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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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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 18th and Friday, January 19th in Grantville, PA. Each year this annual meeting includes a variety of educational speakers from across the country, as well as a trade show and banquet.

The meeting begins on Thursday, January 18th at the Holiday Inn-Grantville with a welcome given by PCTGA President, Wayne Bizup. Sessions start at 9:00 am and conclude at 4:30 pm. Thursday's keynote speaker is top authority in Christmas tree nutrition and Canaan fir- Dr. Randall Heiligmann, Ohio State University. Attendees will also hear from Dr. Mike Young, Michael Young Strategic Research, speaking on PCTGA's recently held focus groups; and from Vince Phillips, Phillips & Associates; Don Abraczinskas, Abraczinskas Nurseries; and Dr. Ricky Bates, Penn State University, updating members on industry legislation and research. The annual banquet, held on Thursday night, features an awards ceremony, trade show, and presenter Drew Yenser of Yenser's Tree Farm, giving the National Christmas Tree Association (NCTA) update.

Friday, January 19th will feature a number of experts in the field- Duane Berkey of Berkey's Nursery speaking on *Successfully Growing Fraser Fir; New & Overlooked Conifers that Merit Attention* presented by Bates; Dr. Kathleen Kelley, Penn State University on *What*

You Need to know to Make Your Website “User-Friendly”; the topic of *How to Improve Profitability for Choose & Cut Operations* by Phil Civello, Misty Run Tree Farm; Marty Hozak speaking on his farm operation at Hozak Farms; *What You Need to Know about Spray Adjuvants* by Bob Pollock, Penn State Cooperative Extension, Indiana County; and *The Power of Networking* presented by Linda Farrell of Blue Heron Consulting & Honeysuckle Hill Farms. The trade show is also open on Friday morning for attendees. The meeting will adjourn at 4:00 pm on Friday.

Registration for the upcoming winter meeting is available at www.christmastrees.org or by calling PCTGA headquarters at (800) PCTGA-42. It must be postmarked on or before January 4th, 2007 to receive a discounted price. Members of neighboring associations are invited to register at PCTGA member rates. This year 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. 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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