



Harry A. Morrison

Chairman NM Tree Farm
Committee

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Greetings,

After six years as Chair of the New Mexico Tree Farm Committee, effective 1/1/11, I am handing over the reins to our Vice-Chair, Joe Stehling. As you can see from the following biography Joe believes in staying involved in his community and making a positive contribution in many areas. We are fortunate to have him involved in the Tree Farm System and willing to take on the challenge of being Chair for the next three years...

It's been an honor for me to serve as Chair. I will continue to play a role on the Committee. As a forester, I feel that the Tree Farm System fills a vital role in the management of our forests as a voice for family forest landowners. Over half the forests in the U.S. are owned by families in small tracts. Tree Farms are from 10-10,000 acres. The bulk of our New Mexico Tree Farms are less than 250 acres. The general public supports preserving forest land but is often confused on how that is done. The Tree Farm System, by promoting active management of our forests to produce the many benefits (wood, water, wildlife, and recreation) derived from the forest, shows the public that cutting a tree is not all bad, and indeed, can improve things in the woods.

Joe hopes to be able to visit and meet with as many Tree Farmers as possible to gather ideas and generate interest. It's a daunting task with the size of New Mexico and the remoteness of some of our Tree Farms. Joe's phone number in Hidden Lake is (575) 377-0546. He would like to hear from you if you have any ideas on ways to strengthen the program.

Mr. Joseph Stehling

New Mexico Tree Farm Committee Chair-Elect

Joe Stehling left cold Wisconsin to attend the US Military Academy at West Point graduating in 1960 with a commission in the US Army Corps of Engineers. In his 25 year army career he had tours in Washington state, Baltimore, Forts Belvoir and Knox, the University of Illinois earning a Master's degree in Civil Engineering, Korea, Taiwan, Turkey, and Germany where he and the family lived for 14

years. In his two tours building roads in Vietnam he was awarded the bronze star medal with two oak leaf clusters. Following his military career Joe worked as Department of the Army civilian in Germany and Washington DC. After that retirement, Joe taught computer application software and wrote computer program user manuals in the Washington DC area. In 1998 he heard of lots being sold in a new development called Hidden Lake 15 miles south of Angel Fire. Joe had always wanted to live in a ski resort area so he bought a 20 acre lot. Joe and his wife, Carol, built a house on the property in 2002 and moved to Hidden Lake full time in 2004.



Having lived in Germany for 14 years they were familiar with a clean forest with well-spaced trees. They also realized the danger of forest fires due to the heavy timber loading and large amounts of deadfall. In 1999 a contractor worked on about 2.5 acres before injuring himself. In May 2001 they started their own thinning and deadfall and slash clean-up program. In 2005 they developed a Forest Management Plan in coordination with Arnie Friedt, New Mexico Cimarron District Forester, to take advantage of grant funds under the Forest Health Initiative having about 11 acres commercially thinned and working the other 9 acres on their own under the grant. They have excellent defensible space for Firewise and now work very hard cleaning up the windthrow to continue improving their defensible space. Following their thinning operations, forester Arnie, invited the Stehlings to become certified tree farmers. In consideration of their aggressive cleanup operations and planting approximately 250 new seedlings to fill open areas and to provide diversity to their predominately aspen, bristlecone pine, and Engelmann spruce forest, Joe and Carol were nominated as New Mexico Tree Farmers of the year for 2007. The Stehling property is also a designated Wildlife Habitat.

In addition to being Vice Chairman of the New Mexico Tree Farmer committee Joe is a registered professional engineer in the state of Virginia and is currently President of the Colfax County Coalition of Firewise Communities, board member and training officer for the Angel Fire Search and Rescue team, voting member of the New Mexico Forest Stewardship committee, reporting member of the Cornell Laboratory Ornithological winter bird count and a reporting member of the Colorado Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, and Snow Study. In their spare time during tax season, Joe and Carol also prepare income tax returns for low and middle income taxpayers under AARP.

Joe and Carol have four children; two in Albuquerque; one in Maryland and one in Virginia. Among them they have five grandchildren.

As chair of the New Mexico Tree Farm committee, Joe is looking to improve communication with tree farmers by having small regional meetings at either tree farms or at the district forester's office to hear concerns and advertise the tree farm program. The committee received a Capacity Building grant to pursue that effort. Joe is preparing a survey to send to tree farmers to determine the level of interest.