



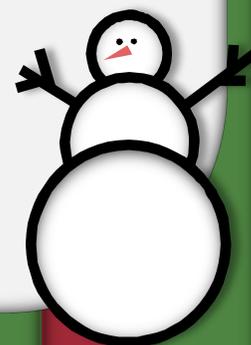
## Windswept Tree Farm – Farm History

I have always loved Christmas since I was a young lad. I guess I owe my parents a great big thanks for always keeping Christmas a magical time and I should consider myself lucky for the many blessings I have had.

Even as I got into my late teens and college years I still enjoyed the magic that Christmas still represented, even if I knew there wouldn't be a plastic army men Iwo Jima Jungle Mountain under the Christmas Tree (best present ever!)



On my second or third junior year of college (laugh all you want, but I went on to get my Masters with highest honors, so now who's laughing?) I came home for Christmas break and my father (now known as Pop) asked me if I wanted to go get a tree. I said sure. *If I didn't, there wouldn't be much more to this story.* We went to a local, since closed, tree farm. They gave us a hay ride out into the field & we picked a tree. What was great about that day was my father and I had a good time together & since I was a complete jackass most of the time at that age (only sometimes now), it was a memorable experience. We went there the following





year and years later we started making cutting our own tree a family tradition. I remember thinking on that first trip with my father that I could do this. So when my wife Alicia and I started looking for a house I had the tree farm in mind while choosing the property. Fast forward to 1998, we buy our house and started planting trees. Sadly, 1998-99 were the 2 driest years up until 2015-16 and we lost a lot of what we planted. But we persevered and got more organized. Fast forward further to 2006 and we opened for business for the first time. Since then we have streamlined on our business and now offer lots of other junk we try to sell to you at outrageous markups. *The American way...*

We sincerely hope that you make Windswept Tree Farm your first stop on your Christmas Season.

Steve Kleppin

