



2007 Capitol Tree Committee, Chaffee Art Center



News Release

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Chaffee Art Museum selects winning painting of Capitol Christmas Tree

RUTLAND, Vermont (Oct. 10, 2007) – The Chaffee Art Museum has chosen the winning artist's rendition of the 2007 Capitol Christmas Tree, "Majesty in the Forest" by Ann McFarren, a noted landscape painter and full time artist who teaches and paints in her studio on Terrill Street in Rutland.

Artist members of the Chaffee Art Center were invited to respond to the essence of Vermont and the majesty of this particular tree by submitting a painting, in oils, with the understanding that one painting would be chosen to hang in the Office of the Chief of the United States Forest Service in Washington D.C. Last month a jury met and selected the winning painting.

"All the paintings were wonderful. The winning painting really depicted the theme of an old fashioned holiday," said jurist Melissa Reichert.

All paintings submitted in this process will be exhibited at the Chaffee Art Center in Rutland for October and November of 2007 alongside a traveling exhibition, "Inspirations from the Forest", produced by the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage in conjunction with the U.S. Forest Service and the National Endowment for the Arts. Ornaments from Vermont that will adorn the tree will also be exhibited. The show opens on Friday, Oct. 26, with an opening reception from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

The state of Vermont was selected this year to provide the Nation's Christmas Tree, known as the "People's Tree" which will be displayed in front of the Capitol building in Washington D.C. Every year National Forests from around the country send nominations for their forest to provide the capital tree. Because the Green Mountain National Forest is celebrating 75 years of caring for the land and serving people, and because of the outstanding state-wide support for providing the Capitol Christmas Tree, the Green Mountain National Forest was selected and honored to provide this gift.

The majestic balsam fir chosen was carefully managed and groomed for 26 years by foresters Jim White, Jenny Kimberly and Frank Thompson in anticipation of this honor. With their help, this tree prevailed against ice storms, ice flows, beaver dams as well as pine cone and insect infestations. The tree will be cut on Nov. 16 and will be escorted by a caravan of trucks as it makes its way to Washington.

For more information on the 2007 Capitol Tree please visit the website at <http://www.capitolchristmastree2007.org/> and for more information on the exhibit please visit the