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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**PA CHRISTMAS TREE GROWERS ANNOUNCE SUMMER MEETING IN ERIE, PA**

**HARRISBURG, PA-** The Pennsylvania Christmas Tree Growers Association (PCTGA) announces its upcoming summer meeting to be held on Thursday, July 31<sup>st</sup> through Saturday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> at Berkey's Nursery and Marriott Courtyard Hotel in northwest Pennsylvania. Each year this annual meeting includes many informative speakers and demonstrations on a member farm, a trade show, product demonstrations given by vendors, and a reception.

The meeting will kick-off on Thursday, July 31<sup>st</sup> at the Marriott Courtyard Hotel with a Mix & Mingle and time with vendors. Friday, August 1<sup>st</sup> will be a day at Berkey's Nursery in Spartansburg. Attendees will have the opportunity to spend the day at the nursery, a well-known establishment with revolutionary methods in shearing, genetics and nursery stock. Berkey's Nursery was started in 1950 as a Christmas tree plantation, but by 1955 started into nursery stock. The day will include vendors and hands-on training from the Berkey family on the following topics: genetics & Fraser fir; Douglas fir & Concolor fir; field preparation; equipment demonstrations; shearing; and nursery stock. Later that evening a banquet and reception will be held for all attendees.

The next day will feature two speakers Dennis Fulbright, Ph.D., Michigan State University and Ruth Benner, IPM Educator, PSU Extension, Erie County at the Marriott Courtyard Hotel in Erie. Dr. Fulbright will speak on both 'Phytophthora Root Rot of Fir: Just add Water and Stir' and 'Management of Needle Casting Diseases of Christmas Trees.' The second session will provide category credits for attendees. Ms. Benner will cover 'Pesticide Exposure and Personal Protective Equipment Including Respirators,' and offer core credits. The meeting will adjourn at 12:30 pm on Saturday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Registration for the upcoming summer meeting is available at [www.christmastrees.org](http://www.christmastrees.org) or by calling PCTGA headquarters at (717) 238-9765. Members of neighboring associations are invited to register at PCTGA member rates. Don't miss out!

The Pennsylvania Christmas Tree Growers Association (PCTGA), with over 250 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 authority, visit [www.christmastrees.org](http://www.christmastrees.org).

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