



# THE TREE PRESS

Made Possible by funding from New Mexico State Forestry and USDA Forest Service

Spring 2009

## Tree New Mexico Welcomes New Mexico State Urban Forester

### Greetings New Mexico!

My name is Lance Davisson and I manage **New Mexico's Urban and Community Forestry Program**, and recently became an ISA Certified Arborist. My job is very challenging and rewarding as we work to build a successful state-wide program that serves New Mexico's communities, large and small. I am also pleased to have a great organization serving as the **State's Volunteer Coordinator, Tree New Mexico!** New Mexico has an excellent network of engaged citizens and communities that is a great credit to my predecessors and organizations such as **Tree New Mexico**. While I've adapted into a green chili loving New Mexican, I didn't start my life's journey here. I was born and raised in Wenatchee, Washington "The Apple Capital of the World". I attended college at Montana State and Washington State Universities, graduating in 2000 with a BS in Natural Resource Management.

Following college I had a 7-year career with the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (as an agriculture land manager, commercial aquatics land manager in downtown Seattle, and state lands forester). Kind of a crazy career resume, but I'm thankful for my wife's career choice which has allowed me to become a "well-rounded" natural resource professional.

In 2007 my wife graduated medical school and we moved from Seattle, WA to Albuquerque, NM with our daughter (who is now 4) for my wife to complete her Emergency



*Lance Davisson with daughter Makena and Tillie at Tent Rocks*

Medicine Residency training at UNM Hospital.

My family and I love the sunshine, good food and great people here in New Mexico. We enjoy camping, spending time outdoors, barbecuing in our backyard, taking hikes with our new puppy, and spending time with friends. When time allows, I enjoy mountain biking on the various trail systems that surround the Albuquerque area.

After all of my travels and career paths, I seem to have found a great home. I have learned that the people of this state are rich in heritage and have a deep love of the environment, and it is truly rewarding to work with them every day as we build healthy community forests for our children and grandchildren to enjoy. *Lance Davisson, New Mexico Urban State Forester*

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## State Forestry Announces Community Forest Survey Results

### *Introduction: by Lance Davisson*

A group of professionals from communities throughout New Mexico have embarked on an exciting project to highlight the value that community forests provide citizens and the environment in our state. The "Trees and People" survey launched this project with a very successful result! As the project continues, we would like to empower you and your community leaders so we can together build stronger and healthier community forests for our children and grandchildren to enjoy.

**Santa Fe** – A recent statewide survey has discovered strong support for continued development and expansion of healthy trees within New Mexico community landscapes. The "Trees and People" survey, created by the New Mexico Community Forest Planning Group, was conducted on-line for the purpose of

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gauging New Mexicans' knowledge and awareness of urban and community forests.

More than 430 people from approximately 70 New Mexico communities participated in the survey. Invitations were distributed electronically and by word of mouth to the general public, elected officials, educators, landscape and forest professionals, government agencies, non-government organizations and the media.

"This survey shows that people from all walks of life recognize the value that trees provide to the health of our environment and beautification of our communities," said New Mexico State Forester Arthur "Butch" Blazer. "I strongly encourage New Mexico's communities to create or continue developing their community forestry programs."

Overall, the survey found community forests are important to the citizens of New Mexico. Five central themes were expressed throughout the survey:

- Community Forests provide immense benefits including beautification and enhancing quality of life
- Water is an important issue and challenge to our communities

- The challenges posed by wildland fire are important issues within our forested landscapes and in our plains communities
- More public education and awareness is needed to promote the value that trees provide for our communities

The information gathered from this survey will be used to develop and disseminate a Community Forest Resource Guide. More detailed results from the survey will be available to the general public at a later date, pending additional analysis.

"This resource guide will become an asset for communities to realize the value that trees provide, leading to a healthier environment and revitalized communities throughout our state," explains Lance Davisson, State Urban and Community Forestry Program Manager. "New Mexico State Forestry is very thankful to the dedicated professionals of the Community Forest Planning Group for their commitment of time and energy to this project and to those citizens who participated in the "Trees and People" survey."

For further information about urban and community forestry, contact Lance Davisson at 505-476-3332 or e-mail [lance.davisson@state.nm.us](mailto:lance.davisson@state.nm.us).

## *A Cultural Conversation: Aldo Leopold, the Southwest, and the Evolution of a Land Ethic for the Future*

Beginning a Year-Long Centennial Celebration of Aldo Leopold's Arrival in the Southwest

February 13-14, 2009

National Hispanic Cultural Center

1701 4th Street SW  
Albuquerque, N.M.



The conference is co-sponsored by the Aldo Leopold Foundation and the National Hispanic Cultural Center. Additional funding has been provided by the New Mexico Humanities Council through the We the People initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The conference kicks off the Aldo Leopold Centennial Celebration 2009. For more events throughout the year, visit [www.LeopoldCelebration.org](http://www.LeopoldCelebration.org).

