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PENNSYLVANIA CHRISTMAS TREE GROWERS ASSOCIATION PRESENTS SEVERAL AWARDS AT WINTER MEETING

HARRISBURG, PA- The Pennsylvania Christmas Tree Growers Association (PCTGA) presented several awards during their annual winter meeting recently held in Grantville, PA on January 18th and 19th. Awards were given for the Grand Champion and Reserve Champion trees from the PA Farm Show, Winter Meeting Wreath Contest winners, outgoing board members, and the prestigious State Award.

Heritage Acres Evergreens, Bloomsburg, PA (Columbia County) exhibited both the Grand Champion and Reserve Champion Christmas trees at the 2007 Pennsylvania Farm Show. The Grand Champion was a Fraser Fir and was selected as the winner from the over 1,700 votes cast by Farm Show visitors during the two-day voting period. Heritage Acres Evergreens is owned by father and son, Ed and Jim Campbell. The Reserve Champion honors went a Douglas Fir.

Melissa Holby of Berkey's Nursery in Spartansburg, PA took first place in both the Undecorated Wreath contest and Decorated Wreath contest, judged by Winter Meeting attendees. Second place in the Undecorated Wreath contest went to Lew Bowser of CTE Manufacturing in Lititz, PA. Second place in the Decorated Wreath contest went to Pine View Haven of St. Thomas, PA. Pat Heaton of Heaton Tree Farm in North East, PA placed third.

Each wreath entered in the competition was made from natural greens grown within the state. Wreaths were judged by the membership on foliage, color, and workmanship (including uniform density, uniform center hold, uniform outside, construction quality, placement of materials and overall appearance). All wreaths are made by current PCTGA members or on a member farm.

Outgoing board members were also recognized at the Winter meeting. The following directors concluded their term at this meeting: Marty Hozak, Hozak Farms, Clinton, PA; and Reed Zimmer, Zimmer Century Farm, Covington Tree Farm. Hozak is a third generation tree grower. Of the 400 acres comprising Hozak Farm, about 175 are actually in production growing the most popular pine trees. Hozak has been on the Board of Directors for PCTGA since 2001, actively chaired the Awards Committee, and served as Treasurer since 2004.

Zimmer was elected to the Board of Directors in 2001. An active member of PCTGA, Reed has overseen the Fair kit project, as well as represented PCTGA on the Ag Council at Penn State University. Reed attends all PCTGA functions and served as valuable part of the PCTGA Board as Awards Committee Chair.

Wayne Bizup, 2006 PCTGA President, was also recognized at this meeting. Bizup started planting trees in Benton, PA in 1974. In order to create a market for trees, they opened the first retail lot in South Plainfield, NJ in 1978 and opened a second retail lot in Hillsborough, NJ in 1980. As president during 2006, Bizup lead the board through a year in which the organization was able to lobby the state for \$300,000; maintained a fiscal budget and work plan that was comprehensive and realistic; and continued the work of committees, with emphasis on the PA Farm Show and Bloomsburg Fair.

The 2007 PCTGA Summer Meeting will be held on July 31st - August 1st, 2007 at Unangst Tree Farm located in Bath, PA. The Pennsylvania Christmas Tree Growers Association (PCTGA), with over 300 members, 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, and for more information from the Pennsylvania Christmas tree association, visit www.christmastrees.org.

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