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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 22nd and Friday, January 23rd 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 21st 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 22nd with a welcome given by PCTGA President, Phil Civello.

Thursday’s first speaker is Dr. Barry Flinn, Institute for Sustainable and Renewable Resources, and he will speak on “Somatic Embryogenesis of Korean Fir for Lowland Christmas/Ornamental Tree Production.” In addition, the following individuals will speak on Thursday- Eric Sundback, Sundback Tree Farms, “Genetics, Pruning and Lipstick: Revitalizing the Christmas Tree Market;” Dr. Rick Bates, Penn State University, “Christmas Trees and the Carbon Market;” “Christmas Tree Checkoff: Ask Questions, See Video, Be Informed” by Drew Yenser, PA National Director & Member of the NCTA Christmas Tree Checkoff Study Committee; and Bob Neiderer of PA AgMap. Thursday night will include a reception, dinner, awards presentation, entertainment, and dessert in the vendor area.

After a business meeting on Friday, January 22nd sessions will feature a number of experts in the field, as well as a membership meeting and live auction. Jan Strem of Specialty Fertilizer Products will be speaking on “Enhancing the Efficiency of N and P Fertilizers.” After a quick break, concurrent sessions will be held and consist of “My Christmas Tree Bloopers” featuring father and son team, Mark and Norman McCurdy of McCurdy’s Tree Farm; Michael and Walter Swiderski, Ponderosa Wreaths and Trees; and John Roba, Roba Family Farms will tell attendees about his Indiana County based wholesale, choose & cut, and retail operation. After lunch, category and core credits will be offered for

the session by Tracy Harpster of Penn State University. Additionally, Lee R. Stover of Penn State University will speak on "Chain Saw Safety" and Clifton R. Guise and Craig A. Hatch of Gates, Halbruner & Hatch will educate attendees on "Planning for the Future of Your Business: The Consequences of Death and Taxes." 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 7th, 2009 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. 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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