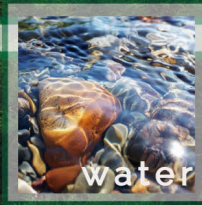


NEW MEXICO TREE FARM

BULLETIN



RSVP TODAY NM TREE FARM FALL EVENT

Written by: Todd Haines, NM Tree Farm Program, Inspector Coordinator

Mark your calendars for Thursday, September 10, as the New Mexico Tree Farm Program and the Southwest Section of the Society of American Foresters host a fall event aboard the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad.

Following last year's joint event, which included a boat tour on Elephant Butte Lake, this year's gathering will feature another memorable way to experience New Mexico's landscapes. Members and friends of both organizations are invited to join a one-way scenic train ride, with a bus returning participants after the trip.

Thanks to a generous sponsorship from [Forest Fitness](#), a local forestry company, the cost of the event will be significantly reduced to \$50 per person. The event will include lunch, reserved train car space for the group, and forestry-focused talks along the route. Forestry experts will also be available for informal conversations during the ride.

Space will be limited, as each train car holds 38 people, so early sign-ups are important.

RSVP today to save your spot!



2ND QUARTER 2026

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

Save the Date: NM Tree Farm Fall Event

PG. 2

The Muscle Car of Chainsaws

PG. 3

Fire season, water, and monsoon readiness

PG. 4

In Memory of Charlie Wicklund

Share your photos

Resources to help empower landowners

THE MUSCLE CAR OF CHAINSAWS

Written by: Todd Haines, NM Tree Farm Program, Inspector Coordinator

Some people are car enthusiasts who restore old cars, take the parts in for a custom paint job, and then rebuild the car to top-notch standards. Well, some people in the Tree Farm community share a similar passion for restoring older items. The notable exception is what they choose to restore.

Lee Zilhart, who passed away a few years ago, was a Tree Farmer with just such a passion. He showed me one of his projects during a visit to his property. It was an older model Stihl 056 AV chainsaw. He had several chainsaws, but this one was his project. Lee took it apart, cleaned it up, had it painted by an auto shop painter, then reassembled it and turned it into a classic.

The Stihl 056 AV was manufactured between 1980 and 1985 and featured an 81-cc engine. The “AV” stands for anti-vibration.

While some people may consider it a dinosaur, others think it is one of the most capable and underrated chainsaws. The 056 is not rare, but it is certainly vintage. Parts can be hard to find, which is common with saws of this age, but it was a great saw in its time.

Compared to today’s Stihl models, this saw would be more powerful than the Stihl 460, which is well into the professional series. In fact, Stihl only makes a couple of models with more power than that.

The point is this is definitely the “muscle car” of the chainsaw world. For Lee, it was worthy of a restoration project, a classic paint job, and a second life.

A SHORT HISTORY OF CHAINSAWS IN THE WOODS

Before chainsaws became common, much of the work of felling trees was done with axes, crosscut saws, and a great deal of muscle. Early powered chainsaws were large, heavy machines that often required two people to operate. By the 1930s and 1940s, chainsaws were beginning to appear in logging operations, but their weight and maintenance needs limited how widely they were used.

By the 1950s, lighter one-person saws helped change forestry work in a major way. They made cutting faster and less labor-intensive, and over time the chainsaw became one of the most recognizable tools in forestry. Today’s saws are lighter, safer, and more efficient than those early machines, but vintage models still tell an important story about the evolution of work in the woods.



Lee with his chainsaw collection

FIRE SEASON, WATER, AND MONSOON READINESS

By June, spring green-up is fading in many parts of New Mexico, temperatures are climbing, and Tree Farmers are looking at a different set of seasonal priorities. This is a good time to take one more look at access roads, defensible space, water sources, and areas that may be vulnerable once summer storms arrive.

Check access before you need it

Fire season is a reminder that access matters. Take time to look at gates, roads, turnarounds, and driveway entrances. Make sure emergency vehicles could reach key areas if needed. Clear low branches along roads, remove problem debris, and note any places where erosion, washouts, or overgrown vegetation could limit access.

Look at fuels with summer conditions in mind

Areas that looked green and manageable earlier in spring may now be drying out. Pay attention to grasses, slash, dead limbs, and vegetation near structures, roads, fences, and equipment. If fire restrictions are in place, avoid any work that could create sparks and focus instead on planning, hand work, cleanup, or identifying priorities for later.

