



The Dogwood Times

A Publication of the Tyler County Forest Landowner Association

<http://tcforest.org/>

Tyler County Forest
Landowner Association

Volume 14 Issue 3

August 2012

Sustainable Forestry Initiative - How Today's Decisions Impact the Future of Forests

from Texas Forestry Association online newsletter, June 22, 2012.

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) Inc. recently released its annual progress report showing how purchasing and policy decisions made today affect North America's forests and the communities that depend on them.

"The decisions and actions taken today by all of us - by individuals choosing wood or paper products, by buyers setting out procurement principles, by government agencies developing policies, by conservationists planning research activities - affect our future, the future health of our forests and the future prosperity of rural communities across North America," SFI President and CEO Kathy Abusow said today. "Our progress report shows how decisions made by the SFI Board of Directors and our many partners have led to a brighter and more responsible future for forest resources."

The report entitled *The Future is Decided Now* cites recent SFI achievements. Research - SFI is the only forest certification standard in North America that requires participants to support forest research. In 2011 SFI participants invested \$83.2 million for research activities. The total since 1995 is more than \$1.3 billion.

Conservation grants - Since 2010, SFI Inc. has committed \$1.27 million for 29 projects through its Conservation and Community Partnerships Program. This includes five projects in 2012 that focus on water resource management.

Working with communities - Close to 900 people are involved with 37 grassroots SFI Implementation Committees, which contributed \$2.5 million to support local programs such as logger training and landowner outreach in 2011. Since 1995, there has been a total of \$60.2 million devoted to these programs.

(continued on page 2)

Inside this issue:

*New Soil
Survey Online* 2

*personal
reflections* 2

*Harvesting
Aesthetically* 3

*Drought-Killed
Trees = Liability* 3

*Websites
of Interest* 3

*"RISING from
the ASHES"* 4

**Outstanding Tree Farm
Field Tour-Sept 22, 9:00-
1:45**, Dr. Jerry & Mary
Marcontell, Liberty Co.
Meet at Rainbow Baptist
Church, Rye, Tx intersection
Tx 146 & FM 787 at 8:45A.
RSVP: 936-632-8733 ASAP
FREE and Lunch provided.

General Meeting-Saturday, September 15, 2012-9:30 A

The topic of the next General Meeting is "TREE FARM SECURITY". Presenters will include Tyler County Deputy Sheriff Trish Ford, Game Warden Bill Zapp and Texas Forest Service Law Enforcement Chief Les Rodgers. A donation container will be available for those who desire to help defray the cost of the lunch.

The meeting will be held at the **Tyler County Senior Center, 201 Veterans Way, Woodville, 9:30 AM.**

Also at this meeting members will be voting on the following slate of candidates for Officers and Directors to serve for the next two calendar years, 2013—2014. Please make every effort to attend this informative & important meeting and vote for your Association's leaders.

Pres: Betty Zimmerman

Dir: Jack Clark

VP: Sarah Reinemeyer

Dir: DeAnna Turner

Sect: Jeffrey Parker

Dir: Ken Turner

Treas: Bill Tetley

Charles Zimmerman will continue to serve as a Director being the past president.

Inside this issue you will find a Program Topics list. PLEASE circle the six preferences you would most like to learn about in the upcoming year's meetings. Then fold the sheet with the address label showing, seal the edge with tape, place a stamp on it and drop it in the mail. THANKS for your assistance.



New Soil Survey Available Online

Central Texas Conservation Partnership publication
<http://www.TexasConservation.org>

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has inventoried all the different soil types and their locations for all 254 counties in Texas. The soil inventory provides aerial maps with soil boundaries, soil descriptions, and tables of soil properties, and shows how the soil can be used. The soil data is available free of charge online on the Web Soil Survey (WSS) at <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>.

WSS can assist landowners in making decisions relative to farming, forestry, and ranching operations by listing the trees and other plants capable of growing on that site. WSS can also identify the most erosive soils and which soil sites will provide the greatest benefit from aerial spraying or other brush management practices. Interpretive maps provided through WSS can help the land user determine yield potentials when planting crops and implementing pasture and hay land plantings. The WSS can help producers maintain profits while reducing erosion and improving soil and water quality.

Topographic maps and measuring tools are available to help landowners manage their resources. Users have the ability to save and print information and maps. WSS can help determine sites for homes, roads, and pipelines. It can be used in conservation plans, farm and ranch appraisals, nutrient management plans, and range and wildlife management. WSS can also help identify risks and hazards associated with different soil types.

Opening Day, 2011

Michael Murphrey, Staff Forester II, Texas Forest Service, Lufkin, TX

Life is awesome, especially as a Tree Farmer. Sometimes it is impossible to see the blessings you're about to receive. As I was honored to give my daughter Melanie away at her wedding on 9-10-11, I received a wonderful new son-in-law, David. In actuality we got a package deal. When my wife and I were blessed with David, we also became grandparents to the sweetest little three and half year old boy you've ever met, little Dalton.

