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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **White House Christmas Tree Already Selected**

Chesterfield, MO - (September 30, 2014) – Crystal Spring Tree Farm in Lehighton, PA has already had their first visitors searching for a special Christmas Tree. Angela Reid, White House Usher, along with White House Superintendent of Grounds Dale Haney and Jim Adams with the National Park Service visited the farm owned by Chris Botek on September 24, 2014 and selected a Concolor Fir to be used in the White House Blue Room this coming holiday season. Haney said, "It just says Christmas all over it. To be able to come up here and find a Concolor fir that's twenty feet tall, it's really an unusual tree to find this tall, and to be able to bring it into the White House is spectacular."

The White House staff were at Botek's farm because he had won the National Christmas Tree Association's (NCTA) National Christmas Tree Contest held in July 2014 in Allegan, MI and became Grand Champion. This is the third time Crystal Spring Tree Farm has won the National Contest. They were Grand Champions in 2006 and 2011 as well as this year. "An honor like this rarely happens once in a lifetime, but to have it three times is truly a blessing," said Botek. Crystal Spring Tree Farm is the only farm in Pennsylvania to ever present a White House Christmas Tree three times.

Christmas Trees have been in the Botek family for nearly 75 years when they began selling them at a small family run grocery store. In 1964, Francis and Margaret Botek bought about 25 acres of land and began growing Christmas Trees. The farm, now run by Francis and Margret's son, Chris, is nearly 200 acres and provides about 15 varieties of Christmas Trees. The Botek family is looking forward to celebrating their farm's 50th Anniversary in conjunction with being Grand Champion this year.

*(White House Staff Select Christmas Trees, page 2)*

“A fresh, farm-grown Christmas tree is a great tradition in our country, and we Christmas Tree farmers love this 38 year tradition,” said Blake Rafeld, NCTA president and a Christmas Tree grower from Ashland, OH. “You have to be really good at your craft to win this contest and the Botek’s have proven their mettle three times now.”

Members of the National Christmas Tree Association have presented the official White House Christmas Tree for display in the Blue Room since 1966. For Real Christmas Tree selection and care tips, or to find a Christmas Tree farm or lot in your area, visit [www.realchristmastrees.org](http://www.realchristmastrees.org).

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## **ABOUT NCTA**

### **About the National Christmas Tree Association (NCTA)**

The National Christmas Tree Association is the national trade association representing the farm-grown Christmas Tree industry. NCTA represents 600 active member farms, 29 state and regional associations, and 4,000 affiliated businesses that grow and sell Christmas Trees or 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, visit [www.realchristmastrees.org](http://www.realchristmastrees.org) or call 636/449-5071.