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PENNSYLVANIA CHRISTMAS TREE GROWERS ASSOCIATION

HOLD SUCCESSFUL WINTER MEETING

HARRISBURG, PA- The Pennsylvania Christmas Tree Growers Association (PCTGA) conducted a very successful winter meeting on Thursday, January 17th and Friday, January 18th in Grantville, PA. This annual meeting included a variety of educational speakers from across the country, as well as a trade show, banquet, entertainment and live auction.

The meeting kicked off with a “Mix and Mingle” on Wednesday, January 16th for attendees to visit with each other and relax after the busy holiday season. All-day educational sessions began on Thursday, January 17th with keynote speaker Dr. Eric Hinesley, North Carolina State University and also included Tom Saunders, Saunders Brothers, Inc. who held the audience captive with an insightful look into the world of Christmas wreath making.

Thursday night included a reception, dinner, awards presentation, entertainment, and dessert in the vendor area. Ron Mancabelli of E-Mar Acres was given a plaque thanking him for his leadership as 2007 President. In addition, outgoing board member Rich Yadlosky of Sugar-Bend Tree Farm was presented with a plaque. During the banquet, an award was also presented to the 2008 Farm Show Grand Champion tree growers Paul and Sharon Shealer of Evergreen Acres Tree Farm.

Friday, January 18th featured sessions by a number of experts in the field, as well as a membership meeting and live auction. During the membership meeting, wreath winners as judged by Winter meeting attendees were announced. Each wreath entered in the competition was made from natural greens grown within the state. Gary Hague of Hague's Christmas Trees took first place in both the Undecorated Wreath contest and Decorated Wreath contest. Second place in the Undecorated Wreath contest went to Melissa Holby of Berkey's Nursery, while third place went to Richard & Mary McClellan of McClellan's Tree Farm. Second place in the Decorated Wreath contest went to Evelyn Bookhamer of JB Tree Farm, while Pat Heaton of Heaton Tree Farm placed third.

The next meeting will be held on August 1st and 2nd, 2008 at Berkey's Nursery in Spartansburg, PA. Attendees will have the opportunity to visit Berkey's seed orchard, view a variety of modified equipment, learn how they utilize transplants, as well as learn from a variety of speakers. Registration will be available in late spring on the PCTGA website- www.christmastrees.org. Don't miss out!

The Pennsylvania Christmas Tree Growers Association (PCTGA), 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. PCTGA is an active participant in PA-Preferred, a program promoting Pennsylvania agriculture. To learn more about PA Preferred and products, visit www.papreferred.com. To find a Christmas tree grower near you, and for more information from the Pennsylvania Christmas tree authority, visit www.christmastrees.org.

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