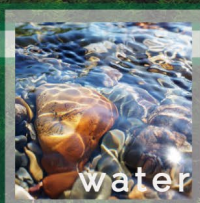


NEW MEXICO TREE FARM

BULLETIN



UNIQUE HISTORY OF CHAINSAWS:

FROM CHILDBIRTH TO TIMBER



An early chainsaw, known as Osteotome, from 1780.
Photo credit: Sabine Salfer/Wikicommons

The chainsaw is an indispensable tool in forestry, land management, and even landscaping. Today, it's most commonly associated with lumberjacks and tree felling, but its origin story is far from ordinary. In fact, it traces back to an entirely different field: medicine.

In 1780, Scottish doctors John Aitken and James Jeffray designed the first chainsaw—not for chopping trees, but for assisting in childbirth. The two physicians developed a hand-cranked device equipped with a small, serrated chain to aid in symphysiotomies—a surgical procedure used to widen the pelvic bone during difficult deliveries.

While it may seem an odd choice for a medical tool, this early chainsaw was a groundbreaking (albeit unsettling) innovation in the field of obstetrics. Though far removed from the powerful machines we recognize today, it was a critical step forward in the development of surgical technology.

As time passed, however, the chainsaw's focus shifted. By the early 20th century, engineering advancements and increased motorization transitioned the tool from the delivery room to the lumberyard. With the addition of motors, chainsaws became faster, more powerful, and better suited for felling trees.

4TH QUARTERS 2024

OUR MISSION

To promote the growing of renewable forest resources on private lands while protecting environmental benefits and increasing public understanding of all benefits of productive forestry.

The American Tree Farm System (ATFS), a program of the American Forest Foundation, is committed to sustaining forests, watershed and healthy habitats through the power of private stewardship.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PG. 1 - 2

From Childbirth to Lumberyards: The Surprising Origins of the Chainsaw

PG. 3

Wood For Life Program Delivers First Load of Firewood to Tse'ii'ahi'

PG. 4

Visiting Forester Program Expands to Support Reforestation at Philmont

PG. 5

Resources to help empower landowners
Learn about MyLandPlan.org

TIMELINE OF CHAINSAW HISTORY

- **1785:** A chain handsaw model is described in Principles of Midwifery, or Puerperal Medicine by John Aitken.
- **1883:** Magaw of Flatlands, New York, patents a chainsaw for making boards by stretching a chain between grooved drums.
- **1905:** Samuel J. Bens of San Francisco patents a chainsaw with a guide frame for felling giant redwoods.
- **1918:** Canadian millwright James Shand patents the first portable chainsaw.
- **1926:** Andreas Stihl patents the first electric chainsaw for logging.
- **1927:** Emil Lerp, the founder of Dolmar, develops the first gasoline-powered chainsaw.
- **1947:** Joseph Buford Cox invents the Cox Chipper Chain, inspired by timber beetle larvae.
- **1950:** The first one-man chainsaw is put into production.
- **1964:** Stihl introduces the first antivibration handle.
- **1973:** Husqvarna creates the automatic chain break.
- **1982:** Husqvarna launches the 50 Rancher, the first all-round saw.
- **1991:** Stihl introduces the MS 880, the world's most powerful chainsaw
- **1993:** Husqvarna introduces the first low-emission, two-stroke engine chainsaw
- **1995:** Stihl develops the first chainsaw with an anti-kickback feature
- **2000:** Husqvarna introduces the first chainsaw with a catalytic converter
- **2002:** Stihl introduces the MS 200 T, a lightweight chainsaw for arborists
- **2004:** Husqvarna introduces the 445e, the first chainsaw with electronic fuel injection
- **2007:** Stihl launches the first cordless, battery-operated chainsaw (MS 180 C-BE)
- **2010:** Husqvarna introduces the world's first robotic chainsaw (Husqvarna Automower 305)
- **2013:** Stihl releases the world's first battery-powered chainsaw with professional-level power (MSA 160 C-BQ)
- **2015:** Husqvarna launches the 572 XP, the first chainsaw with a magnesium housing
- **2018:** Stihl develops the world's first carbon-fiber chainsaw (MS 500i)
- **2020:** Husqvarna introduces the 120i, a fully battery-powered chainsaw for homeowners
- **2022:** Stihl launches the GTA 26, a mini chainsaw for yard work

This shift marked a dramatic change in both the timber industry and the tool's intended purpose, sparing many mothers from the original, rather grim application of the chainsaw.

