

Fall has arrived quickly in our first year as “owner/operators” of Redrock Farm. We’re proud to be able to continue shipping Redrock’s quality premium balsam fir trees and wreaths. This year my dad Walt will be our “helper” as we reverse the roles of the past. Steph and I hope to grow the farm while continuing the personal touches that my Mom, Dad, and Jean established as the Redrock way. We thank them for selling to us and passing on such a beautiful farm!

We had a busy summer taking care of our trees. Tree work included weeding, mowing, fertilizing, shearing, basal pruning, and often, admiring our work and the beauty of our trees.

Steph and I are now feeling almost completely settled in Chelsea after 20+ years in the Navy.

Growing season We had wonderful weather and plenty of rain for tree growth this year. The only noted damage to just a few trees was burning of early buds when it got too warm a few days in May.

The farm keeps growing Mail order sales of both trees and wreaths have increased every year since the inception of shipping trees in 1992. We hope to continue that trend and welcome your input on ways to improve our service, ideas to increase our sales, and on other balsam products we might offer.

Our trees and wreaths win awards A Redrock balsam fir and Steph’s decorated balsam wreath were awarded blue ribbons at the Champlain Valley Exposition and Fair, Vermont’s largest. At the Eastern State Exposition (Big E - New England’s Fair) we had 2003 Vermont champion fir and spruce, plus Vermont champion decorated wreath. Tunbridge World’s Fair produced a 1st place spruce and a 2nd place fir, along with 2nd’s in decorated and undecorated wreath categories.

Our first tree shipment Our first shipment this year was to the California Adlers in late July for a Christmas in August party.

Our trees float Ten of our premium balsam firs went on the inaugural cruise of the Norwegian Dawn from New York last Christmas.

Visit Please plan a trip to Vermont and our farm sometime. You can pick your tree in advance!

General things We leave an 8 inch handle on the bottom of our USDA premium grade trees for ease of putting in a tree stand, and an 8-10 inch top, or leader, which matches the taper of the tree. Shortening of either can increase the “bulk” of the tree. Let us know if you wish to do that.

Our trees are inspected by an entomologist from the Vermont Department of Agriculture prior to the shipping season.

Shipping Our trees and wreaths will be delivered by Federal Express Ground Home Delivery again this year. There were delivery problems in a few areas last year, but we and FedEx are aware of those and will try to improve.

Please remember that the holiday season is FedEx's busiest time of the year and they try hard to meet their published timelines, but weather and too many boxes sometimes intervene. When you schedule your tree remember that the order form says “delivery about.” If you must have your tree on a specific day or time period during a day, we can arrange that for a few extra shipping dollars.

We can also ship by UPS for a few dollars more. Please call or e-mail us if you wish special shipping options.

We will start shipping wreaths on November 10th and trees on November 17th for those customers who desire delivery prior to Thanksgiving weekend. FedEx doesn’t deliver Thursday-Saturday of Thanksgiving weekend.

Ordering Please note and pass on that our web site (www.christmastrees.net) now has a secure shopping cart for ordering on line if you wish. However, we still love getting orders on the enclosed form with a check included, or by phone or e-mail. We especially like to receive pictures of your decorated tree and related stories and any family news.

Note that you can package a 6-7 foot tree and wreath at a \$3 savings.

An order of six or more wreaths to the same address can be shipped in a bulk box and we will pass the shipping savings on to you.

WE SEND OUR HEARTFELT BEST WISHES FOR THE UPCOMING HOLIDAY SEASON!

Rich and Steph Rockwood