

### Better Late than Never!

Due to demand from our loyal readers (both of them!), we have finally created our annual newsletter for 2015. Only, since it is so late, we are calling it the Winter 2015-2016 newsletter!

Normally in these newsletters we discuss the challenges and accomplishments of the farm, as well as highlight the wildlife and other environmental happenings on the property. But this year, we are going to begin the first in an occasional series about “the people behind the trees”.

As most of you know, Bill and Julie Gauld began clearing the land at 155 Kendall Hill Road and planting trees in the spring of 1979. In 1985, they sold their first trees – about fifty in all - to the public. As the size of the farm increased, it became more difficult for the two of them to take care of the plantations and provide the type of customer service they had envisioned. And that is when one of the traditions of which we are most proud began...

In the early 1980's Bill hired a local high school student on a part-time basis to help during the spring and summer months. And this student joined the family to help out during the sales season, as well. As sales increased, and the farm added additional services such as: 1) trimming each tree's lower branches and squaring off the trunk to make it easier to fit into a tree stand, 2) shaking leaves and other debris out of each tree, and 3) wrapping the tree up in netting for easier handling from the farm to the living room, it was obvious more help was needed.

Eventually, a crew of six was hired each Christmas season to help with tree trimming, shaking and baling. The farm has now hired approximately 170 young men **and** women (in fact, this past season there were a few days we had an all female crew for the first time!). Although the job can sometimes be tough, and the weather can be cold or rainy, and sometimes both, most seem to enjoy the experience. Many have stayed in touch with the farm through Facebook or other methods, and most gratifying to us, some return with their own families to continue their Christmas tradition.

Though we aren't sure how much credit we can claim, we are proud that we may have provided the first work experience for young adults that have gone on to become everything from conservationists to physicians to art investigators. So the next time you come see us at Evergreen Farm, make sure you say hello to “the crew”. After all, they may be the ones you'll be counting on some day!