



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – January 20, 2014

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Montgomery County Christmas Tree Growers Win Big in Wreath Contest

HARRISBURG – Montgomery County Christmas tree growers received five of the ribbons awarded in the Pennsylvania Christmas Tree Growers wreath contest held for members at the annual winter meeting January 16- 18 in New Cumberland, PA. Ribbons are awarded based on the results of the vote by members attending the meeting.

Virginia Bustard's decorated wreath, entered by Bustard's Christmas Trees, tied for first place with the wreath made by Gary Hague, of Hague's Christmas Trees, entitling both to compete in the National Christmas Tree Association competition in Michigan this July. Ruthann Sitko of Sitko Tree Farm received honorable mention in both the decorated and undecorated categories. Hague's Christmas Trees received first place in the undecorated category and also qualified for the national contest.

Wreaths are made of Christmas tree greens on a 12" inch ring. This is the first time that Montgomery County Christmas tree growers earned so many ribbons. Bustard's Christmas Trees is located at 2201 Bustard Rd., Lansdale; Hague's Christmas Trees is located at 755 Forty Foot Road, Hatfield; and Sitko Tree Farm is located at 1141 Kepler Road, Pottstown. All three participants have placed in the national contest in the past. In 2013 Bustard's won third place in decorated and Sitko's won second in undecorated, and in 2012 Hague's won first place in decorated.

Gary Hague stated, "I have been competing in wreath contests for about 25 years. I won nothing at first but have learned a great deal over the years. I have become a better wreath maker and decorator as a result. I am now headed for my fifth national competition with a goal of winning first in decorated and undecorated in the same year as only two other wreath makers have done before."

Said Ruthann Sitko, "We have been growing Christmas trees and offering custom designs, specialty products like kissing balls and traditional wreaths for over twenty five years but have only recently entered the contest. The competition has made us even better at what we do and what we offer our commercial and residential customers. The PCTGA does an excellent job of bringing the growers together and they are willing to share their expertise. We have learned so much from our fellow Christmas tree growers."

Virginia Bustard said, "At age 86, I feel good that my 60 years of experience is still good enough to compete with the best in the industry. Congratulations to all!"

The Pennsylvania Christmas Tree Growers Association is made up of those involved in Christmas tree growing, wreath making and production of other evergreen materials from all across Pennsylvania. The group holds annual winter and summer meetings to learn more about production, retailing and improving business operations. For more information, please contact the PCTGA office, Bustard's Tree Farm, Hague's Tree Farm, and Sitko Tree Farm. For more details about PCTGA, please visit our website at www.christmastrees.org.