CELEBRATING OVER 75 YEARS

4661 Yale Bridge Rd. • Rockton, IL 61072
815-624-7579
www.williamstreefarm.com

WILLIAMS TREE FARM
Est. 1946
Rockton Ill.

Simple, quiet, full of peace; joy, blessings, love and priceless memories; that is our prayer for all of us this Christmas time. The world shouts and demands our attention, but peace and love whisper, asking us to still our heart and to focus on what truly matters. "For unto us a Child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulders. And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace!' Isaiah 9:6.

Some Christmas seasons feel like we need an over-the-top celebration. This season feels warm, welcoming, quiet, joyful, and reverent. Simplicity pulls at our hearts – hugs, cocoa, cozy blankets, family, friends, quiet reflection, the tiniest acts of love and kindness. Christmas has always been about giving, from the first gifts given by the Magi, to the mountains of toys and secrets that come with the anticipation of Christmas.

Our challenge is to not let the stuff overwhelm the meaning and relationships. To find our commonality, the things that draw us together. We truly are better together. May we all look for those times where we can sprinkle love and kindness, like shoveling snow for a neighbor, holding doors, looking people in the eye with a loving smile. Christmas is such an amazing time to look into our hearts and see where we can be better.

We at the farm want to give you the opportunity to find simple pleasures. Walking through the snow, listening to Christmas music, taking pictures, sipping warm beverages or warming by the toasty fire. Picking out wreaths or trees, enjoying some of our special events. You don't have to buy a tree, there is so much more, such as munching delicious fudge and nuts, try our new Praline Vanilla fudge! Yummy! Shopping for ornaments,(Merry Christmas is our keepsake ornament this year) visiting the animals, grabbing a wagon ride, playing games while you are here. How about a friendly game of volleyball, gaga ball or playing Christmas bingo. Also opportunities to give back and of different craft or games that you can take home. Find those on our tree farm map/handout. Our wish is that we all take time to savor the miracle that is Christmas. We wish you a fabulous Thanksgiving, a memory filled Christmas and truly Blessed New Year, celebrated with gratitude for all that we have. "To be rich in family and friends is to be poor in nothing" (author unknown) From our family to yours—may your hearts be filled with love and joy this season! We can't wait to see you at the farm.

Keep the Celebration Going, The 12 Days of Christmas After

Beyond Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, consider celebrating for the 12 days after Christmas, ending January 6th (Epiphany) - the day which signifies the three wise men arriving in Bethlehem, with gifts for baby Jesus. The Song 12 days of Christmas originated from this tradition. There are many ways to celebrate: giving small gifts each day or planning an activity, caroling, reading stories,visiting nursing homes, or lonely neighbors, fun dinners, the possibilities are endless. We hope you will consider adding this new/old tradition to continue to make priceless memories!

Helping Hands

Our Tree Farm Bake Sale is back Dec 13th and 14th, 10 am – 4 pm. This year, all proceeds go to our Helping Hands Charity Fund caring for local families as well as raising funds for some of our younger crew that are willing to travel to help those in need. Bake. Buy. Bless. Contact us if you would like to bake your favorite treats. Come shop for something sweet, or give directly to spread hope and joy this season.

CATCH THE WONDERFUL SPIRIT OF THE SEASON AT WILLIAMS TREE FARM!

OG Crew (Old Group) & Old Time Traditions

We are so blessed to call our crew our tree farm family. We're deeply grateful for each person. This place truly wouldn't be the same without them. Enjoy these photos of our team through the years. This season is extra special as we welcome back several familiar faces who weren't able to join us for a while. We can't wait to work side by side with everyone, some of those who have been with us for more than 30 years and those brand-new this year. Speaking about returning, we used to have old fashioned coin vending machines filled with trinkets and toys. Thanks to the Giamarese family who donated some vending machines to us, in honor of Nick Giamarese, we will have them again. We are grateful, and the profits from them will go to our Helping Hands charity fund! So the circle of life continues!

