

## Tyler County Forest Landowner Association

Forty-two persons attended the Tyler County Forest Landowner Association meeting Saturday, September 19, 2009 at the Tyler County Extension Office in Woodville.



**Eddie Chalmers, Tyler County's Chief Appraiser**

Eddie Chalmers, Chief Appraiser of Tyler County, explained that there are nine steps defined by the state for calculating timberland valuation. The formula includes the price of timber, which is averaged over five years to avoid volatility. The Texas Reforestation Act of 1999 provides for reduced tax valuation for land that has restricted use; e.g., streamside management. If a landowner is converting pasture to timberland, the landowner can keep the agriculture valuation (which is lower than timber valuation) for fifteen years – if the landowner submits the proper form to the county appraiser's office.

Lonnie Grissom, North American Procurement Company, provided an overview of his company which was formed in 2004 and now includes chip mills in Cleveland and Woodville, in addition to the initial round wood production. Lonnie was instrumental in initiating plans for a biomass power plant in Woodville and will supply the wood chips. Keith Stapleton, East Texas Electric Cooperative (ETEC), discussed plans for the Woodville Biomass Power Plant which is scheduled to begin producing 50 megawatts of electricity in 2014 from over 60 truckloads of wood chips per day. The projected fuel source for the Woodville plant will be supplied from a 50 mile radius around Woodville. Processing wood chips in the power plant is more environmentally friendly than burning the wood or than letting the wood decay naturally.

Ron Hufford, Executive Vice President of the Texas Forestry Association, reviewed services provided by the Texas Forestry Association (TFA). Ron listed a number of issues that he monitored and influenced during the recent Texas Legislative session. Redistricting will be conducted during the next session and the influence of rural Texas is frequently diminished by district boundaries that include narrow strips of rural areas with nearby cities. The rural PAC groups work together in Austin to ensure that the interests of rural Texans are recognized.

The Tyler County Forest Landowner Association awarded scholarships to four Warren ISD teachers who attended TFA's Teacher Conservation Institute this summer. The teachers were Vicki Miller, 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade; Zachary Cain, 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade; Beverly Hatch, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade; and Tex Blackshear, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Science.

For more information about the Tyler County Forest Landowner Association, access <http://tcforest.org>.