

Nature Notes

by
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Christmas Trees and Traditions



ing history of Christmas trees in Wikipedia if you want the full history.

My favorite story in Wikipedia is the story that Russia banned the Christmas tree shortly after the October Revolution. But it was reinstated as a New Year fir tree in 1935. The star was not a symbol of the Bethlehem star but a symbol of the Red Star. They produced decorations of airplanes, space rockets, cosmonauts, and characters of Russian fairy tales.

The most commonly used species are fir because they don't shed their needles. Other species are: Norway Spruce, Nordman Fir, Noble Fir, Stone Pine, Scots Pine and Douglas Fir.

When Ken and I were first married we wanted to be environmental so we bought a

live tree and placed it in a redwood tub with casters for easy rolling. We used the trees for several years. As our sons grew up we began a family tradition of going to a local Christmas tree farm where the boys would help dad cut the tree and carry it to the car. I always got the final say on which one we selected and I always picked a Noble Fir. Our daughter-in-law Addilah posted a photo on Facebook of our son Doug carrying on his back their Douglas fir that they had cut from a tree farm. It looks like they are carrying on the family tradition which warms my heart.

The past two years we have rented a live tree from Rent A Living Christmas Tree (rentxmastree.com) because my friend Monica owns the new business. They deliver the tree and pick it up after Christmas which makes it so



1. Birth announcement ornament for younger son Wes
2. High school graduation ornament for Wes

Christmas is my favorite holiday. Our outdoor lights, our blow-up polar bears, wreath and Christmas decoration are up. As soon as I am finish with this article, I will decorate our live Christmas tree. I have an extensive Christmas ornament collection. When I travel I purchase unique ornaments to grace our tree so I can remember our travels. I also enjoy the ornaments that commemorate important events in our lives. However, the ones that I cherish

my older son is married I will give him and his wife his ornaments to grace their tree.

I did some research on the internet to find out about the history of the Christmas tree. Apparently, evergreens have been a symbol of rebirth from ancient times. In many cultures, bringing in greenery into one's home, often at the time of the win-

convenient. I love the smell of the live Nordman Fir!

traditions and donate money to the Salvation Army or other charities, donate food or volunteer for the Marina Food Pantry and thank God for your many blessings.

I hope that you enjoy your Christmas traditions and Christmas tree this year. But, please remember those in the community who may not have the money for these



1. Santa ornament hand-made by Pat
2. Ceramic ornament made by son Doug on 12/95

the most are the hand-made ornaments the boys made for Ken and me.

ter solstice, symbolized life in the midst of death.

Every year, I give our sons a collectible Hallmark ornament. They have many Star War themed ornaments, cars and motorcycles. Now that

The first Christmas trees appeared in Germany in the early sixteenth century with the modern Christmas tree originating in Western Germany. There is an interest-



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