Full of energy and curiosity, little Dalton, as I'm sure you all would understand, is always on the go and full of questions. I've known this young man now for about two years he is truly a blessing.

Now back to the title "Opening Day." My three brothers and I own 66 acres east of New Summerfield in Cherokee County. It was thinned in 2006 and when the harvest operation was completed, I made sure the property was cleaned up and setup with fire breaks, cross roads, food plots and numerous hunting opportunities. We all meet at the old home place the day before opening of deer season for a "hunting reunion weekend", David and Dalton now included. When all the guys (supposed to be men) get together, well you know, we all become boys again. Laughter and stories of the "days of old" fill the house along with smells of good food being prepared for dinner.

My son Nicholaus, nephew Eric, and David, all want the latest toys for hunting. So we have deer stands with swivel chairs, corn feeders, and game cameras in all the food plots (what happened to a two by twelve between two limbs?) My game camera's shown for the last four days, between four and six o'clock that several hogs show up at my corn feeder. Ground work is laid for the ambush on "Opening Day." We hunt that morning and see many young bucks but no takers. The boys bring a pop-up blind down to my stand and lay out the attack. Personally I hope it works. I'm tired of "corn feeding" hogs I'm not eating. Since my stand is six feet off the ground and very sturdy, Melanie and little Dalton go with me.

Mind you it is 2000 feet to my stand from the house and Dalton walked the whole way. He would not be carried. The last 300 feet is off the main logging road and through the trees on a forested path covered with pine straw. Dalton sees the ground, how it has

(continued on page 3)

Harvesting Aesthetically – from Tree Farmer, American Tree Farm System, Summer, 2012, page 8.

To reduce your impact on the environment, improve your relationship with your neighbors, or cut trees without creating an eyesore, consider the following:

- Explain your plans to your neighbors; let them walk the land with you.
- Put a dogleg into the access road between the landing and the public road to screen the landing.
- Remove slash away from roads and other areas where it would otherwise be visible or have it chipped or hauled away for biomass.

More information can be found in *A Guide to Logging Aesthetics: Practical Tips for Loggers, Foresters, and Landowners* which can be purchased for \$7.00 from <http://palspublishing.cals.cornell.edu>. Or consult *Texas Forestry Best Management Practices*, found by going to <http://texasforestservicetamu.edu/main/article.aspx?id=71>, then clicking on Publications, then *Texas Forestry Best Management Practices*.

(continued from page 1)

Training loggers - In 2011, 6,497 resource and logging professionals were trained in responsible forestry through the SFI program or its recognition of other programs. Since 1995, 135,835 individuals have completed training programs.

The SFI External Review Panel, an independent expert panel that advises the SFI Board of Directors, said the report is evidence that the SFI program is having a substantial impact by setting and achieving a high standard for the practice and continuous improvement of sustainable forest management in North America.

For more information about the Sustainable Forestry Initiative in Texas, please see <http://www.texasforestry.org/programs/initiative>. Or you may contact the Texas Forestry Association at (936) 632-8733.



(continued from page 2)

been plowed up by the hogs. He asked what happened and Melanie tried to explain how the hogs “root” around through the trees digging in the soil for grubs, worms and other insects. Dalton (remember, he’s three and half) says “Are you sure it was hogs? It looks like the cows tore everything up because there is hay (pine straw) everywhere.” Grand parenting is good!!!

We get to the stand around three o’clock; the boys are in place. Dalton has been instructed to be very quiet and he did a very good job; I was so impressed. We wait, quietly!!! Cell phones have everything on them today which helped provide the quiet part for Dalton. He worked on his ABC’s and played a puzzle game. Around four o’clock the prettiest seven point buck came out into the food plot and noticed the pop-up blind. I showed Melanie and Dalton the buck. When Dalton saw the deer he dropped the phone, banging it on the deer stand floor. A nice learning opportunity presented itself as the buck looked straight at us in the stand.

The buck was in full alert and you could see how the ears were just outside the antlers, which means he was not mature enough to be harvested; but he will be a nice eight to ten point next year. The very next second Dalton begins telling me “Look a deer, a deer” and as quickly as the deer arrived he was gone. Melanie now knows what the law means when it says you cannot harvest a buck that doesn’t have at least a thirteen inch antler spread (antlers outside the ears.)

