## Pine, spruce, fir trees suitable for decorating



went to cut down our Christmas day, the tree farm we went to had five different coniferdisplay as we entered the

gate. There were

white pine, socket pine, white spruce, blue spruce and Douglas fir. They all make fine looking Christmas trees.

White pine is our state tree and has five needles in a bundle as they grow on the twigs. It is the only coniferous tree in the eastern U.S. that has five needles in a bundle. The five needles can also represent the five letters in the word white.

"white."
Uncultivated white pines
often grow with large spaces
between branches, but cultivated trees that are pruned
can be nicely full.
Some trees get so full, or
denso, that it's hard to hang

.denso, that it's hard to hang ornaments on them.
'Speaking of hanging ornaments, white pine needles are very soft and do not prick your hands while you decorate.
Scotch pine is an introduced species to Michigan. It has adapted very well to our climate and soils.
The medium length needles.

ate and sons. The medium length needles, two per cluster, are very sharp.
Their needles do hold ornaments very well and give a nice full appearance.
White spruce have short nee-

dies that can be picky, but because they are short you can avoid them better when deco-

because they are short yo'r can avoid them better when decorating.

Bach needle is less than an inch long and aquarish in shape if you cut it perpendicular to its length. An attractive feature of the white spruce is the presence of comes on the branches, a natural ornament.

They also, like some other coniferous trees, have a very pleasant pine fragrance.

White spruce are more elongated and have a smooth edge to white spruce are more elongated and have a smooth edge to each scale.

Black spruce are more elongated and have a smooth edge to each scale.

Black spruce prefers wetter conditions and bas a ragged edge to the scales of the conditions and bas a ragged edge to the manufacturing of paper.

used in the manufacturing of paper.
Years ago native American used the pliable rootlets to sew bark pieces together.
Blue spruce are prized for their color. Tree farms like them because they are able to grow in the dry sandy soils of Michigan.
Though a non-native spruce, could also it them resultarly accounts also the spruce.

people plant them regularly because they have adapted well to our climate.

well to our climate.
Douglas fir along the west coast can be over 300 feet tall, but Rocky Mountain races are much shorter and more drought resistant. Tree farms provide habitat for various birds and other animals. They may have trees in rows, but it's more attractive than concrete and strip mulls. Happy Holidays.

## Web sites demystify outdoors



With a click, you can find out about the GOUNT mewest type of disc brake for a mountain bike, check on the est fancy shotgun from Beretta. There's also a Web site for classic fly rods that can fetch up to more than \$1,000.

The informa-tion age has cer-tainly changed the world for outdoors men and women. With a click,

Also, you can check on resorts, weather conditions, fishing spots, and obtain maps for hiking, backpacking or mountain biking.

To get all this information, all you have to do is press your finger on the computer, spell the word halfway right and there's a

But all new technical advances come with a dark side. When it comes to engaging in outdoor pursuits, that side is the loss of mystery.

mystery.

Finding fly fishing equipment in the early 1970s was difficult. One shop I frequented was in a guy's garage. You had to call his house ahead of time to make sure he was home and would be around when you showed up.

One there, you were subsered.

around when you showed up.
Once there, you were ushered into the backyard, there the old guy would unlock the shed, and you could pick through the files and other gear he had for sale. The price of the files was worth it. He'd ask which river you were heading to and he'd set out a selection for you.
There were the inevitable con-

There were the inevitable conversations about the weather, fishing conditions, which flies

worked best in certain conditions and access sites to rivers. Over the years, you built up a rela-tionship with him.

tionship with him.

Directions to fishing places were vague and often quirky. "Go down the two track till you get to the CCC pines, and make a right near the pine that was struck by lightning a couple of years ago."

That sort of thire.

That sort of thing.

One fishing companion regularly marks his spots with cigar butts. We have to get out of the truck and look for them. It begs the question: "How long does a cigar butt last on the ground in the woods?"

It's such mysterious questions that are being lost as the Internet demystifies every inch of ground and river in north Ameri-

The Internet has even invaded the Ozark Mountains, a place in our country that's long been seen as a backwater of technical change, a place where the locals are afraid of outsiders and where good fishing places are found only through hard work.

