

## Greetings From Evergreen Farm!

We are pleased to see you again! We hope all is well with you and your families.

We have continued to work hard to make your visit more enjoyable. We have removed more rocks (they seem to grow here). We feel that our mowing of the plantation is the best ever, which allows the base of the trees room to grow and you to get about with ease. We have changed our method of shearing on some species, and, although this requires more hand shearing with a hand pruner, it should result in a more natural looking tree in future years. We continue to plant thousands of trees each year, hoping that our supply will meet the growing demand. We would like to have enough fine trees for cutting right up to December 24<sup>th</sup>. Our fertilizing and liming efforts along with timely rain fall, have helped to give the trees extra growth this year.

We have to say that the wildlife at Evergreen Farm continues to amaze and delight us (with the exception of the deer bashing and eating some of the firs). The highlight of this year was the flocks of turkeys who seem to flourish here (as many as 21 were seen at one time). We observed a ruffed grouse on a nest who hatched ten “grouselets”. Bluebirds, tree swallows, cedar waxwings, flickers, red and gray squirrels and pesky chipmunks were plentiful, along with robins, chickadees, sparrows and titmice. Our efforts to encourage a diverse ecosystem while growing Christmas trees seems to work!

You must have noticed the white birches throughout the plantation. There were sufficient seed trees back in 1979 when we began clearing for the Christmas trees. White birch (*Betula papyrifera*) grows well in full sunlight, which is what we helped to provide. New seedlings were left to grow, and voila – white birches everywhere, to the point where we have had to remove some because of their concentration.

In the words of Robert Frost from his poem, “A Young Birch”:

“It was a thing of beauty and was sent  
To live its life out as an ornament.”

And we think you will all agree, they are beautiful.

We wish to thank you for your business. As local agriculture is dependent on your financial support, your purchases encourage us to keep this patch of open space “evergreen”. Merry Christmas from all of us.

- Bill and Julie