Prepare for monsoon runoff

Before heavy summer rains arrive, check culverts, drainage dips, road edges, and low-water crossings. Remove debris where water needs to flow, look for places where runoff may cut across roads, and consider where small fixes now could prevent bigger damage later. Good drainage protects roads, soil, water quality, and access.

Watch trees for stress

June is also a good time to look for signs of insect activity, drought stress, broken limbs, or declining trees. Fading needles, pitch tubes, boring dust, thinning crowns, and unusual dieback are all worth noting. A few photos taken now can help you compare conditions later in the season or share concerns with a forester.

Keep water in the picture

Springs, seeps, stock tanks, wildlife drinkers, and other water sources become especially important as summer heat increases. Check that water sources are functioning, protected from unnecessary damage, and accessible where appropriate. Water is valuable for wildlife, livestock, and fire readiness.

June FIELD CHECK

FIRE SEASON, WATER, AND MONSOON READINESS

Take time this month to:

<p>CHECK ACCESS Look at roads, gates, turnarounds, and driveway entrances.</p>	<p>MANAGE FUELS Watch for dry grasses, slash, and dead limbs — especially near structures.</p>	<p>PREPARE FOR MONSOON RAINS Clear culverts and drainage, fix road issues, and prevent erosion.</p>	<p>WATCH YOUR TREES Look for signs of insects, stress, dieback, or broken limbs.</p>	<p>CHECK WATER SOURCES Make sure springs, tanks, and drinkers are working and protected.</p>	<p>TAKE PHOTOS Document conditions now to compare after the monsoon season.</p>

A little time today can help protect your land, your trees, and your investment.
Have a safe and productive summer!

Good stewardship today, healthy forests tomorrow.

IN MEMORY OF CHARLIE WICKLUND

DEC 25, 1940 – FEB 27, 2026

Written by: Andrea Mackay, NM Tree Farm Newsletter Editor

The New Mexico Tree Farm Program remembers with gratitude Charles “Charlie” Wicklund, whose life and career reflected a deep commitment to forestry, land stewardship, and the wise management of New Mexico’s natural resources. Charlie worked for New Mexico State Forestry from 1992 until his retirement in 2007, where his service included fighting forest fires, building forest roads, mentoring crews, and helping lead the forestry inmate work program. He was also involved in New Mexico’s Tree Farm Program for decades, most recently serving as Treasurer of the New Mexico Tree Farm Committee. In honor of his lasting dedication, the annual New Mexico Tree Farmer of the Year Award has been named for him. Read Charlie’s full obituary [here](#).



Share Your TREE FARM PHOTOS!

We'd love to feature more photos from **New Mexico Tree Farmers** in future newsletters.

Send us your photos of:

THINNING PROJECTS

WILDLIFE

WILDFLOWERS

ROAD WORK

FIRE PREPAREDNESS

FAMILY TIME ON THE LAND

SEASONAL CHANGES

EMAIL YOUR PHOTOS

Thank you!

Share Your Tree Farm Photos

We would love to feature more photos from New Mexico Tree Farmers in future newsletters. If you have images of thinning projects, wildlife, wildflowers, road work, fire preparedness, family time on the land, or seasonal changes on your property, **please send them to Andrea Mackay**, our newsletter editor. Your photos help tell the story of Tree Farm stewardship across New Mexico and may be included in an upcoming issue of the newsletter.

HELPFUL RESOURCES

- [American Forest Foundation website](#)
- [American Tree Farm System | National website](#)
- [Family Forest Research Center](#)
- [Forest Management map viewer](#)
- [Guide to Resources for Private Forest Landowners in NM](#)

- [MyLandPlan.org](#)
- [National Association of State Foresters | NM website](#)
- [National Woodland Owners Association \(NWOA\)](#)
- [New Mexico Department of Game and Fish](#)
- [New Mexico Tree Farm Program website](#)
- [NM Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department \(EMNRD\)](#)
- [U.S. Forest Service](#)

NM TREE FARM COMMITTEE



DOUG BOYKIN | CHAIRMAN

1118 Hope Farms Road,
Socorro, NM 87801
Phone: 575-838-3027
Email: Diboykin61@gmail.com