*"Nothing so important as an ethic is ever 'written'... it evolves in the minds of a thinking community."* Aldo Leopold

### *Speakers:*

**Gary Paul Nabhan:** Southwest Center, Univ. of Arizona; **Susan Flader:** Leopold scholar; **Gregory Cajete:** Dir. of Native American studies, UNM; **Estevan Arellano:** poet, farmer, and community leader; and many others. Special evening program with **Cipriano Vigil** and **Estella Leopold**.

### *Topics:*

- The Roots of a Land Ethic
- The Local and the Global
- Sustainability Across the Landscape
- Community Engagement
- Climate Change and Culture

**Registration \$15/person**

Conference registration is through the Aldo Leopold Foundation. Find conference information and registration at: [www.aldoleopold.org/southwest](http://www.aldoleopold.org/southwest).



## Urban Forestry in Albuquerque: What is Mayor Chávez Doing?

Source: City of Albuquerque website, [www.cabq.gov](http://www.cabq.gov)

Planting the right trees in the right places can have positive environmental, economic, and sociological impacts. That's why Mayor Chávez is taking trees seriously. "We are ready to design the future of trees in the City of Albuquerque." *Mayor Martin Chávez*

### Trees Improve Our Quality of Life

As a strong believer in the benefits trees provide to our quality of life, Mayor Chávez promotes planting and caring for trees in Albuquerque.

"I am particularly impressed with Mayor Chávez's initiative. He is committed to trees in Albuquerque and rightly so. We found in our study that the city's trees are dramatically improving urban life and making Albuquerque a more enjoyable place to live, work, shop, and play. Over the years, the people in Albuquerque have invested millions of dollars in the municipal forest. Citizens are now receiving a return on that investment." *Dr. Greg McPherson, Director of the Center for Urban Forest Research*

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## Community Updates

2008 brought with it some very exciting progress in New Mexico communities that continue to recognize the value of their trees. These communities and Tribes are committed to progressive community forest management to maximize benefits to their citizenry and the environment.

- **Las Cruces** celebrates their 1st Arbor Day on March 14, 2008
- **Santa Fe** embarks on an exciting new vision for community forestry through tree planting projects and community education
- **Alamogordo** Lions Club continues to order trees for beautification and community outreach and education
- **Ohkay Owingeh** Environmental Department uses our trees in their riparian restoration efforts
- **Jemez Pueblo** provided trees to Tribal members as part of their Earth Day Celebration
- **Albuquerque** holds several successful tree giveaways and continues to be a national leader in sustainable community forest management and riparian restoration
- **Las Vegas** Tree Board continues to be a leader in citizen advocacy as they inventory the community forest and assist in management planning with city leadership
- **Sandia National Lab** shows dedication to their trees by completing a tree inventory and progressive planting and development program for the future of their community forest
- **Roswell** continues as the longest standing Tree City USA in New Mexico, enhances their nursery growing operation and continues a tree enhancement and replacement program to sustain a healthy community forest for generations to come
- **Navajo Nation** – New Dawn will be ordering trees to offer Navajo tribal members trees as part of their 'quality of life' and gardening programs
- **Navajo Housing Authority** offers new homeowners trees for beautification and erosion control
- **Rio Rancho** welcomes Jay Hart, new director of Parks and Recreation. Keep Rio Rancho Beautiful plans to host their annual tree giveaway in March
- **Artesia** will offer their 10th annual tree giveaway is being hosted by Artesia Clean and Beautiful

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## Mayor Chávez has launched a major Urban Forest Improvement Initiative to take advantage of all the ways trees help Albuquerque.

**Trees in the Urban Landscape** - The City of Albuquerque plants trees in parks, medians, and streetscapes. Planting a variety of tree species provide both visual interest and functional benefits. Trees provide shade, help to keep Albuquerque's air clean, and provide visual diversity to the desert landscape.

**Planting Shade Trees** - The City of Albuquerque Parks and Recreation Department has worked with the U.S. Forest Service to create a Master Plan to guide and direct the City of Albuquerque Parks and Recreation Department determined the desired goal of 60% canopy cover. To achieve this goal, it was determined that 11,000 trees appropriately placed with sufficient species diversity will provide for the future of Albuquerque's parks and overall urban forest.

**Bio-diverse Landscape** - As Albuquerque strives to reduce water use and convert to a natural landscape, many park sites will be improved while conserving valuable resources and reducing maintenance needs. Since the mid 1980's, The Parks Department has reduced total water use while adding many new parks.

**Master Planning** - The Mayor promoted efforts to develop a master plan for City trees as well as manuals on Tree Protection and Care. He also asked the Parks and Recreation department to complete a comprehensive inventory of trees in parks and street medians.

**Expert Advice** - Mayor Chávez asked the USDA Forest Service Center for Urban Forest Research to develop a Municipal Forest Resource Analysis for Albuquerque.

**Community Building** - Tree New Mexico's TreeCentennial Program has given away over 3,000 trees for planting in Albuquerque in honor of our 300th birthday.

**Dedication** - The City hired a City Forester to help design and manage the living trees that make our city a healthy place to live.

