



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**PENNSYLVANIA CHRISTMAS TREE GROWERS ASSOCIATION
MEMBERS' TREES NAMED CHAMPIONS**

HARRISBURG, Pa. – Eric & Gloria Sundback of Shepherdstown, W.V., were selected as Grand Champions of the National Christmas Tree Contest this summer at the National Christmas Tree Association's (NCTA) Annual Convention & Trade Show. Eric & Gloria Sundback are the owners and operators of the tree farm that submitted the prize-winning Fraser fir Christmas Tree. As Grand Champion Christmas Tree growers, the Sundbacks will present the official White House Christmas Tree to First Lady Michelle Obama for the 2009 Christmas season.

The Sundbacks have been long-time members of PCTGA. In fact, when their farm was in Pennsylvania, they won the contest twice in 1979 and 1981. They moved their farm to West Virginia and entered this year's contest through the Maryland chapter.

Trees in the contest competed in five species categories: True Fir, Douglas-fir, Spruce, Pine and Other. Convention attendees voted to select the first, second and third-place winners in each category. Then a panel of 20 judges from outside the industry chose the Grand Champion and Reserve Champion trees. These winners were announced at the Award Banquet Friday, Aug. 14.

A Douglas-fir tree, entered by McClellan's Tree Farm LLC, owned and operated by Richard and Mary McClellan of Middleburg, Pa., was selected as the Reserve Champion in the National Tree Contest. They will most likely be invited to place a tree in the Vice President's home this Christmas.

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*The **Pennsylvania Christmas Tree Growers**, with approximately 300 member farms, works to promote and develop a community of interest among growers of Christmas trees in Pennsylvania and adjoining states, as well as to raise public awareness about Christmas trees. To find a Christmas tree grower near you, visit our Website at www.christmastrees.org.*

Photos available upon request.

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