



Joseph M. Stehling Jr.

December 2015

Chairman,
NM Tree Farm Committee

HC 70 Box 109
Ocate, NM 87734

(575)-377-0546

joestehling@earthlink.net

www.nmtreefarmers.org



TREE FARM BULLETIN

NEW MEXICO TREE FARM COMMITTEE HAS NEW LEADERSHIP

Matthew Silva, Chair-Elect, New Mexico Tree Farm Committee

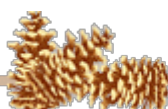
As a member of the American Tree Farm System, Matthew Silva continues the many decades of membership started by his parents, Fred and Rose Silva. The family ranch is located in the Zuni Mountains of western New Mexico and has been in the family since 1928.

As to his personal biography, Dr. Silva holds a bachelor degree in Basic Science from New Mexico Tech, a master's degree in Petroleum Engineering from the same institution, and a PhD in Chemical Engineering from the University of Kansas. His career includes a teaching stint at Fort Wingate, petroleum research at New Mexico Tech and the University of Kansas, and technical oversight of the

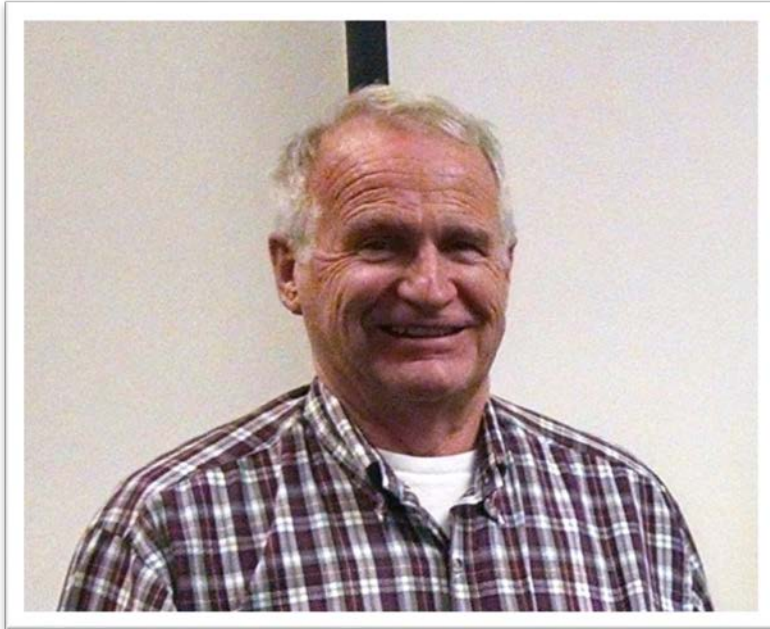


WIPP project with the Environmental Evaluation Group. He would eventually serve as Director of the group from 2000 to 2004. In 2004, after 26 years' service, he retired from public service and focused on managing various activities for the family ranch, including forest health.

In 2014, he and his family were honored by the New Mexico Tree Farm Committee as Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year, with a great day of celebration and a plaque that is proudly displayed in his office next to pictures of his mother, Rose, and his late father, Fred.



Tom Bennion, Vice Chair-Elect, New Mexico Tree Farm Committee

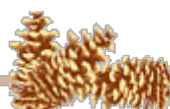


Tom grew up in Utah and on a ranch in southwestern Montana before joining the Army and then attending the University of Washington in Seattle. There he met and soon married Sharon while completing a B.S. degree in Mathematics. After graduation Tom worked at the National Reactor Testing Station in Idaho for a few years before moving to Los Alamos in the spring of 1966. With support and encouragement from Los Alamos, he completed a Ph.D. degree in Computational Physics from the University of Utah, retiring from Los Alamos in 1993, but continuing there as a full time consultant until finally hanging-up his coat in 2008.

