



Tyler County Tree Identification Enthusiasts

Tyler County Forest Landowner Association Tree Identification

Though a warm humid day, Saturday, June 21st dawned clear a few miles north of Colmesneil for a special tree identification tour on the Tree Farm on Boyd's Creek. Over twenty hearty souls ranging in age from eight to almost eighty donned walking shoes, jeans and followed local professional foresters, Tim and Keelin Parker, as they led the group up and down a half mile of trails in a lowland area of natural forest. The sandy bottom of Boyd's Creek looked cool and inviting.

For approximately two hours, the participants proceeded slowly, discussing over forty species of trees, most indigenous to the north central area of Tyler County. Of particular interest was the prickly ash, also known as the toothache tree. When American Indians had a toothache, they often sought relief from the toothache tree. They either chewed the bark or used it in pulverized form. Other uses for the tree included making a poultice of the bark mixed with bear grease for external sores and using the liquid obtained from boiling the bark to treat a range of illnesses from sore throats to rheumatism. Sometimes called the Hercules' club, the botanical name for this remarkable tree is *Zanthoxylum clavaherculis*.