A Sweet Family Tradition: Cornflake Wreaths

Our daughter in love, Taylor, shared a tradition from her family. Growing up, her father and his siblings were given their own large cornflake wreath every Christmas from their grandmother. Later after Taylor was born and the families were growing, only one large wreath was made by Great Grandma and brought to their Christmas celebration to be enjoyed by all! To make: Melt ½ cup of butter in a sauce pan over low heat until melted, add 5 cups of mini marshmallows, stir until totally melted then mix in 1 tsp of green food coloring. Pour into a bowl with 6 cups of corn flakes. Stir well, till corn flakes are coated. Lay out parchment paper on the counter. Drop spoonfuls of mixture in a circle on paper. Coat your hands with butter. Careful the flakes are hot and sticky. You can shape the piles into one big wreath or by the spoonful into small individual wreaths. Once formed, decorate the wreath with cinnamon candy, get creative and use licorice stands to decorate as well. Enjoy!

2025 What a year!

We really have to go back into 2024 to bring you up to date. Mid December, with donations from you, our church Park City, Beloit Central, Edwards Apple Orchard East, Myra F., Northwoods Evergreen, friends and family we were able to trek to Swannanoa, NC to partner with Valley Hope Church to assist a community impacted by devastating floods from Hurricane Helene. We brought trees, wreaths, decorations, gifts, and food for meals. The community was so grateful and our crew worked so hard with such a great attitude! A huge thank you for your support and generosity. It was a challenging trip in processing the level and breadth of the destruction, but we are grateful that you joined in on the mission. 2025 arrived and how quickly the year has gone by. Christmas ordering right away, our daughters in love all stepped up to help with that this year. Next planning of fields and ordering of tree seedlings, and the never-ending winter projects and repairs. Lots of fun mixed in though – a water park, sledding, lots of birthdays and family celebrations, 9 grandkids keep us hopping. As spring approached we did field preparations, planting fields of trees, corn and soybeans. Storms, lots of storms, shed impacted, lightning to "help" us upgrade some electronics. Wild and woolly! As we headed into summer there is the big job of shearing aka shaping the trees. We once again held Outdoor Outreach Camp as well as something new, Camp Pine Tree, watch for info about 2026. This is a fun chance for kids to make the tree farm their classroom in the summer. Caring for the animals and mowing etc. are on going! Then the wonderful announcement of Laura and Gerry anticipating Grandparenthood, with their daughter Heather announcing her and Mike's baby expected in January. What a blessing! Then Brandon, son of Ron and Margaret, announced his engagement to Alyssa. Exciting times! We also will be adding to our doggy family with a golden pup named Oceans and a Leonberger puppy named Barnabus, which means "encourager" who will be arriving mid November. Now we are so excited to be preparing for your visit and Christmas!! We can't wait-lets make memories together.

Plan Now to Join Us for These Special Events

Date Night at the Tree Farm

Sunday, November 16th - 4:00 PM

Back by popular demand! Bring your sweetheart for a cozy evening at the farm. Enjoy a hayride, warm up by the fire, and savor simple, tasty snacks. The perfect way to relax before the holiday rush begins.

Santa's Workshop

November 16th -1:00 PM or
December 18 - 6:00 PM

Join in on Santa's Workshop, where Noelle (Santa's sister) and her merry crew help you create and take your very own Advent Calendar or Christmas craft and enjoy sweet treats while you create. Afterwards, Santa & Mrs Claus will join in to hang out and take pictures. A lighthearted, fun evening for all ages!

Cookie Decorating with the Santa & Christmas Crew

November 25th or
December 10th - 6:00 PM

Mrs. Claus, Noelle (Santa's sister), and the elves are whipping up some holiday magic! Decorate cookies with frosting and festive fixings while you sip something warm and cozy. Once the cookies are done, Santa and Mrs. Claus will be ready to visit and take pictures.