Shortly after the buck sighting, Dalton’s little body battery waned and he took a nap. For the next hour and half Melanie and I got to do some great “catching up.” I hadn’t been able to take her hunting with me since she was 13. We talked about everything from the fall colors to her work. She works for an ophthalmologist here in Lufkin and she hates putting drops (needed to dilate) in eyes of children; the drops burn. That led us to a conversation about being a Momma - which she is now! And she is doing a great job, as she sat there with that baby on her lap for an hour and half and we whispered back and forth for the entire time.

This was one of the best “opening days” I’ve spent in the woods in years. And it was the first hunting season I got to start with Dalton. What an awesome start to our future “hunting reunions.” Oh, and the hogs took the weekend off; they never showed. The only thing we killed this weekend was time.

This day, to me, I would like to explain in the infamous words of Victor Hemard with Hemard & Company, “was time well wasted.”

Websites of Interest

Web Soil Survey, Texas, 2012 -

<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>



Ready, Set, Go: Wildfire Action Plan -

<http://texasforests.tamu.edu/uploadedFiles/FRP/>

New - Mitigation/Safety Tips/novrgranch2.pdf

National Tree Benefit Calculator,

environmental and economic values of trees

<http://www.treebenefits.com/calculator>

Water Conservation Tips -

<http://www.takecareoftexas.org/water-conservation-tips/>

East Texas Forestlands, 2011, (Report), results of 2011

Forest Inventory - <http://texasforests.tamu.edu/uploadedFiles/Sustainable/econdev/Publications/Reports/ETXConditions2011Report.pdf>

(Appendix) <http://texasforests.tamu.edu/uploadedFiles/Sustainable/econdev/Publications/Reports/ETXConditions2011Appendix.pdf>

Drought-Killed Trees Could Become Liability Issues for Landowners

COLLEGE STATION, Texas — A tree that falls in a lonely forest may not make a sound, but what about the tree that falls on your neighbor’s house?

The sound it makes? Cha-ching.

Texas Forest Service is encouraging homeowners and landowners to remove fire- and drought-killed trees that are within falling distance of neighboring homes, roads and pathways. Failure to do so, agency officials say, could make you liable for damages.

“Be aware that your tree could fall onto someone else’s property,” Texas Forest Service Central Texas Operations Department Head Jim Rooni said. “The rules vary from place to place, but generally the owner of the tree is responsible. Bottom line: You could be liable.”

Rooni said foresters received an influx of calls following the deadly wildfire that ripped through Bastrop last September, destroying roughly 1.5 million trees. But the liability issue isn’t limited to trees killed by fire, he said.

Texas is emerging from one of the most devastating droughts and one of the most unprecedented wildfire seasons in state history. Though there is no official count for the total number of trees killed by wildfire, foresters and analysts have estimated that as many as 500 million trees in rural forested areas and another 5.6 million trees in populated urban areas were killed as a result of the 2011 drought.

The sheer volume of dead trees — especially those standing in populated areas — poses a significant hazard, Rooni said.

“Standing, dead trees are dangerous and unpredictable,” Rooni said. “If they fall, they can cause serious damage — and even death.”

If your tree still has yet to sprout green leaves, forestry experts say it’s most likely dead. If you’re not sure, read our Texas Forest Service tree assessment guide, check out our facebook photo album to see examples of trees in varying states or contact a certified arborist.

If you have questions regarding liability on public land or rights of way, contact your local county sheriff’s department or county commissioner’s office.

For questions regarding liability issues on private property, seek counsel from a reputable legal source.



**Tyler County Forest
Landowner Association**

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DO NOT FORWARD

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Check your membership date above. '12 or greater = OK.

GENERAL MEETING - SATURDAY - September 15th

**TFA Annual Meeting, Oct 16-18
TEXAS FORESTS
RISING from the ASHES**

Texas Forestry Association will host its 98th annual convention at the **Hotel Fredonia in Nacogdoches**. "Rising from the Ashes" is the theme this year, which will highlight issues facing the Texas Forest Sector, such as taxes, federal issues, current & future water issues, the "state" of Texas forests, housing markets, woodlands crimes and more.

Hotel reservations need to be made before Sept 16th, by calling the Hotel Fredonia, 936-564-1234, and ask for the TFA room block for their special rate of \$99 plus taxes per night.

This is a great way to learn more on topics relevant to forest landowners. To register, call TFA 936-632-8733.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

For Calendar Year 2012 - TCFLOA

Regular Membership: Private non-industrial owners of five (5) or more acres of land in Tyler Co.
Dues: \$10 per calendar year per couple. One (1) vote per membership.

Associate Membership: Any individual not qualifying as a Regular Member who supports the objectives of TCFLOA. **Dues:** \$10 per calendar year per individual or organization.
Associate Members are non-voting.

PLEASE BE SURE TO INFORM THE TREASURER OF ADDRESS CHANGES

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP

PHONE

E-Mail or FAX

Please make checks payable to TCFLOA, and mail to:

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