



Joseph M. Stehling Jr.

Chairman,
NM Tree Farm Committee

HC 70 Box 109
Ocate, NM 87734

(575)-377-0546

joestehling@earthlink.net

www.nmtreefarmers.org

March 2012



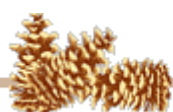
TREE FARM BULLETIN

Joe Stehling our New Mexico Tree Farm Committee Chairman along with Shannon Atencio, Las Vegas District Timber Management Officer, Todd Haines, Bernalillo District Forester, and Carlos Ramirez, 2011 New Mexico Tree Farmer of the year attended the American Tree Farm System National Leadership Conference in Portland Oregon, 14 – 16 February. The purpose of the conference was to bring together state Tree Farm Committee leadership from 37 states to discuss issues that affect sustainable tree farming in the US and exchange ideas to further expand our knowledge of sustainable Tree Farming.

This conference was eye-opening to our new participants in several ways. It was beneficial to see how the Tree Farm program works across the country and the struggles and successes of the various states, all of which have different and unique issues. We heard other states asking the same questions that we find ourselves and landowners in New Mexico asking. The program as a whole is trying to answer the question of “what values does the Tree Farm Program provide private landowners”? We all know the values of managing forest sustainably but a program like Tree Farm must also be able to definitively explain the value to its members and potential members. This is a frequent question posed by landowners when we try to recruit new members/participants in the program. We do have a variety of answers but at this point it doesn’t really translate into a dollar value for the landowner. Many of the discussions during the conference addressed this subject and were happy to hear the various perspectives and what the leadership is doing to better define the answer for our members.

It was a rewarding experience to be a part of discussions with Foresters and landowners dealing with issues similar to those our foresters face in the work they do. A large number of great ideas were discussed that we will be working on implementing. The experience has enriched our knowledge of the Tree Farm Program and the issues and troubles within private forest management across the country.

It was valuable sitting in on the conversations and presentations with Carlos Ramirez our 2011 Tree Farmer of the Year. The perspective of a government employee is primarily focused on the aspects that affect the government and the work the foresters do. As we listened to the various topics being discussed Carlos often gave the Tree Farmer perspective, specific to New Mexico. This helped us



to get an objective perspective on our programs and we learned how to better explain some of the work being done through Tree Farm and other programs that we are involved with.

Overall the experience has deepened our knowledge and understanding of where Tree Farm is nationally and where New Mexico sits when it comes to national private forest land management. Clean air, clean water, habitat for wildlife, wood for sustainable building and nature for hiking, hunting, and fishing all come from family forests. We need to work towards the goal of making the Tree Farm program become more of a priority for New Mexico.

Shannon Atencio, Las Vegas District Timber Management Officer



(Paul Trianosky, Interim Vice President, Family Forests, American Tree Farm System)

Message from the Chairman: We are planning our activities for 2012. Please put 22 March on your calendar for our quarterly meeting in Albuquerque and give us your ideas on programs that would be beneficial to you. Also put Saturday, 09 June on your calendar for our mini Field Day at Gene Harlan's Tree Farm in Bernalillo District. We will have a program and discussion on what the Tree Farm System is all about and what you would like to get out of it, a tour of Gene's Tree Farm, and a session on chain saw use, maintenance, and safety, along with a catered lunch. Please plan on attending. Also, those of you who have internet access check out the American Tree Farm System website and subscribe to the Tree Farmer Magazine - <http://www.treefarmssystem.org/>. There is a ton of good information on the website that can help you care for your tree farm. Also listed are webinars where special topics are presented. Looking forward to seeing you at the meeting and at the Field Day.

