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TREE FARM BULLETIN

THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE 2018

By Matthew Silva, Charlie Wicklund and Tom Bennion

In 2017, the American Tree Farm System's National Leadership Conference was in Greenville, SC, in 2016 in Seattle, WA. But this year, Albuquerque had the pleasure of hosting the conference. This annual conference brings together state tree farm committees, state foresters and other agency leaders to exchange ideas about supporting tree farmers across the country. The conference was held at the Hotel Albuquerque north of Old Town on Rio Grande Blvd. The conference gave those attending a taste of New Mexico culture, architecture and distinctive food.



The emphasis of this conference was to discuss ways to recruit more tree farmers by giving them more value for their participation. Private tree farms comprise a very large portion of our forests, especially in the upper Midwest, Pacific northwest and Atlantic northeast, southeast and gulf regions. Our state and other adjacent western states have very large tracts of federal and state forests, but private holdings are also significant. These forest lands are important for the conservation of our watersheds, wildlife, recreation and sustainable wood products.

First Timers

We, Charlie & Tom, attended this conference for the first time. We were a little apprehensive not knowing what to expect. This all disappeared as we met fellow Tree Farmers and Inspectors from all over the nation. We got to participate in many small discussion groups and were especially interested in sharing experiences with our neighboring western states of Colorado, Wyoming & Montana. We benefitted from hearing about what their tree farm committees and tree farmers were doing: things that were of value, things that were opportunities and things that had been obstacles. While we were among the older generation in attendance, it was encouraging to learn about the efforts to recruit

younger leaders, many of which were attending the conference, some for the first time too. These younger professionals and land owners are coming from forestry schools and family forest lands being handed down to the younger generations.

Tours de Albuquerque

New Mexico District Foresters, led by Doug Boykin, conducted two tours, the first at the National Museum of Nuclear Science & History, and the other up Sandia Peak via the Aerial Tramway. Both tours were very well attended, requiring additional vans to transport those that wanted to attend well after the close of the regular registration period. Our state foresters are to be commended for their extra effort to accommodate these folks.



New Regional Management Plan

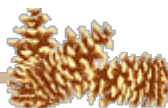
Major changes to simplify the inspection procedure were announced as well as the introduction of a regional management plan for the Florida panhandle. With this regional plan, the time-consuming preparation and creation of individual management plans will no longer be necessary. Only the incorporation of landowner objectives, requirements & results need to be added and tracked.

Wild Fire in California

The opening session featured Ken Pimlott, the Director of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. Recent news has focused on the devastating wind driven fires along the coast of California. Their dry winter was followed by devastating post-fire flooding in the fire scarred region near Santa Barbara.

A History of New Mexico Fire

New Mexico gave a very informative presentation about archeological tree ring studies. The presentation was made by Tom Swetnam, retired director of the University of Arizona's renown Laboratory of Tree Ring Research and Mary Stuever, Chama District Forester and noted author. Many examples of widespread tree ring studies across our Jemez Mountains were shown, together with two large Juniper & Ponderosa tree ring cross-sections. These cross-sections provided centuries of historical tree ring data. These long-lived trees survived and recorded regular small, frequent fire and occasional larger fires. Moderate ground fires were quite regular, about every 5-10 years. Some were probably initiated by the Native Americans. Low burning fires was the pattern for hundreds of years,



with fewer large fires until the native populations permanently departed their mesa top villages and agricultural fields after the Pueblo Revolt.

After the late 1800's, large herds of sheep and cattle grazed the forest lands. This grazing activity, coupled with very aggressive firefighting, prevented moderate ground fires. Thus, the forest floors were not "cleaned" by fire. This resulted in the "dog hair" growth we see today and the resulting, larger, catastrophic fires.

As noted above, California's dry winter was followed by devastating wild fires. Given the lack of a winter snowpack, this is the potential situation throughout the western United States, including New Mexico. The following recent article features meteorologist Kerry Jones and Tom Swetnam.



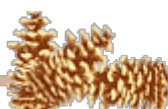
<http://nmpoliticalreport.com/804529/record-low-snowpack-foretells-troubling-spring-summer-en/>
The companion video underscores what New Mexico may be facing this spring and summer
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ntix1MnZhal>.

Louisville 2019

The next National Leadership Conference will be held in Louisville, KY, February 26-28, 2019. Mark your calendar and attend if possible <https://www.treefarmssystem.org/>

New Mexico Tree Farm

We encourage all forest land owners to come and get involved in our Tree Farm Committee meetings and field days. The next meeting is on March 16th and the next field day will be on April 7th at the Campbell Ranch Tree Farm. More information is given below.



NM TREE FARM 2018 FIELD DAY
 APRIL 7, 2018
 CAMPBELL RANCHY

2018 Tree Farm Field Day Agenda

Limited Number of Spots Available

Please RSVP to Todd By Email:
 Todd.Haines@state.NM.us or 505
 867-2334

RSVP By April 2, 2017
 Lunch will be provided

NM TREE FARM 2018
 FIELD DAY
 APRIL 7, 2018
 CAMPBELL RANCH

Presenters

*Dr. Richard Melzer
 Professor of History UNM -
 Valencia Campus
 Author of a number of books
 including Coming of Age in the
 Great Depression - The CCC
 experience in New Mexico*

*Boy Scouts of America - Great
 Southwest Council TBD*

*Todd Haines - NM State Forestry
 District Forester*

*Tinkertown Museum Representative
 (TBD)*

*The Campbell Ranch is located 1
 mile west of N hwy 14 (NM 337)
 on your right just across the street
 from Tinkertown Museum. Take I
 40 to the Tijeras exit then proceed to
 the Sandia Crest Highway. Turn
 West and proceed 1 mile.*



Welcome and Sign in 09:30

Introduction to the Campbell Ranch (BSA) 10:15

The Campbell Ranch is a new and developing 40 acre Boy Scout property located in the East Mountains of Albuquerque. It is a unique area with remnants of a historical Civilian Conservation Corps Camp.

