



4305 North Sixth Street, Suite A
Harrisburg, PA 17110
Phone: 717-238-9765 or 800-547-2842
Fax: 717-238-9985
Website: www.christmastrees.org

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MEDIA CONTACT: Bethany Dennis, (717) 238-9765, communications@christmastrees.org

PENNSYLVANIA CHRISTMAS TREE GROWERS ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCE
2008 PENNSYLVANIA FARM SHOW WINNERS

HARRISBURG, PA- Evergreen Acres Tree Farm, Auburn, PA (Schuylkill County) exhibited the Grand Champion Christmas tree at the 2008 Pennsylvania Farm Show. The Grand Champion was a Canaan Fir and was selected as the winner from the over 1,500 votes cast by Farm Show visitors during the two-day voting period. Evergreen Acres Tree Farm is owned by Paul and Sharon Shealer. The Reserve Champion honors went to Chris Botek of Crystal Spring Tree Farm II in Lehighton, PA with a Fraser Fir.

This is the only commodity at the Farm Show where the public gets to choose the Grand Champion and Reserve Champion, after selections are made by professional judges. It has been a popular activity for visitors since the Pennsylvania Christmas Tree Growers initiated the practice in 1997. The winners have the opportunity to compete at the national level through the National Christmas Tree Association (NCTA).

Trees in the competition must have been grown in Pennsylvania on land owned and operated by the exhibitor and must be within six to eight feet. Trees may be either naturally grown or sheared and shaped by the exhibitor. This was the first year that tabletop trees were a part of the competition. These trees also must have been grown in Pennsylvania on land owned and operated by the exhibitor and tabletop - cut trees must be 36" maximum height and tabletop - containerized trees must be 30" maximum height from soil line to top of tip.

Listings of first- place winners by category are as follows:

Canaan Fir: Paul and Sharon Shealer, Evergreen Acres Tree Farm
Fraser Fir: Chris Botek, Crystal Spring Tree Farm II
Douglas Fir: Chris Botek, Crystal Spring Tree Farm II
Concolor Fir: Rich and Mary McClellan, McClellan's Tree Farm
All other pines: Tom and Audrey Balthaser, Perry Valley Tree Farm
Scotch pine: Tom and Audrey Balthaser, Perry Valley Tree Farm
Colorado Blue Spruce: Greg Abraczinskas, Abraczinskas Nurseries
All other spruce: Chris Botek, Crystal Spring Tree Farm II
Tabletop-Containerized: Chris Botek, Crystal Spring Tree Farm II
Tabletop- Cut: Chris Botek, Crystal Spring Tree Farm II

The Pennsylvania Christmas Tree Growers, with just under 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, visit our website at www.christmastrees.org.

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