Last spring I was doing some

research on an upcoming fishing trip to the White and Red Rivers in the Arkansas Ozarks. I was just looking for the basics, the price of a fishing license, when the season started and where could I get some sort of map.

While clicking around, up popped the picture of an Ozark fishing guide, with his obligatory beard. He had his own Web site.

beard. He had his own Web site.
Fishing guides tend to be
remote and often legendary figures. Getting a hold of them
often involves calling a tavern
some time after 10 p.m. Now
here in the Ozarks is one with
his own Web site.

Not only have some activities Not only have some activities lost their mystery, but others have become bogged down with gear. Websites are usually maintained by businesses which have a commercial interest in an activity – in other words, they're trying to sell you stuff. And in many cases it's stuff you don't need.

These days it seems you need a degree in engineering to ride a bicycle in the woods, \$5,000 in gear to go backpacking for a cou-ple of days and a \$10,000 boat to

catch a few bass.
These ideas are being driven by corporations and delivered by the bits. What's being lost is the knowledge obtained by experience. While we're up to our waders in data about equipment, we're losing the reason we bought the stuff in the first place, to get outside and go something.

something.

John Muir, the 19th and early.

20th century conservationist,
went into the woods for days and
weeks with a tea cup and loaf le,
bread tied to his belt and a wiph
blanket around his shoulders.

He came back with astute observations that helped us preserve,
some of our natural resources. 17

some of our natural resources.:
That's the model we should have when it comes to outdoor, activities. That inn't to say 'ke can't enjoy a good, solid mountain bike, a finely made shotgan or a nice boat or canoe. All these items can help us enjoy the outforce.

we need to remember that those things are tools we use for an outdoors experience. We se not out there just to use the stuff.

## Kohl's builds 150 new jobs in Auburn Hills.

Value-priced department store chain to open new store in Auburn Hills this coming March. Grand opening draws volunteers to help charity of their choice.

Kohl's Department Stores, a leading retailer with 214 locations nationwide, is building job opportunities here.

To assist with its grand opening in March, Kohi's forms partnerships with charitable organizations. Volunteers representing the organizations earn money for every hour worked, which goes inectly to their charity. The volunteers then receive a one-time discount card to be used on top of sale prices the week of grand opening.

When the new Kohl's store opens in March, department store shopping in Andburn Hills will change forerer Kohl's is a unique style of department itset that offers name brand merchandise at user open prices. In addition to everydry savings, Kohl's features weekly assistent that drive it execonable prices in addition to everydry savings, Kohl's features weekly assistent that drive it execonable prices even lower. Shoppers can also receive even lower, Shoppers can also receive special sales opportunities by opening a Kohl's change account and becoming a "ornfrered existence". When the new Kohl's store opens in

With approximately 80,000 square feet of floor space, convenient checkouts, a

friendly return policy and first-class customer service, Kohl's is not only a great place to shop, it's an incredible place to work.

place to work.

For its new store in Auburn Hills, Kohl's
will be hiring 150 people to fill a number
of full- and partime positions, includingDepartment Supervison, Register
Oppertson, Peoptriment Sales and
Receiving Associates, Customer Service
Representative, Loss Prevention Experts,
Housekeeping/Maintenunce and Overnight
Stock Team. Associates will enjoy competitive wages, immediate merchandise
discounts, appealing benefits packages,
flexible work schedules and an employee
stock ownership plan. stock ownership plan.

1-800-NEW-KOHLS Ext. HMN-LN6-Auburn Hills Must be 18 years or older.



\*Kobt's will be biring 150 associates to fill a number of full- and part-time positions, inclu Department Supervisors, Register Operators, Department Sales and Experts, Housekeeping/au... and Overnight Stock Team.

ON YOUR LIST OF PRIORITIES, DO YOU PUT YOURSELF LAST? These days, it's difficult to find time for yourself, much less find

time to work out. If you have a difficult time sticking with an exercise program or are new to exercise, YMCA Personal Fitness is especially designed for you. YMCA Personal Fitness is a 12 week structured program that includes your own fitness coach. You mutually set goals with your fitness coach and make a commitment to exercise three times a week. Exercise is added in small increments to enhance success through our one-on-one

appointments with your coach. All we require is your commitment to follow the program by exercising three times per week. Simply give us a call for more information and make yourself a priority for a change.



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