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TREE FARM BULLETIN

The 2012 National Tree Farmer Convention in Jacksonville, FL last month provided an opportunity for us to renew acquaintances with people we had met last year during the TF convention in Albuquerque. We also made some new friends, and attended many of the concurrent sessions. Some of the topics included taxes, estate planning, wildlife, invasive species, and land-use planning.

There is a new land planning website for woodland owners on the American Forest Foundation's web page at www.mylandplan.org. The site will allow landowners to map boundaries, add features, set goals, plan actions and record these actions.

In another session I learned a new weather word. "*Derecho*" is a Spanish word for straight ahead. It was used to describe winds that are of hurricane force and not associated with hurricanes formed over water. There was incident in MO that resulted in timber losses on over 300,000 acres. Then two weeks ago there was an article in the Albuquerque Journal that used *derecho* to describe a weather event.

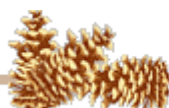
There were four outstanding Tree Farms nominated for Tree Farmer of the Year. Some of the nominees have had the Tree Farm in their family for many generations. This year's winner was from South Carolina.

Field Day was held at Shadowlawn Farms, about 45 minutes south of Jacksonville, owned by the Reinhold family. The third-generation owners manage the farm for timber, wildlife and have a conservation easement for a portion of their woods. We witnessed the use of specialized prep and planting equipment on the many facets of southern pine plantation management. There was a slash pine plantation that was planted in 1999 and the majority of trees were over 25 feet in height. There was also a Norwood sawmill demonstration.

The banquet was great and the NM Tree Farm Committee donated a Dream catcher for the silent auction.

We were disappointed that the youth programming was cancelled. We had taken the grandkids with us to learn more about tree farming –so we just had to teach them ourselves!

Charlie Wicklund, Treasurer, NM Tree Farm Committee



Message from the Chairman: Once again, I would like to thank the Harlings for hosting last month's Field Day and to all those of you who attended. It was the best turn-out in my experience. During the meeting I passed out a survey of programs to get some idea of what the membership might like for future field days. Of the top five programs those of most interest are as follows in order of priority: Tree Bugs and Disease, Creating Wildlife Habitat, Fire Prevention, Chain Saw use and Safety, Thinning and Pruning, Defensible Space, Forest Grants and Tree Farm Legacy program. The distance folks were willing to drive for a field day ranged from 30 miles to 100 miles and two hours or less. One attendee needed transportation to events, but no name was provided so future accommodations can be made. Please advise if you need transportation to any of our events. We will try to cover those programs and others in future events. Our next events are our September Committee meeting in conjunction with the NM Forest Stewardship meeting in Albuquerque and our Tree Farmer of the Year Field day in Datil in late September or early October.

