



DOUG BOYKIN
Chairman,
NM Tree Farm Committee

1118 Hope Farms Road
Socorro, NM 87801
575-838-3027

Diboykin61@gmail.com
www.treefarmssystem.org/new-mexico

February 2019



TREE FARM BULLETIN

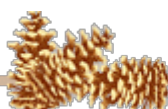
TREE FARMING IN NEW MEXICO

By Doug Boykin, Chairman, NM Tree Farm Committee

Happy February! After a 22-year run as the advisor for the NM Tree Farm Committee, I find myself in a different roll. I recently retired from New Mexico State Forestry and was elected to serve as Chair of the Tree Farm Committee. As the advisor to the committee, I have worked with some outstanding chairs and committee members. I know I have big shoes to fill. Before starting, it would be good to review where we have been since we began certifying Tree Farms in the early 1960's. Let's start with how I got here.

My first year with the Tree Farm Program started when Ken Schein, the Chama District Forester for many years, offered me the Timber Management Officer job in Chama in the spring of 1989. I was fresh from the US Forest Service. I had been working as a firefighter, fire prevention specialist, and low-level Law Enforcement Officer, I was excited to start using my forestry degree (Utah State University – 1984). The Tree Farm Program was my way to meet landowners, work to meet their objectives and for lack of better terms, “have a blast”. At that point, I was hooked. The NM Tree Farm Committee had an inspector recognition program at the time that recognized the most productive inspector of the year with a pair of White's Forestry Boots. I had wanted a pair for years and promptly set about the task of winning them, which I did for two years in a row. We had a great group of inspectors: Mary Stuever in Bernalillo; Dan Rand in Las Vegas; Randy Baker who had been both in Socorro and Chama; Pat Larkin (Cimarron) and Bill Duemling (Capitan) were just starting; and myself in Chama. Barbara Luna, the Capitan District Forester, at that time, was a go-to person. Moreover, the entire staff in Santa Fe could always be counted on for solid reasons. At that time, most everyone who worked in the State Forestry Santa Fe office held forestry degrees. And each had been involved with the Tree Farm Program because they began their forestry careers in districts before they moved to the Santa Fe office. Even the fire staff had forestry degrees, something you do not see these days.

Since those days, I have seen and worked with a great group of forestry professionals with one thing in mind, “get good forestry on the ground and keep it there” and “a healthy forest is no accident”. I believe those are still our guiding principles, even to this day.



New Mexico joined the program in 1947. Unfortunately, I have very little history going back that far. I know we had landowners like Chama Land and Cattle, Bill Mundy, Harper Simms, Delfin Quintana, Sara Jo Patterson and Charles Walker. These pioneering spirits committed to tree farming early on. But there are limited records before that effort.

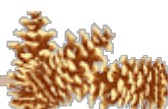
Garry Blackwell worked for the Forestry Division and served as the program advisor from the early 70's. In the fall of 1991, my wife Norene had had enough of the Chama winters. We were fortunate to transfer to Socorro. It was my dream job come true. I was originally from Las Cruces. Growing up and working in the Gila area, was where I wanted to be. In those days, Delfin Quintana was the Tree Farm Program Chair. In 1996 Garry Blackwell got busy developing our Forestry Inmate Work Camp Program. Thus, it came to pass that I was assigned the advisor role in 1996.

I had worked with Chair Delfin Quintana as a service forester while I was in Chama. When I was appointed the advisor responsibilities in 1996, we just picked up where we had left off. Delfin served for several years. His tenure was followed by Will Stapleton, Harry Morrison, Joe Stehling and most recently Matt Silva. Charlie Wicklund has been a constant. He has served as treasurer for my tenure as advisor, as well as first getting involved in the Tree Farm Program in 1968. Charlie remained involved with the program throughout the 1970's and 1980's as the manager of the Espanola Saw Mill (Rio Grande Forest Products). I have seen pictures of Charlie and Garry at meetings at the sawmill office as well as at the Bartley Ranch

So, what have we done all these years? That is a good question. We have developed demonstration forests in 5 of the 6 forestry districts (the Philmont Demonstration Forest on the Cimarron District, is one of the best in the country), came up with our own logo, developed an outstanding web-site, put together 500 blue bird box kits, developed a NM Tree Farm display (that badly needs updating), printed a tree farm directory that showcased every tree farmer in the state, printed pamphlets, had western regional inspectors of the year, done work on boy scout and girl scout camps across the state, held field days, staffed various county fairs with tree farm information, attended National Leadership Conferences, hosted the National Convention in 2011 and hosted the National Leadership Conference in 2018. But the thing I am most proud of is helping forest landowners on +/- 175 tree farms covering about 150,000 acres in all areas of the state.

So, where do we go from here?

One of our most pressing challenges remains. Some of our tree farmers continue to struggle with inconsistent application of the property tax valuations. There is a faint light at the end of the tunnel. As explicitly written in the state statutes and the administrative code, the production, or attempted production, of trees and forest products qualifies as evidence that the land merits agricultural valuation. As noted in our Tree Farm Bulletin of January 2018, a pair of our dedicated and active members had been initially denied tree farm status by the local county assessor. After going through a difficult appeal and hearing process, the tree farmers prevailed. The final hearing, which included representatives from the Department of Taxation and Revenue, overturned the ruling by the county assessor. There is no doubt that much of this anguish and confrontation could have been avoided had



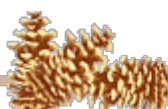
the counties accepted our offer to rely on the services our Certified Forestry Inspectors to determine certification of qualified tree farms in New Mexico. As a committee, we remain obligated to promote this service to the county assessors, our dedicated tree farmers, and the citizens of our state. Most of the counties are in compliance with the law and understand the importance of agriculture to our state, our nation, and humanity at large. We must continue to work with our New Mexico counties. We also need to be sure our inspections remain solid, and our management plans are second to none.

Communication is another challenge. Arnie Friedt has done an excellent job making sure that we get our monthly bulletins out and in a timely manner. I have heard from several tree farmers that while they cannot make the committee meetings and field days, these bulletins are welcome and are always full of outstanding information. We need to keep this going, but Arnie can use some help from everyone. Sending him topics of interest, pictures of what you are doing on your tree farm and, where possible, hosting field days, will help keep the content fresh and educational.

Joe Stehling is currently serving as the secretary, but it would be great to get someone in the pipeline to replace him one of these days. We are still in need of a vice-chairman. Matt is serving in that role now but would like to transition out and we always need to engage new inspectors while maintaining our standards for education, experience and enthusiasm.

Todd Haines (Bernalillo District Forester) has volunteered to take on the advisory role for the committee for the next few months. I have suggested to our State Forester that he should be given the job on a permanent basis as neither of the candidates for the position I retired from (Socorro District Forester) have forestry experience or a forestry degree. I believe this experience and education is critical to being relevant, not only at the state level but at the national level. I hope he takes my advice.

As we move into 2019, I look forward to changing roles and watching and assisting a new generation of tree farm inspectors move the program forward, but I also look forward to working with all our tree farmers in the state, to move the Tree Farm Program forward. My new email listed above as well as cell phone number so feel free to contact me anytime.



1) COMMITTEE MEETING

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 Wednesday, March 6th, 2019 at the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish office located at 7816 Alamo Road. NW, Albuquerque, NM 87120. 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

2) 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

Property owner looking to purchase a towable chipper that can handle 3" to 4" diameter branches. If you have a towable chipper and would like to sell it, please contact Duane Trythall at 505-821-1319 or DTrythall1@outlook.com

3) COMMUNITY CORNER

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

4) 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 Arnie Friedt at arnie.friedt@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.

