

# Family Traditions

*It's the Saturday after Thanksgiving – my second most favorite day of the year. Today, the whole family loads up in the car and picks up our yearly Christmas tree. The adventure of picking out the perfect Christmas tree and tagging it actually took place about a month ago in October.*



Upon arriving at the tree farm we are excited to pick up our saw and tree cart. Then it's time to start the journey of remembering where our tree was (Mom is really good at remembering this). After finding our tree, we all take turns sawing it down. Sometimes people laugh at us when they hear us yelling "TIMBER" as it falls down, but hey . . . it's part of the fun.

Dad is in charge of putting the tree onto the cart and leading the way back to shop. The next stop is the tree shaker where the man makes our tree "dance" to get all the loose needles out. Then they put the tree into a net so we can tie it onto the roof of our car and not have it hanging over the sides. Finally, they drill a hole into the tree trunk so that Dad has an easier time putting it in our stand.

Now that the adventure of picking up our Christmas tree is done, we get to move on to my favorite part – ornaments! Each year Mom lets us pick out a new ornament to hang on the tree when we get home. This year we are at Kohl's Stony Hill Tree Farm and they have over 45,000 ornaments to choose from. Needless to say, it took us awhile! I always get my name and the year on mine to remind me about all the fun things we did. Mom and Grandma also spent some time looking through the shelves of craft items made by local crafters, and Dad and Grandpa checked out what has to be PA's largest collection of Christmas tree stands. There were over 450 tree stands from the late 1800's to new ones from all over the world.

Before we head home, we all take a stroll over to Kohl's barn where there are hundreds of handmade wreaths. The selection was huge

and I believe some of them were even bigger than me! I wandered to the back of the barn and found a pile of wreaths labeled "Wreaths for Warriors." Mom explained to me that each year Kohl's, along with help from the public, delivers them to various cemeteries in the area so that they can be placed on Veterans' grave sites.

It's time to head home now so that we can start decorating for Christmas. I'm really glad that my family started this annual tradition and I hope that it is one I can pass on to my own children someday.

## Where to Choose & Cut your own tree in Columbia & Montour Counties

### Ecology III Christmas Tree Farm

122 Savage Hill Road, Orangeville, PA 17859  
570-683-5275 • ecology3.com

*Choose & cut Christmas trees and wreaths. Real trees, traditions and memories.*

### Kohl's Stony Hill Tree Farm & Christmas Shoppe

3021 Mexico Road, Milton, PA 17847  
570-437-3442 • kohlsstonyhill.com

*Quality Christmas trees, wreaths, garlands, crafts, and over 50,000 ornaments.*

**Ad: pg. 58; Map: A8**

### Ponduce Farms

270 White Church Road, Elysburg, PA 17824  
570-799-5888 • ponducefarms.com

Farm Market • Restaurant • Banquet Hall  
Seasonal Produce • Christmas Trees

By Stan Kohl, Edited by Tracie Smith  
Photos provided by Kohl's Stony Hill Tree Farm