

Keeping with Tradition

Martinbird Tree Farm Celebrates 33rd Christmas Season

By Jayson Knight
Tuttle Editor

In their 33rd season as tree farmers, Bob and Carolyn Martin of Martinbird Tree Farms said Monday that things would have to be done a little bit differently for the Christmas season this year.

"When they're out in the field, that's different, but we will be following the CDC guidelines," Martin said of Covid precautions. "We're not gonna be able to do some of the things that we would normally do. We won't have tractor rides because there's no way you can social distance on that little tractor. We will use the tractor to pick their trees up once they've picked them out."

To celebrate the season, Martin will extend his hours to 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. starting the day after Thanksgiving, and by opening up shop every single day until Christmas Eve.

The early-in-the-season ice storm that hit in late October was one of devastation for a lot of local vegetation, and this of course included Martinbird Tree Farm, which has between 25,000 and 30,000 trees of many different kinds.

Despite this, Bob said he expects the Christmas season to be another successful one.

"I suspect we're going to have a good turn out," Martin said. "We've had a lot of phone calls asking us if we would be open and when we will be open. I think we'll have a big Christmas. Our conifers were okay, but the big problem was the deciduous trees, particularly the bigger ones. We were hit pretty hard. Some of it was devastated, and we'll have to doze some of it down."

Conifers include pines, spruces, and firs, all common Christmas trees.

Deciduous trees include oaks, maples, and beeches.

"The Christmas Tree season is

always a lot of fun," Martin said. "We're having as much fun now as we were when we first opened. People come out and it's just a happy time for the kids and the adults. It's a very exciting time for the youngsters especially. It's also fun, coming from the Christian perspective, celebrating Jesus' birth. It's just a wonderful time."

There are a number of varieties of trees that can be used for Christmas trees including different variations of pine and fir. Those will be available at Martinbird Tree Farm, located at 513 Ridgewood Drive in Tuttle.

Customers of Martinbird Tree Farm can cut their own tree, choose a pre-cut tree, or a live ball-and-burlapped tree.

Better than buying a tree, adorning it with lights and then throwing it away Dec. 26, Martin's ball-and-burlapped trees are preferable because they can be kept as a lasting memory.

"They have a really good survival rate as long as you leave them in the house only about two weeks," Martin said Friday. "You have to put it in your garage for a couple days before you put it up. You don't want to go from 30 degrees to 70. After about 48 hours, it will acclimate itself and then you put it up about two weeks out from Christmas."

A living tree provides many advantages over a fake, plastic tree. Trees, of course, supply oxygen while cleaning the air of carbon dioxide. Trees cut down on noise pollution by acting as sound barriers, provide shade and shelter that can reduce heating and cooling costs, provide food and shelter for wildlife and they do not add to landfills the way plastic trees do.

Pamphlets with additional facts and instructions are available at Martin's tree farm, allowing customers to get the most out of their selections. Reasons to visit Martinbird Tree



Owner/operator Bob Martin appreciates one of the tens-of-thousands of trees he raises at his farm in Tuttle, along with the City of Tuttle's Amber Riley.

Farm include decades of professional experience, a chance to shop locally, a way to protect the environment, and also the opportunity to be a part of a tradition.

For more information, call Martinbird Tree Farm at (405) 381-2910.