Deck the Porch - A Creative Night with Sips & Treats

December 4th or 9th - 6:00 PM

Get festive and design a beautiful porch pot to brighten up your holiday décor. While you create, enjoy delicious bites from the grazing table and sip your favorite drink. Good company, good food, and a touch of creativity!

Sip & Shine - Snowy Mason Jar Centerpieces

December 8th or 16th - 6:00 PM

Create three charming snowy luminaries using mason, faux snow, twine and a little sparkle. Add a tea light to bring a soft winter glow to your home. Be creative, have fun and enjoy some delightful finger food while sipping the beverage of your choice

Family Adventure Night

Friday, December 12th - 6:00 PM

Bring the family for a magical night under the stars! Take a hayride to the bonfire, roast hot dogs and s'mores, and make lasting memories together. Then hop back on the hayride for a ride back to the lodge.

Watch for Pop Ups! (surprise activities) For updates, check our website and Facebook page, or contact us at williamstreefarm@gmail.com.

For more info and to book your spot, visit www.williamstreefarm.com.

Celebrate

Nov. 15th is Ron's 73rd birthday, so free cookies that day to Celebrate! If we have snow this year, how about making snow angles or building a snowman, or maybe even a good old fashion snowball fight! Celebrate simple pleasures! Enjoy a stop by the cabin or pause in the Waterfall Garden. Joy is one of many gifts of Christmas. Choose Joy!

ROCKTON CHRISTMAS WALK

A GREAT SMALL TOWN FAMILY EVENT

CALL FOR MORE DETAILS 815-624-7625

~ DECEMBER 5, 6, & 7, 2025 ~

Story Time

Come visit the farm, get cozy by the fire and listen to some Christmas stories. Times are Nov. 21st, Dec. 12th, & 19th at 1:00 pm and 6:00 pm. Snacks and drinks will be available for purchase.

Timber Tips:

A battery operated sawzall with pruning blade is a great tool for cutting down your tree. Water, water, water to keep it fresh and a humidifier near it would be a bonus! A fresh cut is a must! When hauling, stump forward! A tree removal bag makes cleanup easier, Enjoy!

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May your days be simple, your hearts at peace, and your home full of love. We can't wait to see you at the farm.

Creating Holiday Memories for Over 75 Years!

Gift Shop - Thousand of Ornaments & Christmas Decor • Cabin Cafe - Chili, Hot Dogs & Warm Drinks...
Candy Corner - Homemade Fudge & Frosted Nuts • Cut Your Own & Pre-selected Christmas Trees
Wreaths - Garland - Decorative Pots
Dandy Donuts most weekends
Pine Tree Village • Santa*
Camel • Reindeer & other animal friends
Kiddie Train Rides - Maze
Ridin' with Santa Virtual Reality Ride
Corn Hole & games
Memories and more.....

Like *Please Like us on Facebook*

CELEBRATING OVER 75 YEARS

Open for the Season November 15th

OPEN DAILY 9 AM - 7 PM
THANKSGIVING DAY
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
(No Cafe on Thanksgiving)

*Santa Visits

Nov. 22nd, 23rd, 28th, 29th and 30th,
Dec. 6th, 7th, 13th, 14th, 20th and 21st
10:00 am till 4:00 pm.

Last Day of Season: Dec. 21st

Foster Tree at the Farm (with The Ruth Project)

This year, we're joining The Ruth Project to support local foster families! We've put up two special Foster Trees at the farm, decorated with ornaments that each represent a $25 donation. While you're here, stop by the trees, scan an ornament, and help bless a foster family this Christmas season. A simple act with a big impact!

Wrapping Up Christmas Together Dec 21st - 5 PM

Come close out the season with us at the Lodge! Enjoy carols, a Christ-filled message, snacks and time together to celebrate the joy of Christmas. We'll take a moment to remember loved ones and give thanks for all the blessings of the year.