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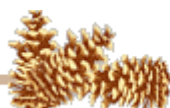
TREE FARM BULLETIN

What makes a GREAT day? - perfect weather, a scrumptious turkey meatloaf lunch, super presentations, a great tour by an avid, enthusiastic tree farmer, and best of all, tree farmers attending a field day at the Struck Tree Farm. I would like to thank Carl Struck and Johanne Riddick for hosting the event and Arnie Friedt, Forester and Mike Neathamer, Field Technician from the New Mexico State Forestry Division, Cimarron District, for taking care of the administrative details to include the lunch. I also would like to thank Jose Varella Lopez for his presentation on the timber industry and George Duda for his many contributions to the discussions and for putting on his ever popular Chain Saw Use and Safety dog and pony show.

Carl Struck started the day off with a discussion of his obsession with mycelium (the vegetative part of a fungus), improving forest soil, and growing mushrooms. Carl has done extensive research and experimentation with growing mushrooms over the past 20 years and has had bumper crops that are currently in his freezer. Oyster mushroom growing is the current work in progress.



(Carl Struck, George Duda and Johanne Riddick)



Following the mushroom discussion, the group of 22, which included one of our Colfax County Commissioners, seven visiting tree farmers (Badash, Benion, Felsor, Sallach, Stehling, Orr, and Tryhall), and numerous other guests, moved to a pond Carl has constructed to catch runoff. Grant funds were not available but with a downturn in construction a neighbor with equipment constructed the pond at a very reasonable price. The National Resource Conservation Service provided excellent advice on the construction. With a clay layer up to eight feet deep, the pond did not require a liner. The crew stockpiled the top soil, dug the pit, used the clay to raise the 10 foot embankment and then placed the topsoil atop the embankment. Using this technique reduced the potential for seepage through the embankment. With the drought conditions for the past three years, the pond is down quite a bit, but still has about 40 inches of water in the center.

We then toured a section of Carl and Johanne's 40 acres where he illustrated the effects on the soil of burning slash piles and the benefits of using a chipper and his continuing forest management. The chips from his chipper are used for walkways and to improve the soil. During our discussions of forest health and thinning, George Duda explained that up to 40 percent of precipitation that falls on dense forests evaporates and does not reach the ground to either benefit the forest or the water table because of the dense canopy.

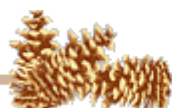
The group finally reached the kitchen pavilion where we watched a DVD on Camp Colin, a one week long camp Carl and Johanne have hosted annually for over 20 years for about 20 youngsters under the age of 13. The campers carry out various arts, crafts, woodworking, and forestry activities in the morning and in the afternoon make use of the pond and other outdoor activities. One feature of the camp is the Spirit House, complete with a tunnel to an old pickup truck, constructed by the kids over the years using bottles, cans and concrete. Also constructed by the kids is a ceramic tiled sun dial mound and benches around the sundial made from bottles and cans topped by tennis shoes, soles up. We called it the "soleful" bench. Actually sitting on the bench is much more comfortable than sitting on a bunch of bottles and cans.

Following a delicious lunch, each tree farmer gave a description of their family forests and how they are managing it. Jose Varella Lopez, Executive Director New Mexico Forest Industries Association (NMFIA) then gave a presentation on what the NMFIA is doing to enhance the forest industries by training workers in forest marking and inventory. One aggressive program is their conducting numerous forest safety classes throughout the year to certify forest workers in safe operation. One spectacular result of this initiative is it has reduced Workman's Compensation insurance rates for those certified from \$80 per \$100 in salary to \$9 per \$100 of salary. A dramatic decrease.

George Duda, retired forester from NM State Forestry who has extensive experience in the forest industry as well, presented his well-received class on Chain Saw Use and Safety. George has a wealth of knowledge and kept the group entertained as well as educated.

Once again thanks to all who worked so hard to put this event on and all who attended. I encourage you all to attend future field days. Also if you are interested in hosting a field day please let your forester or me know. Our next field day will be in September or October to honor our Tree Farmer of the Year.

Joseph M. Stehling Jr., Chairman, New Mexico Tree Farm Committee



FROM THE CHAIRMAN:

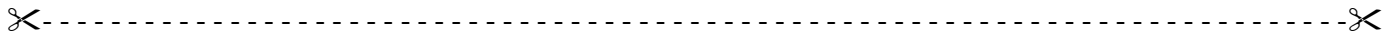
The New Mexico Tree Farm committee has no outside source of funds other than an occasional grant from the American Forestry Foundation. We need funds to put on the field days, recognize the NM Tree Farmer of the Year, publish and distribute the monthly bulletin, and to pay for our committee members, outstanding inspectors, and involved Tree Farmers, to attend the National Leadership Conference and the National Tree Farm Convention. These meetings serve to broaden these individuals understanding of forest management to aid in furthering our program.

In 2010 we sponsored the national convention. At that time our treasury was down to about \$100. Thanks to the silent auction and registration fees we added several thousand dollars to our treasury. Now with no source of funds, we need to start raising some money. Buck Buchanan, one of our Tree Farmers has graciously offered an elk tag for next season. For hunters or friends of hunters, please buy one or more of the raffle tickets. For non-hunters, I would appreciate you consider a donation using the enclosed form. I well realize the current state of the economy but a tax deductible donation of any size will help the committee to keep our program going.

NOTE: Cost of raffle tickets is not income tax deductible; cash donations are deductible.

Two additional items: We are still looking for a secretary for the committee; and several of our e-mail addresses are being returned as undeliverable. If you have signed up for e-mail distribution of the bulletin (to save us postage) and are not receiving it, please confirm your e-mail address with me.

Cut on line below and mail to the address below with payment/donation



NEW MEXICO TREE FARM COMMITTEE 2013 COW ELK TAG RAFFLE AND REQUEST FOR FUNDS.



\$10.00 per raffle ticket



Winning ticket wins a Cow Elk Hunt on the Buchanan Ranch near Pie Town, New Mexico. Permits may be used Unit Wide (Unit 15), (Hunts are subject to NM G&F regulations and hunt dates. Winners will be responsible to validate the Tag with the NM Game & Fish Department (+/- \$70.00) does not include butcher cost).

Name _____
Address _____
Phone Number _____ E-mail _____
Number of raffle tickets _____ x \$10.00 = _____ and/or Donation\$ _____ Check# _____

Drawing will be held at our thrice yearly meeting in Albuquerque on 14 August.

I do not want raffle tickets; tax deductible donation enclosed.

Please return this form to: Doug Boykin, NMTFC Administrator
1701 Enterprise
Socorro, New Mexico 87801

Once we have received your request your ticket will be entered into the raffle; we will send you a receipt for your cash donation.