

Ga. C.T.G.A. Trees for Troops

2008 RECAP - 692 donated by Georgia Christmas Tree Association members

Fed Ex deliveries

7 G's Farm pick up point 100

Chuck Berry, Walter Lee, Chick Dillard, Walter Beck, 3-D Farm, 7 G's Farm

Mrs. B.B. Coker, Perry DeWeese

G. Hunter pick up point - 150

Gordon Hunter, Andy Kinsey, Dennis Bottom

M. Brumby Farm pick up point -150

Mike Brumby, Bill Murray

E. Worthington Farm pick up point -160

Earl Worthington, Coy Dillahunty, Jim Butler, Rob Petrey, Bob Slaughter

Thomas Aiken, James R. Smith, Gordon Hunter, James Wilson, Rick Palmer

John Busbin, Alan Grant, Gordon Brown, Russ Jordan

Non Fed Ex deliveries

National Guard at 7 G's - 52

Navy Supply Corp School at 7 G's - 40

Local service personnel pick up at 7 G's - 8

Fort Gordon direct deliveries by Mathew Gay 4 and Blaine Carter 10

Fort Stewart direct deliveries by Dewayne. Herrin 6 and Paschal Brewer 12

2009 Trees for Troops planning

Fed Ex pick up points - 4 approved for this year

I would like to keep the same pick up points that we used last year, again this year. It will be easier for Fed Ex drivers to find as well as keeping correspondence with Christmas Spirit Foundation the same. Let me know if there is a problem with this.

Please utilize www.realtrees4troops.org website to gain all information needed to get your supplies: Banners / special donation buckets / collection aprons- they do come at a cost. Banner's need to be ordered early, as they run out quick.

I will print out information sheets regarding posters, advertising suggestions, a universal Public Service Announcement, tax receipts for your customers and send them out to all that sign up, please be prepared to respond to e-mails that I will be sending out prior to the fall meeting at David Ridgeway's Farm. We will have more discussion at that meeting. Once sign up is complete I will send my list to CSF and they will send me tags for distribution, hopefully by early Nov. I will then send posters and tags to your individual farms.

As usual we will not have Fed Ex pick up dates available until this last moment, I believe I did not have this info until mid-November last year. Please be patient, I will get this info to you as soon as I have it. Hopefully it will again be on a Monday or Tuesday morning 9 a.m. for Fed Ex arrival. Please plan ahead to get your trees to the appropriate location, go ahead and bring them early if possible. Go ahead and attach the tag inside your baled 7' tree if possible. The reason for the 7' request is due to base housing constraints. It will also help maximize the amount of trees that can be placed on the 28' trailer used by Fed Ex.

For major contributors that utilize sponsorship programs, there is another program that may or may not be available to use. It is called the Trailer Drop program, where Fed Ex will drop a trailer at your location for the Trees for Troops weekend. It requires an early sign up and an upfront fee, which includes banner, poster, donation bucket, advertising info, tax receipts and other goodies. I believe the fee this year is \$199. You are also required to donate \$5 per tree sponsored to Christmas Spirit Foundation. With all that said, unless one of last year's drop locations decides not to participate a slot may not be available in this program. The only advantage to using this program would be to guarantee a pick up date after the Trees for Troops Weekend. Let me know if you are interested and I will get you on the waiting list with Christmas Spirit foundation.

There are also other ways to participate in the program rather than deliver trees to pick up points that may be more appealing to you.

Look around your home town, I'll bet that you have local men and women who may be active military personnel deployed overseas. We had 8 in our area that we made donations to the families. All I need is for you to let me know to get them added to our state count.

There may be a National Guard Unit in your area that you would like to help out; we just had a unit from Winder that deployed in April of this year. We are going to help them out again this year.

Please call on me if you have questions you need answered on how to work within this program. These men and women are giving you and me the chance to grow our trees in a safe environment. Let's give them a ray of sunshine showing our support during the Christmas Season.

Greg N. Smith / 7 G's Farm www.7gsfarm.com