While working at Los Alamos, Tom and Sharon with their three children enjoyed living and playing outdoors in the Jemez Mountains, buying their first property in the village of Seven Springs above Fenton Lake State Park next to the Seven Springs Fish Hatchery in 1975. They slowly acquired more property and built a cabin in which they moved full time in 1998 after their kids had left the nest. Slowly, they started learning about forest stewardship practices: promoting forest health by thinning overcrowded, stunted and stressed growth in a mixed conifer forest to create a defensible space in the Wildland Urban Interface. They have expanded their property along the Rio Cebolla to about 27 acres in what was once a portion of a productive ranch homesteaded by the Fenton Family. It has now been put into a Family LLC as part of their estate plan for their children and grandchildren to enjoy and continue the work started under their stewardship.

To help further this work, Tom continues to work as one of the founding members of the local Firewise organization, helping neighbors to adopt these same principals. He and Sharon first joined the Backyard Tree Farm program and then soon became a Certified Tree Farm. Currently, they are battling a hoard of bark beetles killing most all of their Douglas fir trees. The infestation became uncontrollable due to the drought conditions over the last several years.

In 1996 Tom also joined the local La Cueva Volunteer Fire Department, a district within the Sandoval Country Fire Department. He became a wildland and structure firefighter and was an EMS first responder for many years too. He continues to respond and work within the fire department out of the local Seven Springs sub-station near the entrance to the fish hatchery.



Joe Stehling, Secretary Elect, New Mexico Tree Farm Committee

Joe Stehling served as the New Mexico Tree Farm committee chairman for the past six years. Prior to that he served as vice chairman and Tree Farmer of the Year in 2007. Joe graduated from West Point and received a MS in Civil Engineering from Illinois State University. He retired after 25 years as an Army Engineer. After retiring he taught Microsoft Office software, drafted software User's Manuals, works on making his tree farm Firewise, prepares income tax returns for low income taxpayers and the elderly in the AARP Tax Aide program, and is currently Vice President of the Angel Fire Search and rescue team as well as president of his condo Home Owners Association. Joe and wife, Carol, have lived on their 20 acre tree farm 15 miles south of Angel Fire for the past 12 years.

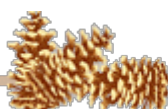


Charlie Wicklund, Treasurer, New Mexico Tree Farm Committee



Received a forestry degree from Arizona State College (NAU) Flagstaff in 1965. He served in Vietnam with the 34th Engineer Battalion; worked for Duke City Lumber Co 23 years in woods and plant operations, 11 years in Arizona and the 12 years as plant manager in Espanola; worked with NM State Forestry 20 years as Fire Management Officer, Timber Management Officer, and NM State Timber Management Officer. The last 10 years he worked as Inmate Camp Supervisor working with inmates doing conservation projects. I have been associated with American Tree Farm System since 1968 as an Inspector, Chairman, and Treasurer.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN: I would like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and happy Chanukah and a prosperous new year. This will be my last Chairman's note as Matthew Silva has been voted in as Chairman of our committee at our Committee meeting on 09 December. Tom Bennion was elected Vice Chairman and I was moved into the long vacant Secretary position. It has been a lot of fun the past six years and I have enjoyed it greatly working with the truly professional state foresters and the dedicated tree farmers. I know Matthew will do a great job with new ideas and leadership. Please support the committee by attending the field days, attending the committee meetings and contributing as you can both with funds and materially with volunteer hours. We have had a great year with our field days. The staff did an outstanding job, as they always do.



New Mexico Tree Farm Inspectors Honored

Recently, the New Mexico Tree Farm Committee honored several Tree Farm Inspectors for their continued support of the New Mexico Tree Farm Program. In particular, Todd Haines, Bernalillo District Forester received the Outstanding Tree Farm Inspector of the Year.



Your New Mexico Tree Farm Inspectors: (front row, left to right): Arnie Friedt, Cimarron Timber Management Officer; Todd Haines, Bernalillo District Forester; Frank Silva, Capitan Timber Management Officer; (back row, left to right): Tonya Vowles, Socorro Special Projects Forester; Doug Boykin, Socorro District Forester; Joe Carrillo, Chama Timber Management Officer; George Smithson, Santa Fe Special Projects Forester; Lawrence Crane, Bernalillo Special Projects Forester; Nick Smokovich, Socorro Timber Management Officer.

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 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.



Your New Mexico Tree Farm Committee would like to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

