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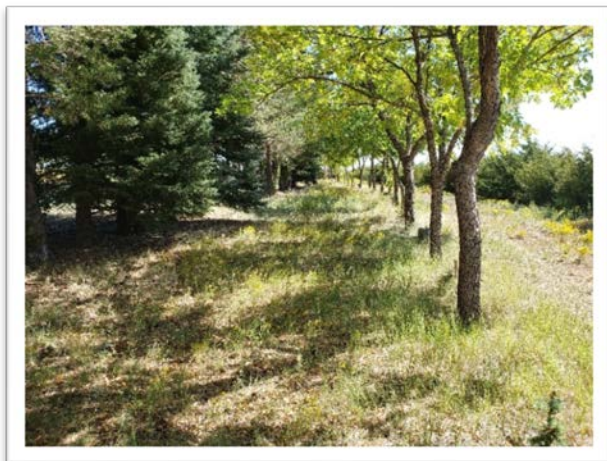


TREE FARM BULLETIN

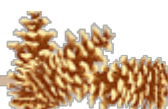
NEW MEXICO'S OUTSTANDING TREE FARMER OF THE YEAR LLOYD AND DEBORAH BASHA

By Clay Benton, Timber Management Officer, Bernalillo District

“There’s nothing fast about growing trees”, a quote from Lloyd Basha, New Mexico’s Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year (OTFY), who takes a non-traditional approach towards tree farming. This nearly 400-acre prairie boasts an uncommon oasis amidst a virtual desert, originally certified in 1994, the approach for the Basha’s has been one goal: wind reduction. Having moved outside of Mountainair New Mexico early they quickly realized that there was no tree cover and heavy winds, something the family was not keen on. Not long after they were able to get ahold of New Mexico’s windbreak manual, a how to guide on planting a wind break in wind heavy plains and decided it would be a viable solution to their needs. After being in contact with State Forestry they purchased a thousand trees and drove up to Santa Fe with their big pick-up truck, only to find out they had purchased seedlings and could have fit them in the back of their car.



Ever since, the Bashas have been re-writing the book on windbreaks, using adaptive management techniques adjusting and tweaking to what works for their specific needs, planting sixteen acres of multi-layer trees. “Poplars are the worst trees for a wind break in this area” says Lloyd, “they lose their canopy right when the wind is getting bad”. They have since removed originally planted Russian olives, lilacs, and black locust and now boast a multi-layer break consisting of Arizona cypress, eastern red cedar, poplars, blue spruce,



and Scotts pine. Additionally, within the break the family has been successful at farming apple, cherry, and golden rain trees. The Tree Farm meeting started off as a nice sunny fall morning in New Mexico with a host of tree farm committee members, state foresters, public, and five of the Basha family members.

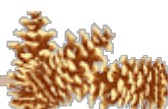


Introductions were made and the family started painting a historical background of the success and failures they've had throughout the years. Stories were told about cost sharing with Ciudad SWCD for drip line, visits from the DEA to inspect "drip line", chipping Russian olives, and falling off ladders, all in the pursuit of having trees where they typically don't grow.

This is all made possible by a 200' well the family had dug to feed a manmade settling pond where the family now houses gambusia and goldfish. Two pool pumps are hooked in along hundreds of feet of



drip line and quick connectors. It is a daily practice to move and re-attach drip lines to ensure each of the trees gets water on the proper schedule and area. The family told stories of having a visually lifeless range progressing into a real-life oasis after having water and trees introduced to the landscape. The list of wildlife ranges from migratory birds from the gulf, such as pelicans and whistling ducks, to black bear from nearby mountains, and everything in between. The farm has transformed a small portion of this otherwise dismal windy landscape.



Mountainair's local sandwich shop Alpine Alley Café catered the thirty people plus event with a great selection of sandwiches drinks and cake in the Bashas gathering area where the family was presented with their tree farm of the year award and plaque. Everything about this farm is a featured success, though not a traditional tree farm, a true adaptation of what tree farming means.



1) 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 11th, 2019 at the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish office located at 7816 Alamo Road. NW, Albuquerque, NM 87120. 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

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

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

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 Arnie Friedt at arnie.friedt@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.

