

Year 2000 at Evergreen Farm

It doesn't seem possible that we have been working this land for 21 years! But in March 1979, Bill loaded up the pickup truck with a chain saw, lopping shears and other tools and went to work. Just before that, he had invited the state forester to meet him at the then uncleared driveway, and to give me his thoughts on my plans. At that time, the land across from our driveway was a large open field, and as he gazed upon it, he allowed that it looked suitable for Christmas trees. Bill told him he was looking in the wrong direction; to turn around and look at the woodland. The forester looked at him as if he were nuts and announced that after six weeks he would be ready to quit! Little did he know how stubborn and driven we Scotsmen can be! (Others might say mindless). Anyway, the rest, as the saying goes, is history.

Much time was spent this past year digging out rocks, filling the holes, and in general, trying to make your visit more enjoyable and less hazardous. We still have a long way to go, however, in rock removal. I do believe that this land, like much of New England, grows stone! Of course, the last ice age and glaciers did leave some choice boulders that will likely grace our plantations forever! My favorite boulder is up by the orchard lot in the farthest douglas fir plantation – take a look at that gem!

The growing season was excellent, what with all the seasonable rainfall. We have put in large numbers of fraser and concolor fir, since demand is very strong for them. Losses were relatively light because of the timely rainfall.

The wildlife on the farm continues to enrich us. Turkeys rule – check out the picture in the warming shed. There was a pair of adults with eleven chicks, ten of which grew to adult size by mid October. Deer visit regularly. Julie saw a coyote in daylight in September. A woodchuck has taken up residence near the back of the house. Bluebirds and tree swallows continue to prosper, and a screech owl “serenaded” us in October.

We thank you for coming, and may the blessings of the season be yours all year round.

Bill and Julie