

Cut your own Christmas trees at Land Between the Lakes

GOLDEN POND, Ky. (AP) — Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area is offering free Christmas trees to those who want to visit and cut them down.

A statement from Land Between the Lakes says permits and guidelines can be obtained online Nov. 25-Dec. 24 or in person at the administrative office Nov. 25-Dec. 23. Land Between the Lakes is a 170,000-acre (68,798-hectare) recreation area along the Kentucky-Tennessee border.

A permit allows the cutting of one cedar tree less than 10 feet (3 meters) tall anywhere except within sight of the U.S. 68-Ken-



Cut your own tree at LBL

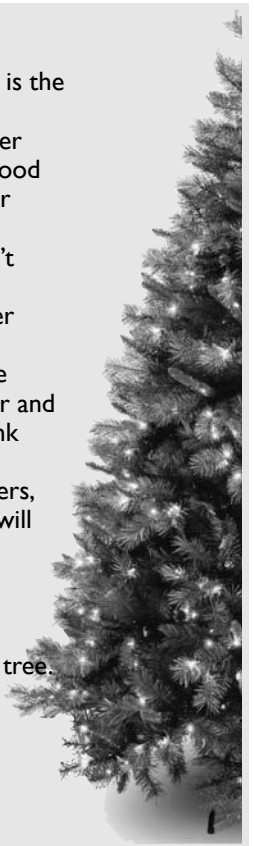
tucky 80 highway, Woodlands Trace National Scenic Byway, cemeteries, nature watch areas, campgrounds and other mowed areas.

Forester Dennis Wilson

says cutting down a Christmas tree is a great family tradition and it helps Land Between the Lakes maintain open lands and promote diverse wildlife habitat.

Taking Care of Your Tennessee Christmas Tree

- Displaying trees in water in a traditional reservoir type stand is the best way to keep them supple and fragrant.
- Before putting a tree in a stand, be sure you or the tree farmer makes a fresh cut to remove about a 1/2-inch thick disk of wood from the base of the trunk. Don't cut the trunk at an angle, or make a v-shape!
- Once home, place the tree in water as soon as possible. Don't bruise the cut surface or get it dirty.
- Keep the freshly cut trunk submerged in a bucket full of water until placing it in a stand for decorating.
- Avoid whittling the sides of the trunk down to fit a stand. The outer layers of wood are the most efficient in taking up water and should not be removed. Drilling a hole in the base of the trunk does not improve water uptake.
- Keep trees away from major sources of heat (fireplaces, heaters, heat vents, direct sunlight). Lowering the room temperature will slow the drying process, resulting in less water consumption each day.
- Make sure that the level of water does not go below the base of the tree.
- Use of lights that produce low heat will reduce drying of the tree.
- Always inspect light sets prior to placing them on the tree.
- If worn, replace with a new set.
- Do not overload electrical circuits.
- Always turn off tree lights when leaving the house or when going to bed.



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