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PENNSYLVANIA CHRISTMAS TREE GROWER TO SUPPLY 2006 WHITE HOUSE TREE

HARRISBURG, PA- Pennsylvania Christmas tree grower and Pennsylvania Christmas Tree Growers Association (PCTGA) member was selected to provide the White House tree for the 2006 holiday season. Crystal Spring Tree Farm, owned and operated by Francis and Margaret Botek of Lehighton, regionally qualified to compete at the national level after placing first in the Douglas-fir competition in the PCTGA tree contest held at the PA Farm Show, Harrisburg, PA, in January 2006. The Botek's won national honors with a Douglas-fir Christmas tree this summer at the National Christmas Tree Association (NCTA) contest.

As Grand Champion Christmas Tree growers, the Botek family presented a 21-foot Douglas fir to First Lady Laura Bush on Monday, November 27th. The tree was chosen in October by White House officials, including one official who has had a hand in selecting every National Tree since former President Lyndon Johnson initiated the program in 1964.

Crystal Spring Tree Farm is a family-run operation located in Carbon County. Started in 1964, the farm has grown to more than 200 acres and produces approximately 15 species of trees. The farm offers Choose & Cut Christmas Trees, as well as wholesale trees and wreaths. The Botek's are the fifth Pennsylvania grower to present a Christmas tree to the White House for display in the Blue Room. Margaret Botek agrees that the chosen Douglas fir is exactly the tree she would have picked. "I fell in love with the taper," she states.

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. PCTGA belongs to the National Christmas Tree Growers Association (NCTA), an association with more than 5,100 professionals. 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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