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September 2017



## TREE FARM BULLETIN

# NEW MEXICO TREE FARM PROGRAM FALL FIELD DAY

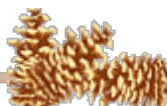
October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017 (10:00 AM to 2:00 PM)

The New Mexico Tree Farm Committee is pleased to announce that Sharon & Tom Bennion have been selected as the 2016 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.

While living and working in Los Alamos, Sharon & Tom Bennion enjoyed camping near Fenton Lake in the Jemez Mountains. After one camping trip near the Seven Springs Fish Hatchery, they saw and bought their first two adjoining lots. It became their own camping place, and they started to build a cabin from timber logged & sawed into lumber from these properties.



This became their first major thinning effort followed by several more while buying even more of the adjacent lots in this subdivision, part of the old Fenton Ranch homesteaded in the late 1800's. They now own 26 acres, a lot to take care of now at their age. Todd Haines prepared their first management plan in 2001 and they became a certified tree farm in 2003.





After their children grew-up and left home, Tom retired and he and Sharon sold their house and moved into their cabin full time, after first trying it during the summer for several years and commuting to/from Los Alamos. "It has been different living in the mountains, especially during the winter but it is sure beautiful with a lot of clear blue skies and fun walking in the snow after a storm."

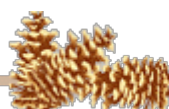
The Bennion's got introduced to the Back-Yard Tree Program in the East Mountains by George Duda, started to learn a lot about what others were doing and held a workshop for neighbors with help from George Duda and Charlie Wicklund. As a result, several neighbors also started thinning projects. This community effort started through grants obtained by our local Firewise non-profit, organized specifically to help property owners become better stewards of their property: creating defensible space, promoting forest health, enhancing wildlife, protecting and improving the water sources. The work of this non-profit continues today referring property owners to sources of assistance, both informational and monetary, primarily through the New Mexico State Forestry Division and the United States



Department of Agriculture, National Resources Conservation Service.



They also joined the local volunteer fire department, "retiring" this spring after almost 20 years of service. During that time, they were instrumental in getting a sub-station built and fully equipped next to the Fish Hatchery. To the left is Tom doing some more thinning with his grandson. The trees keep growing and need thinning and cleaning-up after windfalls, death due to bugs, drought and lightning.



As part of their family legacy program, Sharon and Tom have formed a Family LLC to continue the operation, maintenance and use of the property with their children and grandchildren. They all live out-of-state, but enjoy coming to visit each year. They all help to work a little, but also relax a lot, go hiking, fish on the creek and canoeing down at the lake. It has been a family effort for over 40 years!



The New Mexico Tree Farm Committee will be celebrating the Bennion's successes at their Tree Farm on October 14, 2017 from 10:00 AM through 2:00 PM. Everyone receiving this bulletin is cordially invited to come up and tour the Bennion Tree Farm and enjoy a day in the forests. 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 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017, and contact Todd Haines at [todd.haines@state.nm.us](mailto:todd.haines@state.nm.us) or at 505-867-2334. 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 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017***

**Contact Todd Haines**

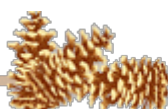
**[toddhaines@state.nm.us](mailto:toddhaines@state.nm.us) or call (505) 867-2334**

### **Directions to the Bennion Tree Farm:**

Sharon & Tom Bennion's address is: 125 Cebolla Lane, Jemez Springs, NM, 87025, Phone 575-829-3007

We are in the Jemez Mountains, 21 miles NW of the village of Jemez Springs just off SR 126 about 3 miles north of Fenton Lake State Park and 1/2 mile south of the Seven Springs Fish Hatchery. Click on the Google map reference given at the bottom of these directions.

1 - From the SOUTH, take I-25 north & US 550 west at Bernalillo. After about 24 miles, turn north on SR 4 at the village of San Ysidro, go about 17 miles through the Jemez Pueblo to the village of Jemez Springs. Observe the speed limit, in both places! About 9 miles north, turn west on SR 126 at the small village of La Cueva. Amanda's Store & La Cueva Lodge Motel are at this junction (the old café is closed).



2 - From Amanda's Store, go about 9 more miles over Fenton Hill, past Fenton Lake State Park & in about 3 more miles, you'll come to Cebolla Lane on the right. It's the next lane past the old Fenton Ranch, now part of the Manzano Day School with large buildings & old barn. The lane is marked with a sign & we'll have a Tree Farm sign out there too at the entrance to Cebolla Lane.

If you pass Cebolla Lane, you'll come to a junction on the right to the fire station and the Seven Springs Fish Hatchery. The paved road also changes to dirt here, so turn around.

3 – Go down Cebolla Lane 1/8 mile, across the little bridge & through the adjacent gate. Park anywhere in the field just across the bridge, in front of the house & barn or in the field to the north. Please just come into the house, introduce yourselves & make use of the bathrooms after your long trip.

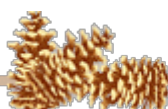
4 - From the EAST & NE, from I-25 (or SR 3 from Espanola) drive on SR 502 through Los Alamos westward across the bridge on State SR 501 and then SR 4 towards the Valles Caldera National Preserve. Or better yet, to avoid Los Alamos Lab's security checkpoints (must show driver's license), bypass Los Alamos and turn-off onto SR 4 towards the suburb of White Rock just before going up the hill to Los Alamos.

