



4305 N. Sixth Street, Suite A, Harrisburg, PA 17110, [www.christmastrees.org](http://www.christmastrees.org)

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For Immediate Release (Photos available upon request)

Contact: Stacy Zimmerman, Communications Director  
717-238-9765, [communications@christmastrees.org](mailto:communications@christmastrees.org)

## **2013 Champion Christmas Trees Named By PCTGA**

HARRISBURG, PA – The Pennsylvania Christmas Tree Growers Association (PCTGA) recently announced the winners of the 2013 tree contest. The entries were displayed at the 2013 Farm Show where the thousands of visitors who attended that event voted for their favorite tree. The trees were also displayed at the organization’s winter meeting.

The Grand Champion was a Fraser Fir grown by Tom & Audrey Balthaser of Perry Valley Tree Farm in Millerstown. The Reserve Grand Champion this year was a Colorado Blue Spruce grown by Brad Berkey of Berkey’s Nursery in Spartansburg. Awards were presented to both farms at the PCTGA winter meeting held in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

The Christmas tree display is the only commodity at the Farm Show where the public gets to choose the Grand Champion and Reserve Champion, after selections are made by professional judges. It has been a popular activity for visitors since the Pennsylvania Christmas Tree Growers initiated the practice in 1997. The winners have the opportunity to compete at the national level through the National Christmas Tree Association (NCTA). The winner from the NCTA competition then provides the Christmas tree to the first family at the White House that year.

Trees in the competition must have been grown in Pennsylvania on land owned and operated by the exhibitor and must be within six to eight feet. Trees may be either naturally grown or sheared and shaped by the exhibitor. This was the first year that tabletop trees were a part of the competition. These trees also must have been grown in Pennsylvania on land owned and operated by the exhibitor and tabletop - cut trees must be 36” maximum height and tabletop - containerized trees must be 30” maximum height from soil line to top of tip.

For more information, contact the PCTGA office at 717-238-9765 or via e-mail at [communications@christmastrees.org](mailto:communications@christmastrees.org). You can also visit the organization’s website at [www.christmastrees.org](http://www.christmastrees.org) for general information about the association, its members, and Christmas trees.

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