

Peg and ALLEN Royer are two philanthropists that I personally know and admire. They own Wagoner Christmas Tree Farm and volunteer for the Putnam County 4-H Archery Club. They love to help people and the environment. They love helping kids and families bond with each other. They also run their own hunter's education course at their farm.

The Royers have owned and worked at Wagoner Christmas Tree Farm since the year 1985. Their farm was originally owned by Jim Wagoner and he called Allen Royer to have his very first forestry contract there. Mr. Royer was asked to inspect the lower part of the farm for a great spot to start a walnut plantation. Mr. Wagoner said to Mr. Royer, "You might think I am crazy planting trees at my old age, but one day these trees will be here for someone's grandkids." Later, the Royers bought that farm after Mr. Wagoner has passed.

Now, they love and care for the 190 acre farm and the woods that are included on their property. They have started planting pollinator gardens in an attempt to help the wild honey bees from going extinct. They take parents and their kids hunting and fishing for the first time in their lives. They give kids and their families an opportunity to bond at their farm, letting them come and camp for a weekend. The Royers always have something new to learn, and they love to learn from the families just as much as the families do from them. No matter how old you are, you never stop learning new lessons from the Royers.

They Royers also planted the majority of the trees along Veterans Memorial Highway and some of the trees throughout Greencastle. This took weeks in the blistering sun, and the Royers thought that the trees might not make it. Fortunately, the trees did make it and now we have a greener, more beautiful Greencastle.

Peg and Allen have been volunteering their precious time and money for the archery club since 1997 when they first established the club. One of the main reasons for the Royers starting the club is to inform kids on how to properly care and work a bow. The club teaches more than that; it gives valuable life lessons like responsibility, discipline, and respect. The club has been bonding kids, their families, and their friends together for 20 years.

Peg and Allen Royers are more than just leaders to me; they are friends. Everyone in the archery club looks up to them. They teach more than archery; they teach life skills. They love animals, the environment, and helping families. They are great philanthropists and even better people. I admire the Royers, and I love to work for them out at the farm.