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**PENNSYLVANIA CHRISTMAS TREE GROWERS ASSOCIATION**  
**ANNOUNCES UPCOMING WINTER MEETING**

**HARRISBURG, PA-** The Pennsylvania Christmas Tree Growers Association (PCTGA) announces its upcoming winter meeting to be held on Thursday, January 17<sup>th</sup> and Friday, January 18<sup>th</sup> in Grantville, PA. Each year this annual meeting includes a variety of educational speakers from across the country, as well as a trade show, banquet and live auction.

The meeting kicks off on Wednesday, January 16<sup>th</sup> with a “Mix and Mingle” at the Holiday Inn-Grantville for members to visit with each other and relax after the busy Christmas season. All-day educational sessions begin on Thursday, January 17<sup>th</sup> with a welcome given by PCTGA President, Ron Mancabelli. Thursday’s keynote speaker is Dr. Eric Hinesley, North Carolina State University, who will speak on *“Christmas Tree Postharvest Physiology & Handling”* and *“Shearing of Firs.”* In addition, the following individuals will speak on Thursday- Vince Phillips, Phillips & Associates and Don Abraczinskas, Abraczinskas Nursery on *“PCTGA Legislative Efforts and Effects;”* Drew Yenser regarding NCTA and PCTGA Websites; and Tom Saunders, Saunders Brothers, Inc. on *“Christmas Wreath Making – A New Approach.”* Thursday night will include a reception, dinner, awards presentation, entertainment, and dessert in the vendor area.

Friday, January 18<sup>th</sup> will feature sessions by a number of experts in the field, as well as a membership meeting and live auction. Phil Civello, Misty Run Tree Farm and Craig Weidensaul, Tannenbaum Farms, are holding a session where new PCTGA members are invited to ask ‘seasoned’ members questions about Christmas tree farming, running the business, marketing, or anything else; and *“Conifer Research Roundup”* with Dr. Rick Bates, Penn State University, will provide an overview and update of relevant state, national and international conifer research projects. Additional sessions, *“Phytophthora of Fir: Just add Water and Stir”* with Dennis Fulbright, Michigan State University; Bill Featherolf of Pioneer Evergreen Farm; *“Evaluating your Herbicide Program”* with Tracey Harpster, Penn State University; *“Christmas Tree Pests from A to Z”* with Rayanne Lehman, Retired PDA Entomologist; and *“The Basics of Employer Requirements under Minimum Wage and Child Labor*

Laws” from John J. Bell, PA Farm Bureau, will be available on Friday. The meeting will adjourn at 4:00 pm on Friday.

Registration for the upcoming winter meeting is available at [www.christmastrees.org](http://www.christmastrees.org) or by calling PCTGA headquarters at (800) PCTGA-42. It must be postmarked on or before January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2007 to receive a discounted price. Members of neighboring associations are invited to register at PCTGA member rates. A reduced rate is also offered for children and retired growers. Don't miss out!

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. 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](http://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](http://www.christmastrees.org).

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