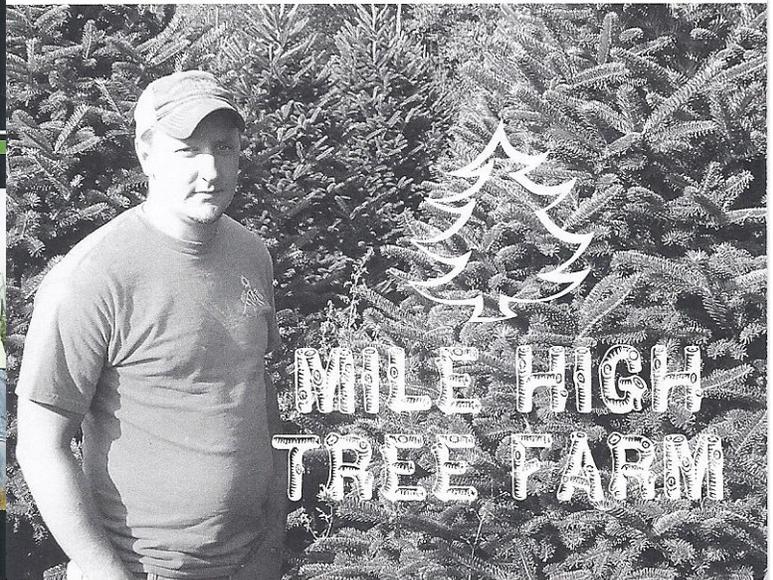


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9'-10' - \$35	14'-15' - \$120

* 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:

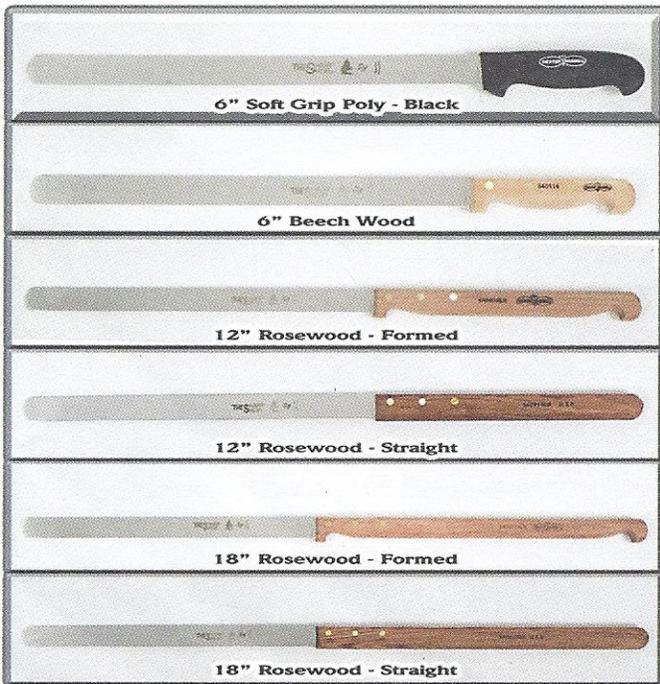
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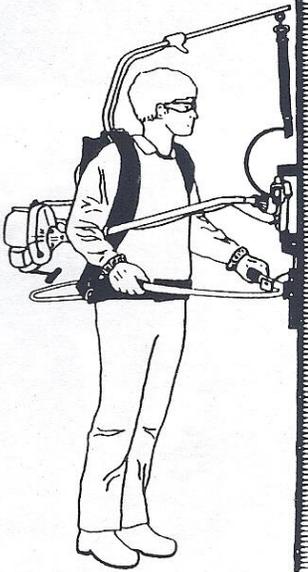


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