



DOUG BOYKIN
Chairman,
NM Tree Farm Committee

1118 Hope Farms Road
Socorro, NM 87801
575-838-3027

Diboykin61@gmail.com
www.treefarmssystem.org/new-mexico

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TREE FARM BULLETIN

SPIRIT HILL CERTIFIED FAMILY FOREST FIELD DAY

by Mary Stuever, Chama District Forester

Carl Struck is a deep thinker when it comes to considering forests. His top concern lies beneath his feet as he roams his 40-acre woodland. Carl loves soil. He loves to learn about it, talk about it, and observe how his actions can improve the soil throughout his property.

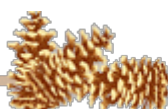


2019 Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year
Carl Struck & Johanne Riddick

Like many of his neighbors (such as 2003 & 2015 New Mexico Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year Hart and Utilia Alex, and Tree Farmers Roger and Jan Badash, and Juan and Rose Velasquez), Carl has put in the energy to manage the stand density of his forest, which, due to a legacy of fire exclusion, was unnaturally dense when he and his wife Johanne Riddick acquired the property in 1987. After getting their first Forest Management Plan in 1992, and the thinning work started in 1993. Today the property is a model of excellence for Forest Stewardship.

Struck and Riddick were chosen to be the 2019 New Mexico Tree Outstanding Farmers of the Year. One of the honors of this recognition is hosting Tree Farmers from across New Mexico to their property for a tour. Due to the COVID19 pandemic, that tour was delayed a year, and recently took place on May 15, 2021. For many of twenty-four landowners, foresters, and friends who attended the event, it is the first day to be outside with people not in their own pandemic pods. The New Mexico Governor and the Centers for Disease Control had loosened restrictions allowing the event to occur. It is hard not to be elated to be in the woods with long-time friends who had only been accessible by screen and phone for the past year.

The tour starts near the barn. For 23 years the ground remained bare where soil had been compacted during construction. A fine



stand of grass is there now, and Carl explains it only came in after wood chips were added to the soil. It is the beginning of many dirt-oriented lessons Carl plans to share.

In the Struck and Riddick projects, initially slash disposal was a key concern. They weren't happy with lopping-and-scattering or with piling-and-burning. Soon, the landowners found that chipping the boles and limbs of thinning residue became their preferred method.

On this Saturday in May, Carl stands in his forest holding a rich mat of organic material connected by stringy white fibers. Soil is clearly the operative word for the day, but for those who shy from four-letter words, then that word would be mycelium. The group launches into an informative discussion on the role of fungi in forests soils and bacteria in grassland soils. Carl feels the chips create the best environment for fungi development.



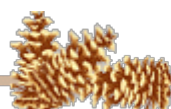
Carl discussing one of many forestry topics with landowners, foresters, and friends

Recently, John Formby, the Forest Health Specialist with the New Mexico Forest Division, has cautioned foresters and landowners about chipping early in the season due to the great release of pheromones that attract bark beetles and can lead to tree mortality. As with most forest practices, processes are complex, and foresters and landowners strive to deeply understand how to best care for the forest.

Carl continues the tour with conversations on juniper, pond construction, and many tales of the rich wildlife that share his property. Yet one of the unique stories of this property is the legacy of Camp Collin, named for Carl's deceased son. For nearly 30 years, Johanne and Carl brought area



Left to Right: Laura McCarthy (NM State Forester), Carl Struck, Johanne Riddick and Doug Boykin (NM Tree Farm Committee Chairman)





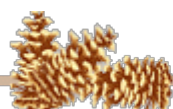
Carl singing an original song "Trees"

children to their woods to spend a week camping and understanding the forests. Many kids were repeats, and they returned to be counselors. Through the years they built unique structures from recycled materials and filled the property with rich memories and enchanting spirits.

On this May day the enchantment continues as the tour participants gather after lunch and out comes Carl's guitar. The singer-songwriter shares his recent original song in praise of Trees. It is another magic moment on the Spirit Hill Certified Family Forest.



Mom, mom, mom, look at us, no masks, smiles all around.



1) NMTFC 2021 RAFFLE

NEW MEXICO TREE FARM COMMITTEE 2021 RAFFLE

FIRST PRIZE: Guided Private Ranch Cow Elk Hunt Landowner Tag

SECOND PRIZE: Large Custom-Made Metal Art Piece

THIRD PRIZE: \$100 Cabela's Gift Card

Drawing to be held at the August 2021 NMTFC Meeting

Cow Elk Landowner Tag donated by private ranch north of Las Vegas, NM (Unit 45)

Winner may hunt during any five legal hunt days between 09/01 and 12/31/2021

(Winner will be responsible for NMDGF license and tag and scheduling the hunt with the ranch)

\$10.00 Each

To purchase your 2021 Raffle ticket(s) send a letter and check (payable to NMTFC) to:

Doug Boykin

1118 Hope Farms Road

Socorro, NM 87801

Doug will in turn send you your numbered 2021 Raffle ticket stub(s).

