



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

PENNSYLVANIA CHRISTMAS TREE GROWERS ASSOCIATION
HELD ANNUAL SUMMER MEETING

The Pennsylvania Christmas Tree Growers Association (PCTGA) held its summer meeting on Friday, August 11th and Saturday, August 12th at Elizabeth Farms in Lititz, PA. This annual meeting included many informative speakers, a trade show and product demonstrations given by vendors.

The meeting began on Friday, August 11th at the Lantern Lodge in Myerstown with a welcome given by PCTGA President, Wayne Bizup. Sessions started at 8:30 am at Elizabeth Farms where attendees participated in rotating sessions. They had the opportunity to watch and learn as Larry Kuhns of Penn State University conducted further testing of Westar to evaluate the risk of injury to Douglas fir grown in Pennsylvania. The use of multiple applications of low rates of glyphosate, and pre-emergence herbicides were included as one of the treatments.

Jim Sellmer of Penn State University covered ways to work with the soil found on Elizabeth Farms, as well as many others. Attendees watched as Rick Bates of Penn State University gave a grow bag demonstration showing the latest use of 'grow bags' and how they can be used to increase your farm's efficiency and bottom line. Dale Rutherford of Hort Assist touched on how to deal with a pesticide spill. This station covered what to do in case of a pesticide spill – the proper way to appropriately clean up to avoid damage and long-term problems.

Sandy Gardosic of the PA Department of Agriculture gave a hands-on pest walk that focused on identifying predominant insect pests found on-site. Randy Ross, manager of Elizabeth Farms, lead a talk on farm operations. Vendor visitation and equipment demonstration were available during the day, as well as a wagon ride throughout the farm. The annual banquet, held Friday night, featured Rick Morris of Smith & Haroff, Inc. This marketing firm for the National Christmas Tree Association (NCTA) has been working to develop market expansion for the Christmas tree industry.

After the membership meeting held on Saturday morning, Fred McKillop of McKillop Associates spoke on PCTGA Legislative Efforts and the latest news and how growers can

become involved to help the process. Jim Harvey of the PA Office of Rural Health spoke on meeting the worker protection standard and getting the most from your personal protective equipment. The meeting was concluded on Saturday at noon as Gardosic covered ways to prevent and control Cryptomeria and Elongate Hemlock Scale.

PCTGA's next meeting will be held January 18th and 19th, 2007 at the Holiday Inn, Granville, PA. Registration will be available at 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 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.