



16020 Swingley Ridge
Rd., Suite 300
Chesterfield, MO 63017
Phone: 636/449-5071 / Fax: 636/449-5051
E-mail: dungey@realchristmastrees.org
Website: www.realchristmastrees.org
Contact: Rick Dungey
Telephone: 636/449-5071

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dennis Tompkins Receives Outstanding Service Award

August 17, 2012 (CHESTERFIELD, Mo.) – The National Christmas Tree Association (NCTA) recently awarded the Outstanding Service Award to Dennis Tompkins during the association's Annual Convention & Trade Show. Tompkins, who hails from Bonney Lake, Wash., was presented with the award at the Closing Banquet held Aug. 10 in Sacramento, Calif.

First created in 2002, the Outstanding Service Award is given to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the Real Christmas Tree industry over the course of many years, and is one of the highest honors that NCTA bestows upon individuals.

"Dennis has touched many lives in the Christmas Tree industry," said Bob Schaefer, a grower from Oregon who presented the award to Tompkins. "Working with many Christmas tree growers over the years, he has been an instructor at various tree root disease workshops as well as a valued member of the Pacific Northwest Christmas Tree Association for more than 35 years. I'm confident in saying that many growers are better at their business because of working with Dennis."

In addition to his many years in the Christmas Tree business, Tompkins is a Certified Arborist, urban forester and Washington State University Master Gardener. He has been certified by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) and received the 2007 "Arborist of the Year" award from the Pacific Northwest Chapter of the ISA. He served as editor of the *Christmas Tree Lookout* magazine, published by the Pacific Northwest Christmas Tree Association from 1985 through 1990, when he then took over the job as editor of the NCTA's *American Christmas Tree Journal* through 2008. He is a nationally known speaker and spokesman for the Christmas Tree industry.

Past Recipients of NCTA's Outstanding Service Award include:

- Chuck Wright of Kansas
- Bill Murray of Georgia
- Ellis Schmidt of Pennsylvania
- Doug Kell, Sr. of Maine
- Katherine Humphrey of New York
- Pat Gaskin of North Carolina
- Dr. Gary Chastagner of Washington
- Dr. James Brown of Ohio



High Res photos available upon request.

###

ABOUT NCTA

The National Christmas Tree Association (NCTA) is the national trade association representing the farm-grown Christmas tree industry. NCTA represents more than 700 active member farms, 29 state and regional associations, and more than 4,000 affiliated small and family businesses that grow and sell Christmas trees and provide related supplies and services. It is estimated that those affiliated with the NCTA produce roughly three-quarters of the farm-raised Christmas trees in the United States. To learn more about the NCTA, visit www.realchristmastrees.org, or call 636/449.5070.