



Rescued Fraser firs highlight Willow Hill welcome bunny.
PHOTO BY KEN MOORE

FLORA
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Just about everyone who enjoyed an indoor tree this past holiday season had a tree cut from one of those tree farms. With the holidays past, those trees are discarded along curbsides into February. Though we are fortunate to have curbside pick-up for landfill composting, it's sad that we don't offer each tree a more reverent appreciation by extending its beauty and usefulness outdoors on the home turf.

I want to stop and rescue every curbside discard, take it back and stand it upright in my yard, where it will continue to remain green for many more weeks.

Sited near bird feed-

ers, the trees become excellent shelter and approach perches for birds. Simply set upright in the ground, they provide evergreen elements all around the garden and home landscape for several more months. After the visual landscape effects are past, the branches can be cut and applied as mulch around trees, shrubs and on garden beds. There are

so many creative uses on the home grounds for these trees, there is no sense discarding them curbside, making more work for public-works crews.

Once again, Diana Steele gets the annual "Citizens' Award for Creative Orphaned Christmas Trees Recycling." Not only do these trees provide instant dramatic landscape effect throughout her garden, but before dozens of them ever make the journey down to become woodland brush-pile wildlife habitats, the kids in her preschool move them around and, like budding architects, make tree fortresses, tree castles and even giant bird nests for their creative energies to explore for weeks on end.

So begin planning now on ways you will keep your Christmas tree on your home turf next year!



Willow Hill preschoolers celebrate their Fraser fir creation.
PHOTO BY DIANA STEELE



Bill and Ruth Crabtree, 1945

Well, you can see why Ruth fell for the dashing seaman in his Navy uniform — and Bill for Ruth, with her winning smile and flashing eyes. Bill, 90, says he won her in his Navy uniform — and that may be so. But winning is one thing; making it last is another. On Tuesday, Bill and Ruth Crabtree of Damascus Church Road outside of Carrboro celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary, and they still have the secret of maintaining a long marriage — uniform or not.



A THOUSAND WORDS
BY JOCK LAUTERER

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