Fast forward to today, chainsaws have evolved into versatile powerhouses, serving purposes as varied as home landscaping, professional tree care, and even extreme sports like competitive chainsaw carving. While their modern utility is undeniable, their fascinating and somewhat unusual beginnings are a reminder of how technological advancements can take unexpected—and often surprising—paths.

So, the next time you fire up a chainsaw, take a moment to reflect on its remarkable journey from medical tool to industrial powerhouse. And perhaps, give a nod of gratitude to the innovators who ensured this cutting-edge device ultimately found its rightful place in the great outdoors—far from the operating table.



A motorized and portable drag saw being used by lumbermen in Washington, Bellingham, Washington, circa 1916. Photo credit: Getty images

A little chainsaw humor

I bought a chainsaw 10 years ago...it Stihl works.

There's a new chainsaw coming out soon...I hear that it's cutting-edge technology.

I recently bought chainsaw resistant clothes...They were expensive but hey at least they didn't cost an arm and a leg.

I don't snore, I dream of being a chainsaw.

Let your life be like a chainsaw, full of sharp humor and unpredictable twists!

A chainsaw doesn't just cut wood; it carves paths, builds dreams, and clears the way for possibilities.



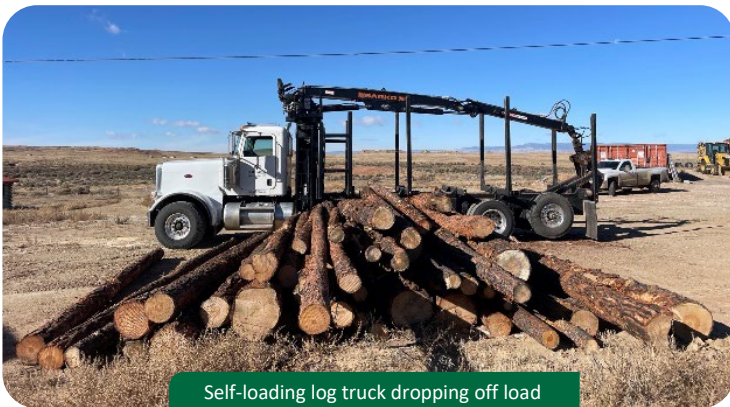
NATIONAL FOREST FOUNDATION WOOD FOR LIFE PROGRAM

A TRIBAL FUELWOOD INITIATIVE

The Wood For Life program in New Mexico connects forest restoration with community support by providing firewood to Indigenous communities. Partnering with the National Forest Foundation, U.S. Forest Service, and tribal organizations, the program salvages small-diameter timber from fire prevention efforts in national forests and delivers it to tribal households reliant on firewood for heating. This initiative not only reduces wildfire risks but also promotes sustainability and strengthens relationships with tribal communities, ensuring warmth and resilience during New Mexico's winters.

In early November, Gennaro Falco, Forestry Program Manager with the Cibola National Forest and Grasslands Supervisor's Office, shared an exciting milestone for the Wood For Life program in our state. The first load of firewood from the Zuni Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP), under the National Forest Foundation (NFF) Wood for Life Agreement, was delivered to Tse'ii'ahi' (Standing Rock). This wood bank is serving several communities and is coordinated by Yee Ha'olnii Doo - A nonprofit group focused on Hopi and Navajo solidarity which formed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Additional wood banks are in Nahata Dziil, Rock Springs, and Ramah Chapters, expanding the program's reach across the region.