SR 4 will go past White Rock & Bandelier Nat'l Monument directly up into the Jemez Mountains. After passing by the Valles Caldera, you'll come to a junction with SR 126 at the small village of La Cueva. Amanda's Store & La Cueva Lodge Motel are at this junction (the old café is closed). Proceed as given coming from the South in step 2 above.

5 - From WEST & NW, drive on US 550 to Cuba & turn east onto SR 126 (across from Bruno's Restaurant). After traveling about 17 miles, you'll come to the end of the pavement at the junction with Forest Road 20 (road down to the Chaparral Girl Scout camp). After about 9 miles on the dirt road, you'll come to pavement again at the junction to the fire station and Seven Spring Fish Hatchery. Cebolla lane will be the first road on the left after about a half mile. Proceed using step 3 above.

See the following Google Map & enter your own starting point instead of Jemez Springs. We used GPS coordinates for our location because Google Maps doesn't locate us correctly. The satellite view is even better.

<https://www.google.com/maps/dir/35.920175,-106.7075122/La+Cueva+Lodge,+New+Mexico+126,+Jemez+Springs,+NM/Jemez+Springs,+New+Mexico+87025/@35.8506464,-106.663507,12z/data=!4m15!4m14!1m0!1m5!1m1!1s0x8722a3f83da0e891:0x10199f48702ef0a8!2m2!1d-106.639652!2d35.866795!1m5!1m1!1s0x872298701c621e15:0x3c47f49ae4409e34!2m2!1d-106.692258!2d35.7686356!3e0>



## 1) WHEN WAS YOUR LAST TREE FARM INSPECTION?

When was the last time your property was inspected by a Tree Farm Inspector? If it has been longer than five years you are overdue. A Tree Farm inspection should be conducted every five years. If it has been longer than five years, you are no longer a “Certified” Tree Farmer and you need to be inspected. As we work towards getting our tree farmers some form of agricultural or “Tree Farm” tax status, it is imperative that we make sure the inspections and management plans for our certified tree farmers are current, concise and correct, with addendums where needed. If you have not had your tree farm inspected in the last 5 years, please call your inspector and set up a date and a time for an inspection. All you need to do is call your Tree Farm Inspector at one of the numbers below and have the coffee pot on when your inspector gets there.

Chama District	575-588-7831	Cimarron District	575-376-2204
Socorro District	575-835-9359	Las Vegas District	505-425-7472
Capitan District	575-354-2231	Bernalillo District	505-867-2334

## 2) 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? Forestry related equipment only, please, no homes or land. 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](mailto:arnie.friedt@state.nm.us)

## 3) COMMUNITY CORNER

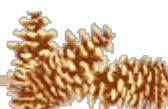
If your community is having a forestry related public event let us know the details and we would be delighted to promote your event in the New Mexico Tree Farm Bulletin. Give us the event details, Who, What, Where and When with contact information and we will include in our monthly bulletin. If you would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

## 4) E-MAIL INSTEAD OF SNAIL MAIL

Would you prefer to receive your Tree Farm Bulletin by e-mail instead of snail mail? If so, contact Doug Boykin at [doug.boykin@state.nm.us](mailto:doug.boykin@state.nm.us) and provide him with your contact information. By receiving your Tree Farm Bulletin by e-mail our operating costs are reduced. Thank you for considering this option.

## 5) 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 13, 2017 (location to be announced). 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](mailto:arnie.friedt@state.nm.us)



## **6) AMAZONSMILE**

### **DID YOU KNOW SHOPPING AT AMAZONSMILE CAN HELP SUPPORT THE NEW MEXICO TREE FARM COMMITTEE?**

#### **WHAT IS AMAZONSMILE?**

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon that lets customers enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices, and convenient shopping features as on Amazon.com. The difference is that when customers shop on AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organizations selected by customers.

#### **HOW DOES AMAZONSMILE WORK?**

When first visiting AmazonSmile, customers are prompted to select a charitable organization from almost one million eligible organizations. To browse or shop AmazonSmile, customers must first select a charitable organization. For eligible purchases at AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the customer's selected charitable organization.

#### **IS THERE ANY COST TO CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS OR TO THE CUSTOMERS?**

No. There is no cost to charitable organizations or to AmazonSmile customers. The shopping experience is identical to Amazon.com with the added benefit that the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate to the charitable organizations selected by customers.

#### **DOES THE AMAZONSMILE FOUNDATION TAKE ANY PORTION OF DONATIONS TO FUND ITS OPERATIONS?**

No. Amazon funds the operations of the AmazonSmile Foundation.

Visit: [http://smile.amazon.com/about/ref=smi\\_ge\\_ul\\_lm\\_raas](http://smile.amazon.com/about/ref=smi_ge_ul_lm_raas) for additional information.

Visit: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/85-0392161> to start shopping today.

**YOU SHOP. AMAZON GIVES.**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT, NEW MEXICO TREE FARM COMMITTEE.**

