Autumn in the woods is teeming with life – human life. Yes, this is in addition to trees and wildlife. The people arrive as families gathering firewood, cowboys rounding up cattle, hunters seeking big game, as well as loggers harvesting timber to supply the local sawmill for the coming months. At this time of year, I always look forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones. But all this activity also serves to remind me of a legacy that my parents understood. We have a responsibility to see that our forest resources are available to house, clothe, and feed the nation. These hard working people of autumn serve their families, their community, and this nation by harvesting the bounty of the forest. And every year, the American Tree Farm Chapter in each state, honors an individual or family that has done its best to promote a bountiful forest.

Matthew Silva, Chairman

The New Mexico Tree Farm Committee is pleased to announce that Hart and Utilia Allex have been selected as the 2015 Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year for New Mexico. An Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year award is given to a Tree Farmer in recognition of their accomplishments on the ground and within the outreach and education realm.

Hart and Utilia Allex are Outstanding Tree Farmers because they are passionate not only for their own forests but all forests, private and public. Recently, the Allex’s have been very fortunate in obtaining funds to purchase additional forested properties.
As funds and property become available, they strive to add additional properties to their “to-thin-list”. As a visitor to the Allex Family Forest for the first time in March 2003, I walked up to the edge of their forest and stood silently in amazement to the obvious hard work that Hart and Utilia had put into making their Family Forest what it has become. And now, with the financial resources to obtain additional properties and work their forestry magic one property at a time, their passion will continue. In addition, the word “Foundation” has been discussed and perhaps in the near future additional funds may be available for a wide range of forestry applications. And, the Allex’s have been in contact with New Mexico Highlands University, Department of Natural Resources in an effort to facilitate possible forestry field studies for future forestry students.

Hart and Utilia were honored as New Mexico “Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year” in 2003, to include a tour of their Family Forest. They also have attended many New Mexico Tree Farm functions including Mora Research Field Day, the Rancho Gascon Demonstration Forest Dedication, the Bosque Demonstration Forest Dedication, Fall Tree Farmers Field Day held near Datil, NM, just to name a few. In connection with Carl Struck (Hart’s neighbor) they participated in local Presentations and Demonstrations: “Celebracion De Culturas/Familia Y Tradiciones” 90 minute walk describing forest management and restoration, wildlife pond construction, carbon sequestration and forest soil building. Hart has also written numerous articles for the local newspaper on forest management or the lack thereof. And, most recently the Allex’s received the “Land Stewardship Award” 2015 from the Taos Soil and Water Conservation District for outstanding commitment to natural resource conservation.

The New Mexico Tree Farm Committee will be celebrating the Allex’s successes at their Family Forest on October 15, 2016 from 10:00am through 2:00pm. Everyone receiving this bulletin is cordially invited to come up and tour the Allex Family Forest and enjoy a day in the forests of Northern New Mexico. Lunch will be provided. Please let us know if you will be attending to make sure we have enough food prepared for lunch. RSVP by October 3, 2016, and contact Arnie Friedt at arnie.friedt@state.nm.us or at 575-376-2204. Please consider attending, you won’t be disappointed. It will be an interesting and educational day.
If you plan on attending, please RSVP by October 3, 2016
Contact Arnie Friedt, Inspector, NM Tree Farm Committee
arnie.friedt@state.nm.us or call (575) 376-2204

Directions to the Allex Family Forest:
From Santa Fe to Allex Family Forest is 65.4 miles (1 hr. & 31 min.)

- Santa Fe to Espanola, US-285 N/US-84 W (25.7 miles)
- Espanola to Dixon, NM-68 N (23.2 miles)
  - Turn right at junction of NM-68 N and NM-75 E
- Dixon to Penasco, NM-75 E (13.2 miles)
- Penasco to Roderte, State Route 73 (1.6 miles)
  - Take right at junction of NM-75 E and State Route 73
- Roderte to Ramp 4, turn left onto Santa Barbara Rd. (1.7 miles)
  - Turn left onto Ramp 4
- On the top of Ramp 4 take a right turn and follow signs

Tree Farm signs will be posted from Penasco to the Allex Family Forest
1) BUY, SELL OR TRADE
Are you looking for forestry related equipment to buy (i.e. chipper, splitter, chainsaw, etc.)? Or, do you own forestry related equipment you would like to sell or trade? We would like to help you make the connection with other New Mexico Tree Farmers. Provide us with a description of the equipment, price, photo and contact information and we will post it in the New Mexico Tree Farm Bulletin. If you would like us to help you make the connection please provide information to Arnie Friedt at arnie.friedt@state.nm.us

2) COMMUNITY CORNER
If your community is having a forestry related public event let us know the details and we would be delighted to promote your event in the New Mexico Tree Farm Bulletin. Give us the event details, Who, What, Where and When with contact information and we will include in our monthly bulletin. If you would like us to help you promote your event, please provide information to Arnie Friedt at arnie.friedt@state.nm.us

3) NEW WEBSITE ADDRESS
The New Mexico Tree Farm Program is in the process of switching website addresses. Our current website is at http://www.nmfamilyforests.org/ and will be discontinued at the close of this year (2016). Our new website is at https://www.treefarmsystem.org/new-mexico and is already active. Current feature include: contact information, resources, newsletters, bulletins and our calendar of events. Take a few minutes and check out our new website (provided to us by the American Tree Farm System).

4) NEW MEXICO TREE FARM COMMITTEE MEETING
All Tree Farmers are invited and encouraged to attend our 3rd New Mexico Tree Farm Committee Meeting of the year (three held annually). Please join us at 1:30 pm on Wednesday, December 14, 2016 (Albuquerque meeting location to be determined). Come out 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