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TREE FARM BULLETIN, November 2007

Greetings,

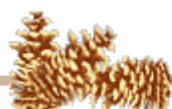
Every year the American Forest Foundation, the parent foundation of the American Tree Farm System, awards small grants to state Tree Farm committees that submit grant proposals to carry out education about sustainable forestry and promotion of the Tree Farm system. This year the New Mexico Tree Farm Committee submitted a proposal to develop an environmental education program on the Chimayo Scout Reservation. This beautiful property is visited by over 2,000 Boy Scouts a year.

We have recently been informed that the New Mexico Tree Farm Committee will receive \$4,500 to launch this program. Funds will be used to construct an outdoor pavilion (see photo) which will be used for displays and as a meeting place for groups learning about the outdoors. Funds will also be used to purchase various forestry equipment which will be used to show scouts and other groups how foresters measure the woods.

This will be an excellent opportunity to spread the message of Tree Farming and sustainable forestry. It will outreach to a large group of people that are interested in the outdoors. The hope is that the scouts who visit and their adult advisors will come away with an increased understanding of what sustainable forestry is all about.

The Tree Farm Committee has as partners in this project New Mexico State Forestry and the N. M. Society of American Foresters and of course the Boy Scouts of America. Programs will be developed where Tree Farmers and foresters will be able to get together with scouts to talk about sustainable forestry.

We are very excited about this new opportunity and would like to thank the American Forest Foundation for their support.





(The Chimayo pavilion will be modeled after the Philmont pavilion)

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT TREES?

What is a tree? A tree is a perennial woody plant with three basic characteristics that distinguish it from all other plants. 1. Size: In maturity it is much bigger than all other plants. 2. Form: A typical tree has a single stem which bears branches a distance above the ground. 3. Way of life: Under natural conditions trees grow in stands (forests) which dominate their area of land. By the wood of their trunks, their fruits, and the special kind of environment they create, trees influence life on earth more than any other kind of plant.

What is silviculture? Silviculture is the science of developing and taking care of forests.

Is the typical home tree different today from a generation ago? Yes. This is a new day, for new trees, for new homes. The tree situation outside the house has changed as much as the furniture and electric equipment has changed inside the house. Home trees of our grandparents had plenty of room, even “downtown.” They were the native trees of the woods, planted along streets and around the yard. For the present generation the residential streets of older towns, vaulted with elms, are a great glory.

Why are trees the most all-around and useful of our natural resources? Trees supply almost everything: food, heat, construction materials, chemical products, paper, clothing, plastics, photograph film. They gather and guard our water, decorate life, make homes for animals. All this production is conjured out of air, sunlight, water and rocks, and the supply will be renewed and multiplied when given half a chance.

What is the difference between tree pests and tree diseases? Tree pests are insects and their larvae, which eat and destroy leaves and wood. Tree diseases are caused by bacteria, viruses and fungi which invade and upset the tissues of the tree.

How much of a tree is composed of living cells? Very little of the volume of the tree's body, perhaps 1 percent or less.