

REDROCK FARM NEWS - October 2004

We've had a wonderful year at Redrock Farm. This past summer we were blessed with cool temperatures and more than adequate rain, which has produced awesome Christmas trees.

NEW THINGS:

FRASER FIR: This year we'll offer a 6-7 foot premium Fraser fir. Fraser's don't have the quite the fragrance of balsam fir, but have better needle retention and stronger branches. Because of large lower branches, we have to pick and choose which ones are boxable. We'll have a limited quantity to ship this year, only about 150 total, so please order early.

8.5 TO 9 FOOT TREES: We've ordered the equipment and boxes to ship 8-9 foot premium balsam firs. FEDEX will deliver them in the OS3 category, which means they'll cost an extra \$30 per tree for delivery. These big trees will also have a weight limit of 70 pounds, so we will not be able to ship very dense trees; they will generally be slimmer, but still gorgeous. At a total cost of \$120-\$140 delivered, we're wondering how many people will switch to a larger tree. This year we'll have less than 100 of these large trees to ship, so please order early!

GARLAND: Steph will make balsam fir garland to order for \$1.50 a foot. This is another of those "please order in advance" items.

COMMEMORATIVE ORNAMENT: We're offering a beautiful pewter ornament (both sides shown above) depicting our farm logo. The ornament was designed with the help of Vermont's Danforth Pewterers and will hopefully be the first of an annual series.

WREATHS will be the same high-quality double-faced type we've shipped for several years. If you need a special bow or decorations please call and we'll fix you up.

BRAGGING! We had a double Best in Show at the Vermont Farm Show with a seven foot balsam fir and Steph's decorated wreath. Both were judged excellent, class winners and Best in Show. Because of this win, the Governor of Vermont will come to Redrock Farm to get his Christmas tree. We collected three blue ribbons at the Champlain Valley Exposition for a 6.5 foot balsam fir, a tabletop balsam, and another of Steph's decorated wreaths. One of our white spruces took a blue ribbon at Tunbridge World's Fair. And, we had the Vermont state champion tree and wreath at the Eastern States Exposition. All are affirmation that our trees are premium and that we're doing things right.

ORDERING: We take orders by phone toll free 866-685-4343, by mail with the enclosed order form, and by email at redrock.farm@direcway.com. But we prefer that people use our secure web site which helps us keep better records and takes less time for us during our busy season. Remember that our trees and wreaths make excellent gifts and that we can add a gift card with your words on it.

HISTORY PAST AND PRESENT: This will be Redrock Farm's thirteenth year of shipping trees by mail order, one of the oldest in the business. We remain a family farm with Steph and I doing all the pest and weed control, mowing, basal pruning, shearing, and fertilizing work during the year, and with Dad Walt and various other family members helping during the shipping season. Some of our fields are in their fourth generation of Christmas trees, but we clear a little more land every year. Last year we planted more than 2000 new trees, and next spring we'll come close to planting 2500.

On September 25th we hosted the fall meeting of the New Hampshire Vermont Christmas Tree Association, with nearly 150 members attending. Steph pleased all with a Memphis barbecue lunch..

Steph will be representing Vermont Farms and Redrock at the Epcot Food and Wine Festival in Orlando, Florida from October 9 to October 14. She will be performing wreath-making demonstrations and promoting Vermont products.

We again extend an open invitation for all to come and visit the farm; it's truly a beautiful place.

We hope that your upcoming holidays are filled with family, peace, and joy!
Rich and Steph Rockwood