## Mission

Tree New Mexico is dedicated to ensuring sustainable forests in urban and rural communities and natural areas through restoration, public education, and advocacy.

*"We plant trees to keep New Mexico clean, beautiful and healthy!"*

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## Featured Riparian Shrub: Wolfberry



"Wolfberry is one of the many preferred shrubs for re-vegetation within the Middle Rio Grande community. Its diversity provides cover, browse, and forage for many birds and animals within the Bosque Ecosystem. This rich fruit crop propagates about three times per year thus given an extra amount of food for birds and animals. It is a hardy shrub that tolerates a high salinity soil type and arid climate once established. Wolfberry grows fast during the season of about 13-16 inches annually, and can be cut down as it grows back even more vigorous the following season. It propagates by root shoots and spreads by underground root system, thus, making this shrub a great ground cover as well." **Martin Martinez, Open Space Division Forester**

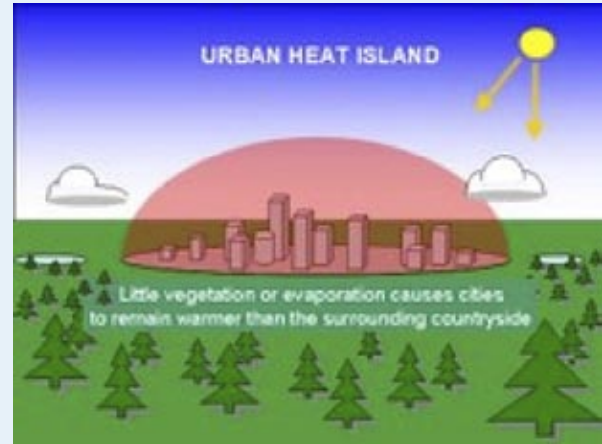
**Description:** The wolfberry is a deciduous woody perennial plant, growing up to 1 m high. The thorny stem bear green lance shaped leaves. Wolfberry blooms with small purple flowers. The ripe wolfberry fruits turn orange red, have an oblong shape and are about 10 mm long.

**Medicinal Properties:** Wolfberries are one of the most important traditional medicines in China. Wolfberry fruits have been used since ancient times in China as general tonic, to protect the liver, to improve vision, to strengthen weak legs and to promote longevity. Here is a partial list of medicinal benefits: Improved Immune system; Anti-aging properties; helps prevent Cancer; protects the Liver; improves the vision

## Take Action

The best thing you can do is plant trees at your home or business. Find out which trees are best for you by visiting [www.cabq.org](http://www.cabq.org)

- Reduce pollen by avoiding restricted trees.
- Take care of your trees. Learn how!
- Teach your kids about trees. Explore Albuquerque Parks and Open Spaces.
- Use a permeable paving surface to let water seep into the ground around your trees.
- Plant a green roof to reduce the “heat island effect” in Albuquerque.



# Trees: Another Reason to Shop at Whole Foods!



For all you Whole Foods shoppers (all THREE locations) in Albuquerque please note the donation boxes at the cashier stations – and plant a tree! The containers are in place and we’re told that they are leaving our boxes

up through Earth Day – April 22, 2008!

Please join us for special tree events for New Mexico Arbor Day in March, and National Arbor Day in April at the Whole Foods stores – details to come!!

Thanking you in advance for your support, Tree New Mexico and the TREES!

### About Whole Foods

Whole Foods is the world’s leader in natural and organic foods, with more than 270 stores in North America and the United Kingdom. We seek out the finest natural and organic foods available, maintain the strictest quality standards in the industry, and have an unshakeable commitment to sustainable agriculture. Around here, we often talk about our mission in terms of *Whole Foods – Whole People – Whole Planet*. Basically, we think these elements all play a huge role in our success.

**Whole Foods** — We search for the highest quality, least processed, most flavorful and natural foods possible because we believe that food in its purest state — unadulterated by artificial additives, sweeteners, colorings and preservatives — is the best tasting and most nutritious food there is.

**Whole People** — Our people are our company. They are passionate about healthy food and a healthy planet. They take full advantage of our decentralized, self-directed team culture and create a respectful workplace where people are treated fairly and are highly motivated to succeed.

**Whole Planet** — We are committed to helping take care of the world around us, and our active support of organic farming and sustainable agriculture helps protect our planet. And while we assist our global neighbors through our Whole Planet Foundation’s micro-lending operations, we also step out the back door of each of our stores to support food banks, sponsor neighborhood events and donate to local non-profit groups.

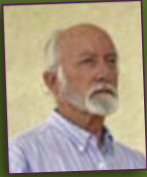


Look for this change container at the cashier’s stand!



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*"The subject matter which has taken my heart is the Rio Grande River with its most magnificent*

*Bosque. The wild beauty of the Bosque in summer, fall, winter, mornings and sunsets takes my breath away and I am compelled to paint. Even after thirty years the excitement is still there and I love sharing this excitement through my oil pastel paintings."*

Dan Godfrey • [www.dangodfrey.com](http://www.dangodfrey.com)

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