



Harry A. Morrison
Chairman NM Tree Farm Committee
51 Ravens Ridge Rd.
Santa Fe, NM 87505
(505) 983-2064
forester4life@aol.com

TREE FARM BULLETIN, September 2009

Greetings;

The New Mexico Tree Farm Committee (NMTFC) is looking for a Tree Farmer to serve as secretary of the Executive Committee. Will Stapleton, our current secretary, has decided that after many years of service to the Tree Farm program, it is time for him to move on. He served as chairman of the committee before serving as secretary and has given countless hours of involvement to the program. He has been dedicated to the ideals of sustainable forestry embodied in the Tree Farm program and we on the committee are sorry to see him go. His service will be missed.

The NMTFC meets four times a year, usually in Albuquerque. Our role is to ensure the Tree Farm program in New Mexico meets the sustainability standards set by the American Forest Foundation, work with other groups involved in forest management issues, plan yearly Tree Farm events, and work to educate the general public on forestry issues.

The secretary's responsibility is to record the minutes of the quarterly meetings and provide them to the committee for dissemination. The secretary is a voting member of the committee and can make motions and vote on them.

This is a volunteer position. We do have funds to reimburse members of the committee for mileage, meals, etc. related to their service on the committee. Committee members usually serve for a three-year term. A one year term may be possible if someone is not sure they want to serve for three years.

I urge you to consider serving with the committee especially if you are interested in forestry issues. The Tree Farm System is the largest forest landowner organization in the nation so involvement in the committee will put you at the leading edge in private forest land issues.

If you have the time and inclination please contact me at the numbers listed above.



HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT TREES?

Did people live among those trees? No. *Nomo sapiens* was not destined to appear on earth until about 94 million years after those trees were making the landscape lovely in Maryland. Those willow, poplars, and oaks were growing in this country even before the Rocky Mountains had been pushed up.

How many wilderness areas are there in the United States? To be preserved as wilderness, 77 areas have been designated in 73 National Forests in 11 states. Of these, 28 areas, each over 100,000 acres in size, are true wilderness areas. Smaller tracts of not less than 5,000 acres are called wild areas.

What are some attractive native deciduous trees for the home? Red maple and flowering dogwood are two of the best smaller trees. They are fast-growing and hardy, with red fall foliage. The American larch or tamarack is interesting, with needles that are bluish in spring and yellow in the fall before they drop off. Sassafras is a good choice because of its striking autumn foliage and odd horizontal branching.

The smoke tree, a close relative to sumac, is occasionally used as an ornamental. Among the more beautiful of our smaller trees are the thorns. Washington thorn is the most upright-growing of all. Its red fruit hangs on the tree most of the winter. Cockspur thorn is the most horizontal and has very firm, glossy foliage.

Magnolias with their large, showy, white, pink or purple flowers are excellent ornamentals. Hawthorn is a small, compact tree with eccentric zigzag branches. It has beautiful white or red flowers in the spring and little red "apples" in the fall which add to autumn landscapes.

Mountain ash in cool northern places has the most beautiful cascades of red berries of any of our flowering trees. But these are so bitter that even birds are restrained from eating them. Its leaves are like ferns eight inches long.

Redbud is best in the Middle West. A wealth of purple flowers springs out of branches and trunk. The leaves are round Valentine hearts.

Scarlet gum eucalyptus is one of the outstanding flame-colored trees for California. It flowers in January and again in the fall.

Goldenrain tree bursts out in great clusters of tiny golden flowers in July. Shadblow is a delicate puff of white flowers in the earliest spring before most other trees are in flower or leaf. Silverbell tree decorates itself in May with bell-shaped. Snowy flowers which hang in great rows from the branches.

Among the decorative flowering crabapples, Japanese crabapple has red and white buds which make it particularly attractive. It flowers heavily in May.

Where and how is boiling maple sap carried out? Sap from a few trees for family consumption can be boiled in iron kettles on the kitchen stove. Farmers who operate commercial sugar groves haul the sap to a nearby sugar house, a modest shed with a storage tank outside. The sap is piped from the tank into a shallow, rectangular corrugated pan that rests on a brick or cement foundation with iron doors and draft controls. In this the fire roars from end to end of the pan.

Does pruning help fight tree diseases? Pruning is the shortening of branches and twigs, cutting out old worn stems and weak shoots, and thinning out where the trees are crowded with many small branches and twigs. All this provides light and air throughout the branches, making a healthier tree, less subject to disease; improving the quantity and quality of the flowers.

Without a pump, what makes sap flow up through a tree? Sap flows up through wood cells end to end (the grain of the wood). These are microscopically slender, so the column of water is divided into practically weightless threads, yet continuous from roots to leaves. The cohesion of water molecules on the surface of water is very strong, and in such minute threads all molecules are surface. These amazing pipelines terminate in leaves where water evaporates rapidly into the air. This sets up a tension in the water threads which pulls up more water. The tensile strength of sap that is, the ability to pull on it lengthwise without breaking it has been found to be as great as 2,250 pounds to the square inch. This is 150 times greater than the pressure of the atmosphere and enough to lift sap many times higher than the tallest trees, merely by the gentle tug of evaporation at the top.

Platt, Rutherford 1992. 1001 Questions Answered About Trees. Dover Books. 318pp.