2) COMMITTEE MEETING

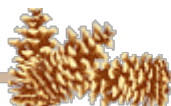
All Tree Farmers are invited and encouraged to take part in our 2nd New Mexico Tree Farm Committee Meeting of the year (three held annually). Please join us on Wednesday, August 11th, 2021. Join us and hear what other tree farmers have been up to and share your tree farm accomplishments with the group. We look forward to visiting with you. If you have any questions, please contact Arnie Friedt at arnie.friedt@state.nm.us

3) HEALTHY SOIL PROGRAM (HSP)

Good day Tree Farmers, we would like to inform you of a potential Grant Funding Opportunity through the Healthy Soils Program, from one of our State Agency partners the New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA). HSP was created when [the Healthy Soil Act](#) was signed into law in 2019. The purpose of the program is “to promote and support farming and ranching systems and other forms of land management that **increase soil organic matter, aggregate stability, microbiology and water retention** to improve the health, yield and profitability of the soils of the state.” At the heart of the Act are **five soil health principles**:

1. keeping soil covered;
2. minimizing soil disturbance on cropland and minimizing external inputs;
3. maximizing biodiversity;
4. maintaining a living root; and
5. integrating animals into land management, including grazing animals, birds, beneficial insects, or keystone species, such as earthworms

The Healthy Soil Act directs NMDA to engage with “eligible entities” in a variety of ways, including through the awarding of grants to improve soil health and soil health stewardship. **The Act defines Eligible Entities as including nations, tribes, and pueblos; land grants; acequias; soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs); and NMSU's Cooperative Extension Service.** Potential grant applicants include Eligible Entities and Individual Applicants (individual farmers/ranchers applying with the backing of an Eligible Entity). For additional information regarding the Healthy Soils Act and funding opportunities please click on the links above or on the Healthy Soils Program Homepage: www.nmda.nmsu.edu/nmda-homepage/divisions/apr/healthy-soil-program/



4) NATIONAL FIREWOOD WORKSHOP (Online Zoom, Free Event) June 9th & 10th, 2021

The focus of the National Firewood Workshop is how businesses make money in firewood businesses: This free two-day workshop held on the Zoom online platform focuses on the business side of the split firewood industry. We invite everyone to come and dig deep into the business issues of operating a profitable firewood business and have the top professionals in the firewood industry discuss the issues of equipment, sourcing wood, insects and quarantines, marketing, sound business management, transportation, brokers buying for large stores, dry kilns, automation, and employee issues.

Topics include:

- Selling and marketing
- Finding buyers
- Purchasing requirements by wholesale brokers and chain store buyers
- Managing a firewood processing business
- Sourcing affordable logs
- Equipment for sawing and splitting
- Heating options for kilns
- Firewood quarantines
- Dry kiln equipment and methods
- Selling green and kiln dried split wood
- Urban logs as sources of firewood logs

Who can benefit from watching this workshop?

- Firewood Producers
- Firewood Buyers
- Firewood Equipment Makers
- Foresters and Arborists
- Landowners and Loggers
- Extension Agents
- Woodstove Manufacturers

Register Online at: <https://nationalfirewoodworkshop2021tn.eventbrite.com>

Sponsored by: Tennessee Forestry; Wood Education and Resource Center of Princeton, WV; North Carolina State University Wood Products Extension

5) RANCH ROAD WATER HARVESTING AND DRAINAGE WORKSHOP TO HELP YOU BETTER MANAGE YOUR WATER RESOURCES

Dates: Friday, July 23 & Saturday, July 24 and Lady's Dozer Training Day Sunday, July 25, 2021

Location: Turner Brothers Ranch, Wagon Mound, New Mexico

Topics of Instruction: How to Read the Landscape and Surface Water Flow Patterns; Why Road Water Harvesting Reduces: The Need for Road Maintenance and Vehicle Maintenance, Flooding & Erosion; Why Road Water Harvesting Increases Water Infiltration, Vegetation (Forage) and Reestablishes Watershed Natural Flow Patterns and function; How to Layout and Construct Road Water Harvesting Structures Using a Dozer.

For additional information and sign-up contact: Steve Carson 505-470-3542 and/or rangehands@gmail.com

Sponsored By: Rangeland Hands, Turner Brothers Ranch, CS Ranch, High Plains Grassland Alliance, Boot Hill Ranch, Vermejo Park Ranch, Cimarron Watershed Alliance, and Wagner Equipment Company (NM Cat Dealer).

