Private forests ownerships account for 56% of the forested lands in the United States. In the United States today approximately 48% of private forested lands is owned by individuals who are 65 years of age or older. This further breaks down as 65 - 74 years of age accounts for 28% of this while 75 years of age and older own the additional 20%. This is one of the forest facts pointed out at this year's American Forest Foundation (AFF), American Tree Farm System (ATFS) National Leadership Conference (NLC). This year's conference was held on February 26 – 28, in Louisville, Kentucky at the Historic Brown Hotel. The Brown Hotel was originally built by a local lumberman who was asked to leave a restaurant down the street due to not being dressed to their standards. He was dressed like a lumberman, with muddy boots!

My biggest forestry surprise with this conference is the local areas passion and dependence on white oak. Louisville prides itself on its Bourbon industry in a large way. White oak barrels that are charred are a major component to the distillation and production process. The forestry concerns for the industry is for the long-term sustainability of the white oak for barrel production. The take home is that forest industry doesn't exist without the interaction of the local areas other interest. The question to ask is “What is your White Oak?”
New Mexico was mentioned often as Tree Farm folks from all over country made it a point to express their appreciation for last year's visit (2018 AFF ATFS NLC was held in Albuquerque, NM). It was good to see that there is a high level of interest nationwide for the Tree Farm program. I get the feeling this is not something going away anytime soon, and in fact, a program on the rise nationwide. I also got the impression our New Mexico Tree Farm program is positioned well for the future. In closing, I would like to express my appreciate for each and every New Mexico Tree Farmer and their families for keeping their Tree Farm healthy and productive for the next generation.

SAVE THE DATE

2019 Spring Tree Farm Field Day
MAY 3RD, 2019
10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Bartley Tree Farm
Tree Farmers of the Year in 1983 & 2005
Northwest of Las Vegas, NM
Topics: Soil and Forest Management
Raffle: Elk Cow Tag and Iron Sculpture’s
Lunch will be provided
More details will be published in the NM Tree Farm Bulletin April Edition.
1) COMMITTEE MEETING
All Tree Farmers are invited and encouraged to attend our 2nd New Mexico Tree Farm Committee Meeting of the year (three held annually). Please join us at 1:30 pm on Wednesday, August 14th, 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.