BRIEF Overview of Forestry and Tree Farm Status 10:30

Since the acquisition of the property in 2003, the Boy Scout Council is working to develop an outdoor area, close to town for scouts to use to be in nature. The Council has been active in Forestry by developing a Forest Stewardship plan with the New Mexico Forestry Division in 2013 as well as partnering in a Fire Response plan. Some work days have been performed on the camp. Forest thinning and chipping activities have allowed them to become a certified Tree Farm.

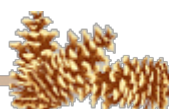
The Civilian Conservation Corps in New Mexico 10:45

You will notice that one of the most prominent features of the camp is the remains of buildings. These historic structures were once a CCC camp facility. Dr. Melzer wrote the book on the CCC in New Mexico and will provide insight on this endeavor from our past.

Lunch 13:00

Off site tour across the street to Tinkertown 13:30

Just across the street from the camp is the Tinkertown Museum that will be a rare treat for those who have not visited this before (and for those of us who have). The abundance of hand carved figures and other displays will certainly get folks talking.



Register Now for the 2018 Wildland Urban Fire Summit

(Previously called the Wildland Urban Interface Summit)

The Lodge at Santa Fe

April 10-12, 2018

WUI Summit Registration Only - \$75.00 (Advance)/\$85.00 (Onsite)

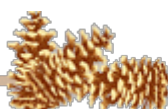
The state's leading authorities in wildfire preparedness will be meeting in Santa Fe, April 10-12, to host the 2018 Wildland Urban Fire (WUF) Summit. The WUF Summit is one of New Mexico's largest events designed to discuss and prepare the state for wildfires, including the impending 2018 wildfire season. The theme for this year's WUI Summit is "Collaborative Community Action" and this topic will be highlighted throughout the two-day summit. Local government leaders, fire and emergency responders, businesses, and community members are encouraged to attend.

For more information and online registration, please click here [2018 Wildland Urban Fire Summit](#).

Lodging is available at the Lodge at Santa Fe for a rate of \$85.00 Single/Double plus tax. Reservations must be made directly with the hotel no later than March 10th to guarantee the negotiated WUF Summit rate.



The Wildland Urban Fire Summit is a collaborative event hosted by the Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, New Mexico State Forestry, New Mexico State Land Office, New Mexico Association of Counties, New Mexico Municipal League, Forest Stewards Guild, and Southwest Fire Science Consortium



1) BUY, SELL OR TRADE

Are you looking for forestry related equipment to buy (i.e. chipper, splitter, chainsaw, etc.)? Or, do you own forestry related equipment you would like to sell or trade? Forestry related equipment only, please, no homes or land. We would like to help you make the connection with other New Mexico Tree Farmers. Provide us with a description of the equipment, price, photo and contact information and we will post it in the New Mexico Tree Farm Bulletin. If you would like us to help you make the connection, please provide information to Arnie Friedt at arnie.friedt@state.nm.us

2) COMMUNITY CORNER

On February 28th, Joe Stehling will be giving a presentation to the Angel Fire Rotary Club about Defensible Space and identifying Hazards in the Home Ignition Zone. It will begin at noon at the Angel Fire Community Center. For additional information contact Joe Stehling at joestehling@earthlink.net

A Wildfire Preparedness Workshop will be held on April 14th at the Jemez Mountain Baptist Church in La Cueva nine miles north of Jemez Springs. Presentations will be given by the USFS, State Forestry, County Fire and Sheriff Departments, Firewise and Animal Amigos to help prepare for this particular spring and summer due to our unusually dry winter. It will begin at 10 AM and lunch will be served. Eric Larson is the coordinator at jmbc@zianet.com.

If your community is having a forestry related public event let us know the details and we would be delighted to promote your event in the New Mexico Tree Farm Bulletin. Give us the event details, Who, What, Where and When with contact information and we will include in our monthly bulletin. If you would like us to help you promote your event, please provide information to Arnie Friedt at arnie.friedt@state.nm.us

3) E-MAIL INSTEAD OF SNAIL MAIL

Would you prefer to receive your Tree Farm Bulletin by e-mail instead of snail mail? If so, contact Doug Boykin at doug.boykin@state.nm.us and provide him with your contact information. By receiving your Tree Farm Bulletin by e-mail our operating costs are reduced. Thank you for considering this option.

4) COMMITTEE MEETING Out-of-towners! It is on a Friday!!!

All Tree Farmers are invited and encouraged to attend our 1st New Mexico Tree Farm Committee Meeting of the year (three held annually). Please join us at 1:30 pm on Friday, March 16th, 2018 at the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish office located at 3841 Midway Place NE, Albuquerque, NM. Come out and hear what other tree farmers have been up to and share your tree farm accomplishments with the group. We look forward to visiting with you. If you have any questions, please contact Arnie Friedt at arnie.friedt@state.nm.us

