

## **ICTA FIELD DAY 6/24/17**

Yesterday, we had a wonderful Field Day at Timber Lane Christmas Tree Farm. A big thank you to Bill, Donna, Judy and Richard Holesinger for organizing the event and showing us their beautiful farm. Twenty-five members gathered at 10:00am to tour the farm and share ideas.

It was a gorgeous day, mostly sunny, but very windy...and it was cool! The large metal shed, (open on one side) where they display the wreaths, had been a cattle shed, and they are gradually reclaiming it for other uses. This year they built a new work area into one end, creating two insulated rooms...which will be heated by baseboard units. One room will be an employee break room; the other will be a work area for making bows and decorating wreaths.

They grow 18 acres of trees, in about a 50-acre hilly area. It's not particularly good for corn and beans; that's why they decided to plant trees. Bill demonstrated how he prunes the trees with a bladed-unit. They buy their balsam wreaths from Bonnetts Wholesale for \$8, decorate them and sell them for \$16-\$20; they make all their own bows. Right now they have a small gift shop, but are expanding it later this summer. Most of the items are on consignment, but they will be purchasing more wholesale items in the future.

A delicious lunch was served after the tour!

By Lou Little and Carol Richardson