

For Immediate Release

Los Gatos, Santa Clara County, CA Cutting Your Own Christmas Tree PATCHEN California Expands Green Portfolio

The **PATCHEN** California Christmas Tree Farms have expanded their recycling operation by including two locations in the Santa Cruz Mountains where anyone can drop off discarded **REAL** Christmas trees, **FAKE** Christmas trees, or tree lights & ornaments.

Since 1969, **PATCHEN** has pioneered a cultural practice that "reuses" the tree stumps. Owner Jim Beck explains how to cut trees, leaving a whorl of branches on the stump. *"This keeps the root system alive so it can grow another tree, ready to harvest in five to eight years."*

Beck maintains a succession of trees at different stages of growth. *"It is even more than tree preservation. If we were to clear-cut an area, the next big storm would wash away the topsoil, not to mention the lost animal habitat."*

The farms' sustainable practices include:

- * Wood chips replace herbicide for weed control and conserves soil moisture
- * Integrated Pest Management:
 - Trapping gophers (no poison)
 - Keeping trees healthy and resistant to insects
 - Redirecting deer migration paths
- * Natural fertilizers such as manure and composted garden waste
- * No artificial heating in the farm buildings
- * LED lights reduce energy usage
- * Repairing and recycling tools for decades of reuse
- * Newly planted seedlings are hand-irrigated to conserve water
- * Stump-culture generates new trees from old stumps
- * Recycling of:
 - Tree branches for mulch
 - Cups, bottles and cans left by customers
 - Christmas trees (REAL or FAKE)
 - Christmas lights, ornaments, etc.
 - Abandoned Kids & Pets recycled as Elves & Reindeer

Since 1969, **PATCHEN** - named for the historic 19th century town - has been enjoyed by thousands of families for annual nostalgic trips to the forest to cut Christmas trees. Beck says that many families have surpassed their 30-year anniversaries as customers and some families now bring their third generation to visit. According to Beck, *"although most come to cut trees, some just come for our famous handmade wreaths or just to enjoy a picnic at one of many picnic sites among the trees. We invite returning guests to come year-around for a picnic or just to walk in the trees."*

Contact:

Jim Beck, Owner (Jim@PatchenCalifornia.com)
PATCHEN California
22217 Old Santa Cruz Hwy
Los Gatos, CA 95033
www.PatchenCalifornia.com ~ Hi-Rez Images