



Harry A. Morrison
Chairman NM Tree Farm Committee
51 Ravens Ridge Rd.
Santa Fe, NM 87505
(505) 983-2064
forester4life@aol.com

TREE FARM BULLETIN, April 2009

Greetings,

The New Mexico Tree Farm Committee has been invited by the Biophilia Foundation to co-host a “walk-in-the-woods” and lunch at their historic 3,300 acre Pritzlaff Ranch located just north of Las Vegas. The Biophilia Foundation is a non-profit foundation that since 1997 has worked to improve land productivity and species diversity on private lands. This private lands approach makes them a natural partner with the American Forest Foundation and the Tree Farm System. We will be able to see a ponderosa pine site that the ranch has thinned to improve diversity, soil, and water.

We hope you can come out and join us for some fresh air and an interesting look at forest management in action on May 20th from 10:00 am through 2:00 pm (lunch will be provided). So we know how many visitors to expect for lunch, please RSVP me by May 10th at the contact information provided above.

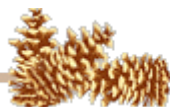
PRITZLAFF RANCH, DAY VISITOR ADVICE, POLICIES AND SAFETY RECAUTIONS

The Pritzlaff Ranch is located in a wonderful rural setting in northern New Mexico. The Ranch is in a relatively remote area and was for years a working horse ranch. There is forest thinning underway in several locations, and there are other ecosystem rehabilitation projects in progress. These activities inevitably leave some dangers (fence wire and post holes, discarded equipment, fallen trees and brush piles, etc.), and any outdoor experience has some hazards.

If you come to the Ranch, we want you to have a healthy and safe experience and to enjoy your stay. The following policies and safety precautions will help us protect the Ranch and facilities and help you enjoy your stay. Thank you, and please don't hesitate to contact Ranch staff if you have any questions.

ALWAYS BRING

1. Sturdy hiking boots.
2. A refillable water bottle, at least 1 liter (no bottled water please).
3. Good rubber boots if you plan to walk the river (also recommended if it is snowy or rainy).
4. Thick socks that can be used inside the house if the mud dictates removing shoes.
5. Sun screen with high SPF and chapstick.
6. A hat that will stay on in the wind.
7. Multiple layers for warmth and wind protection. It is ALWAYS windy, sometimes very windy, and often cool, so plan for wind chill factor).
8. Rain gear.
9. Water bottles (2 liters at least—but please, bring refillable bottles rather than plastic that gets thrown away).
10. Flashlight (for evening or night visitors).
11. Binoculars (optional).



NEVER BRING

1. Dogs or other pets.
2. Smoking is not allowed except for limited designated outdoor locations.
3. Alcoholic beverages.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS TO PRITZLAFF RANCH @ SAN IGNACIO, SAN MIGUEL CO., NM

From Santa Fe, take I-25 north, take the south exit, 343, into Las Vegas, which leads to Grand Avenue. Go 1.6 miles to the stoplight at 7th St. Go left on 7th which becomes State Highway 518 north of downtown, north towards Mora. Go about 13.4 miles from the last stoplight in Las Vegas (Legion Dr.) to State Highway 94 at Sapello (look for Phillips 66 gas station on left at intersection), where you turn left towards San Ignacio (follow the sign). Go less than a mile and turn left onto State Highway 266 (look for the sign) CAUTION: THIS IS A DANGEROUS INTERSECTION. Go about 5.5 miles and turn left on County Rd A3 (group of 3 mail boxes on left). Go 0.2 mile and turn right at the first gate, into the Pritzlaff Ranch. Office/ranch phone: 505.454.8382 Home: 505.454.0356. For more information about The Biophilia Foundation you can go to their web page at www.biophiliafoundation.org

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT TREES?

What kind of trees grew in that Greenland forest? Sycamore heads the list. We can honor the name of sycamore as an original pioneer of the world's hardwood trees, according to the evidence. While some 30 million years slid by, the Greenland forest was enriched by poplar, willow, tulip tree, elm, hawthorn, hornbeam, sweet gum, juniper, sassafras, hickory and walnut.

Are any National Parks established primarily to preserve trees? Yes, Sequoia National Park in California is the last citadel on earth of the big tree sequoia. The Olympic National Park in the State of Washington is centered on Mount Olympus whose rare and wonderful beauty is enhanced by the rain forest in the lower valleys of its western slopes. Yosemite National Park, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains of California, is dominated by virgin forests of sugar pine, ponderosa, incense cedar and white fir. The Great Smoky Mountains National Park has about 200,000 acres with a remnant of the original virgin forest of the eastern United States. Higher slopes bear dense spruce, balsam fir and hemlock. Lower slopes are typical hardwoods of the Appalachian forest. This park has 130 native tree species.

What home trees are characteristic of the Southwest? Oneleaf piñon, piñon pine, saguaro, mesquite, blue palo verde, crucifixion tree, Russian olive, oleander, chinaberry, acacia.

Is sugar maple the only tree that delivers sugar sap? Silver maples and red maples are sometimes tapped but sugar maples have the highest yield. Butternut is often tapped, too, for its distinctive flavor.

What causes trees to rot and how can rotting in tree trunks be controlled? Rot or decay in wood is caused by the action of nongreen, simple plants known as fungi, or bacteria of decay. The fungi cannot manufacture food as green plants do, but obtain nutrition by dissolving and devouring wood structures produced by the green plants. The use of chemicals to poison wood-rotting fungi may be helpful in small cavities left after fungus-infected wood has been excavated. In valuable trees, professional arborists fill and seal cavities with appropriate materials and insert drains to reduce moisture. Bacteria of decay only operate in wood that is damp.

Do trees have nervous system? Not in the sense of a network of nerve fibers. But all protoplasm of animals and trees is sensitive, and may communicate impulses from cell to cell without nerves. The best example among trees is the way the leaves of mimosa, when touched by a browsing animal or peppered by raindrops, will promptly crease lengthwise, then move together like closing fingers of an extended hand, and then turn downward. People who try to find a purpose in everything say that mimosa has learned how to get protection in a tropical downpour and from a browsing animal which turns aside when a delicious green leaf disappears before its nose.

