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## TREE FARM BULLETIN

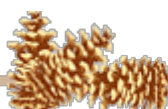
### NLC CONFERENCE IN THE TIME OF COVID

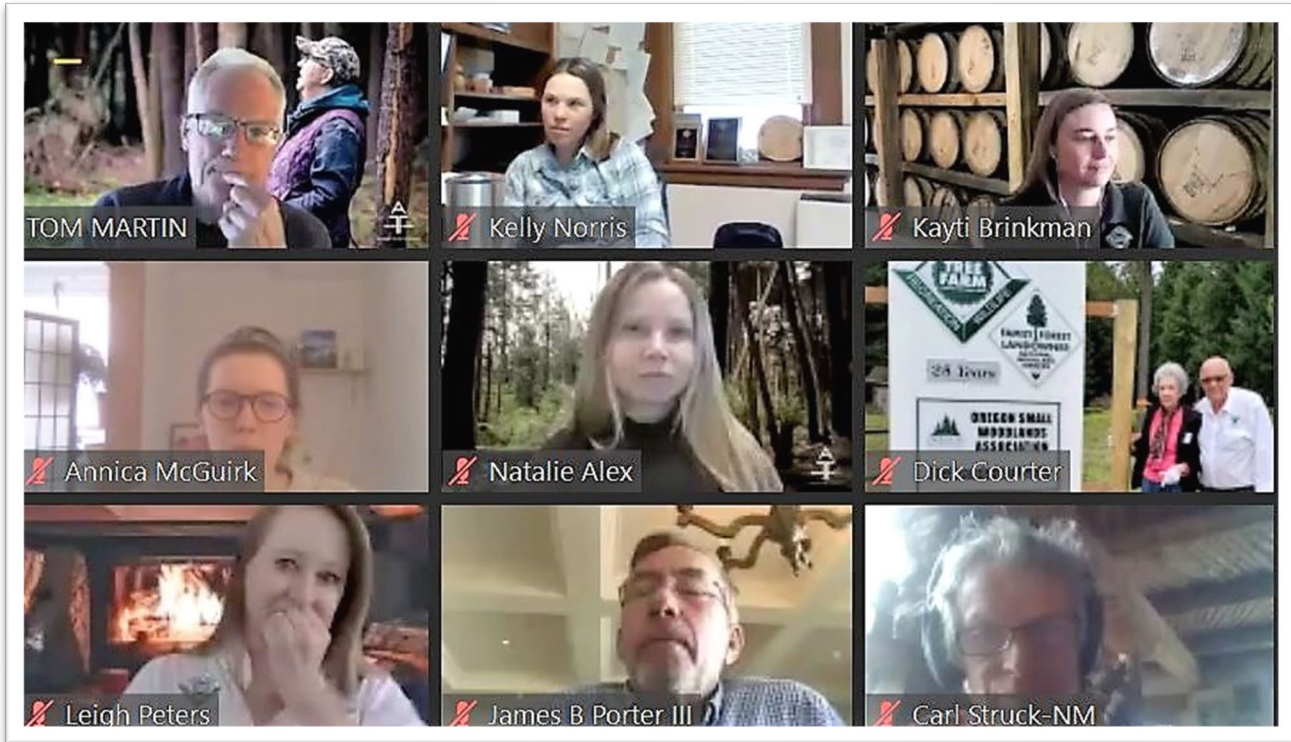
by Carl Struck, Tree Farmer, Penasco, NM [forestattreefrom@gmail.com](mailto:forestattreefrom@gmail.com)

This was my chance! I was unlikely to invest the time and money to cross the country just to see what the American Forest Foundation (AFF) National Leadership Conference (NLC) was all about. Count this as one of the few “perks” afforded us by COVID 19... the AFF NLC was coming to me via Zoom for a paltry \$50 which our NM Tree Farm Committee generously offered to cover if I committed to attending the whole conference. Deal! So, from February 23-25 I dutifully sat at my laptop watching/listening to one presentation after another on issues of interest to Tree Farmers, Tree Farm Committee members, State Foresters, and other agency professionals. You know, the folks who do their best to help us Tree Farmers negotiate the sometimes labyrinthine and paperwork paved path connecting us with programs designed to support us in pursuit of managing our forests sustainably. Sometimes just trying to remember what some of these endless acronyms stand for is enough to discourage us mere mortals...AFF, NLC, CRP, ATFS, ISRP and NRCS... just for a warmup!

The 3 day event was a whirlwind of presentations and break-out sessions with topics ranging from “Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in our shared work”, “Policy outlook for the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress”, “Legacy Planning for Landowners” to a “Keynote with Vicki Christiansen the Chief of the USDA Forest Service”, a “Fireside Chat with Tom Martin (AFF President and CEO) and Katie Fernholz (Chair of AFF)” all the way out to “Insect Apocalypse” (spoiler alert: a troubling trend, yes...apocalypse, not so much...yet)! All interesting and informative but I’d like to share with you a little deeper about just a couple of the offerings I felt, as a mere Tree Farmer, spoke more to my issues.