Falco gave well-deserved kudos to the many partners involved, including the Mt. Taylor Ranger District, the National Wild Turkey Federation, the National Forest Foundation, the Forest Stewards Guild, and Forest Fitness LLC. Their collaboration not only advances forest restoration on National Forest System lands but also provides essential resources to local communities. This milestone is a testament to the power of partnership and community support!



Self-loading log truck dropping off load of wood to Tse'ii'ahi' (Standing Rock).
Photo credit: Forest Fitness, LLC.



Harvester working in Zuni Mountains.
Photo credit: Todd Haines, Forestry Contractor for the National Wild Turkey Federation

EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION: THE VISITING FORESTER PROGRAM AT PHILMONT SCOUT RANCH

The Visiting Forester program at Philmont Scout Ranch offers forestry professionals a unique opportunity to engage with youth and share their expertise in sustainable forest management. Participants in the program collaborate with Scouts on hands-on conservation projects, such as forest thinning, erosion control, and wildfire mitigation, helping to preserve the natural beauty of Philmont's rugged landscapes. This initiative fosters a deeper understanding of forestry's role in ecosystem health while inspiring the next generation of environmental stewards.

The program is gearing up for an exciting 2025 season with a unique opportunity to support reforestation efforts following the devastating [Ute Park Fire of 2018](#). Originally planned to focus on the Demonstration Forest, the program will now include a new experience centered around reforesting Philmont at the Cimarroncita Camp, located near Ute Park. In collaboration with university researchers, the reforestation project will give participants the chance to engage in critical conservation activities such as site preparation and tree planting, following state-of-the-art planting guidelines. This is an exciting moment for the Visiting Forester program, combining conservation, education, and forest restoration at one of the country's most beloved scout ranches.

If you are interested in learning more about Philmont Scout Ranch, you can visit their website at <https://www.philmontscoutranch.org/>.

Forestry professionals interested in applying for the Visiting Forester Program can reach out to Mary Stuever (Visiting Forester Coordinator) at mary.stuever@emnrd.nm.gov, for more information.



Moisture Matters: How Hydrated Trees Help Prevent Fires

The holiday season is here, and for many, decorating a Christmas tree is one of the most cherished traditions. However, it's important to remember that both real and artificial trees can present safety risks if not properly cared for.

One key safety tip is understanding the role of moisture content in preventing fires. Just like real Christmas trees, which are less likely to catch fire when properly watered, trees in forests with higher moisture content are less flammable. Dry trees, whether in your home or in the wild, are more likely to fuel fires. Keeping your Christmas tree hydrated reduces the risk of fires from lights or candles, much like how moisture helps trees in forests resist rapid burning during droughts or heatwaves.

If you have a real Christmas tree, be sure to check the water level daily to ensure its drinking enough—especially in the first few days. A hydrated tree is a safer tree!



HELPFUL RESOURCES

[New Mexico Tree Farm Program website](#)

[New Mexico Tree Farm Committee Members](#)

[National Association of State Foresters | NM website](#)

[Guide to Resources for Private Forest Landowners in NM](#)

[NM Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department \(EMNRD\)](#)

[American Tree Farm System | National website](#)

[American Forest Foundation website](#)

[National Woodland Owners Association \(NWOA\)](#)

[U.S. Forest Service](#)

[Forest Management map viewer](#)

[MyLandPlan.org](#)



MAXIMIZE YOUR LAND'S POTENTIAL WITH MYLANDPLAN.ORG

Join thousands of woodland owners who are already using [MyLandPlan.org](#) to create personalized, high-quality maps of their property. This free tool helps you set goals for your land, provides activity recommendations, and allows you to track your progress with a task list. Plus, you can document and share special moments with your family in the forest journal. Watch the [Instructional Video - What is My Land Plan? | My Land Plan](#) or visit <https://mylandplan.org/> for more details.



Warm wishes from your New Mexico Tree Farm Committee! As the holiday season approaches, we want to take a moment to thank you for your continued support and engagement. May this season bring you joy, peace, and wonderful memories. Happy Holidays!