“Climate Change and Forest Health” promised that “Climate change creates serious risks to our forest and the benefits that they provide, including altering the frequency and intensity of threats, such as pest outbreaks, invasive species, wildfires, and storms. A changing climate, combined with these existing pressures, can further jeopardize the health of your woods. This presentation will cover examples of how you can improve your wood’s defenses against unwanted change, promote diversity in your woods to increase resilience, and adapt your woods to cope with the unpredictable conditions that lie ahead.” How could I resist?!? The major take away from this for me was to pay attention to forest species diversity because our rapidly changing climate is already favoring some species over others. The presenter gave the example of Mountain Juniper moving more aggressively into formerly

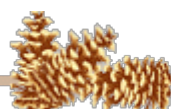




*Photo 1: Carl Struck, lower right-hand corner.*

Ponderosa forest in parts of Colorado. Sound familiar? The point was that as temperatures increase and droughts become more persistent here in the Southwest, we might want to look to a lower elevation ecology to see what our future property might look like. In my case, more of a P & J forest with widely scattered Ponderosa as an over-story. So maybe we might want to recognize our more mature Junipers as the resilient pioneers they are...just sayin’.

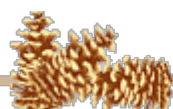
Another presentation was a “Keynote by Dr. J. Drew Lanham, Clemson University Alumni Distinguished Professor of Wildlife Biology”, who shared a spell binding story of a walk in the woods with an elder community member and his son. This was a family legacy property the elder knew intimately as a child, but his thirty-something son had never visited. As the tale unfolded you could feel the transmission of family history and the importance of this piece of land being emotionally gifted to this younger man and the generations that will follow him. Not just moving as a story but an urgent reminder to me to take my Grandkids out into “our” forest to do some transmitting of my own!





So, was this conference worth 3 days of hanging around my laptop? For me, the answer is...absolutely! Especially considering the ease of doing so from the comfort of my own home where I could take breaks, do chores, and throw another log on the fire, pet the dogs, etc. between presentations. Would I do it again? Well, I'm not saying I want this COVID business to drag on another year, but maybe next year, if it gets back to being live and in person, there will also be a ZOOM or at least a recording version of it available and I might very well take advantage of that option. I did miss the opportunity to engage inside conversations with fellow Tree Farmers, perhaps sharing innovative management ideas and methods, but the truth is, our issues here in the arid Southwest highlands are often very different from those in the other regions of the country.

Carl Struck is an independent song stylist whose songs have been covered by such artists as The Judds ("Talk About Love" on the platinum selling "Love Can Build A Bridge" album and Curb Records "Talk About Live" album) and Lee Greenwood ("I Still Look For You" on the "Holding A Good Hand" album and Curb Records "Lee Greenwood's Greatest Hits" package). Since moving to Taos County, NM in 1990 he has recorded three collections of songs "Nashville Daze", a private collection CD of recordings from his Nashville pro writing days released in 2004; and "Mountain Thyme", a private collection CD of his more non-country creations also released in 2004 and "The Trout" a CD collection of more recent favorite songs released in 2012. He continues to write and record his songs at his self-built home in the Ponderosa Pines, high in the mountains of northern New Mexico. Stay tuned...new releases coming! During the break time of the AFF NLC Carl wrote a song about trees. He just finished uploading a recording of the song "Trees" to his SoundCloud account you can access through the link below. The song is the first up on the play list. <https://soundcloud.com/carl-struck>



### 1) SPRING 2021 FIELD DAY (DATE CHANGE)

The 2019 Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year event is tentatively scheduled for **May 15, 2021** at the Spirit Hill Certified Family Forest owned by Carl Struck and Johanne Riddick. Additional information will be forthcoming.

### 2) COMMITTEE MEETING

All Tree Farmers are invited and encouraged to take part in our 2<sup>nd</sup> New Mexico Tree Farm Committee Meeting of the year (three held annually). Please join us on Wednesday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021. This meeting will be VIRTUAL utilizing “ZOOM”, an invite will be sent to you via your e-mail address prior to August 11<sup>th</sup>. Join us 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](mailto:arnie.friedt@state.nm.us)

### 3) ISAAC ASIMOV’S SUPER QUIZ

Score 1 point for each correct answer on the Freshman Level, 2 points on the Graduate Level and 3 points on the Ph.D. Level. Subject: WOODS AND TREES (e.g., In what forest did Robin Hood live? Answer: Sherwood Forest.)

#### FRESHMAN LEVEL

1. Of what tree was Robin Hood’s famous bow made?
2. Adam and Eve were forbidden to eat from this tree.
3. Translate the German word “tannenbaum.”

#### GRADUATE LEVEL

4. Macbeth was told not to fear till this wood came to Dunsinane.
5. In the poem, under what tree does “the village smithy stand”?
6. Quote the first line of Joyce Kilmer’s poem “Trees.”

#### PH.D. LEVEL

7. The “tree” in the title of this novel by Betty Smith is a “Tree of Heaven.”
8. In what Shakespearean play does Amiens sing, “Under the greenwood tree”?
9. Which Russian author wrote the play “The Cherry Orchard”?

**ANSWERS:** will be posted in the April 2021 Tree Farm Bulletin.

**SCORING:** 18 points – congratulations, doctor; 15 to 17 points – honors graduate; 10 to 14 points – you are plenty smart, but no grind; 4 to 9 points – you really should hit the books harder; 1 point to 3 points – enroll in remedial courses immediately; 0 points – who reads the questions to you?

**Super Quiz is a registered trademark of K. Fisher Enterprises Ltd. © Ken Fisher North America Syndicate Inc.**

**ANSWERS to the February 2021 ISAAC ASIMOV’S SUPER QUIZ:** 1. Sapling. 2. Evergreens and deciduous. 3. Shed leaves at end of the growing season. 4. Crown. 5. Conifers. 6. Virgin forest. 7. Taiga or boreal forest. 8. Canopy. 9. A small wood of thicket of trees and bushes.

