



# The Dogwood Times

A Publication of the Tyler County Forest Landowner Association

<http://tcforest.org/>

Tyler County Forest  
Landowner Association

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## September 15, 2012 Meeting A Success

A large turnout graced the hall of the Woodville Senior Center for the General Meeting and luncheon which followed on September 15 of this year. One of our newer members, Jerry Dews, provided your Association with a complete sound system to enhance the presenters' ability to be easily understood by those sitting toward the back of the room. Thank You, Jerry, for your assistance.

For those of you who were not able to attend, you missed some very good information on Farm Land Security, with a special emphasis on Tree Farm property security. Representatives from the Tyler County Sheriff's Office, the Texas A&M Forest Service Law Enforcement Division, and a Texas Parks & Wildlife Game Warden covering the Tyler County area spoke to the issues which confront owners of timberland on how to protect their lands from invasion, what to do when the landowner finds evidence of trespass, and what legal steps can be taken to rectify damages.

Also at this meeting, a slate of Officers and Directors was elected for 2013-2014. These included Betty Zimmerman, President; Sarah Reinemeyer, Vice President; Jeffrey Parker, Secretary; Bill Tetley, Treasurer; and Directors: Jack Clark, DeAnna Turner, and Kenneth Turner. Charles Zimmerman, continues as a Director, as the immediate Past President. Their contact information is listed on the address page of this Newsletter.

Your new Association Board is now turning its attention to planning the 2013 programs to reflect your suggestions as per the Program Ideas survey conducted earlier this fall.

Hopefully each member will be able to make one or more meetings in the future, thus networking with your fellow landowners on ways to better manage your property for your personal goals. See you next year.

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### Timber Tax Workshop

Focusing on tax laws for 2012 will be held **Tuesday, February 12, 2013**, from **8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.** at the Lottie and Arthur Temple Civic Center, 601 Dennis St., Diboll, TX. (Story page 3)

## Excerpts from: *Southern Pine Beetle Lays Low While Prevention Project Reaches 100,000-acre Milestone*

*Dr. Ronald F. Billings, Manager Forest Health, Texas A&M Forest Service, College Station, TX*

Pest specialists with the Texas A&M Forest Service (TFS, formerly Texas Forest Service) became concerned in early summer when an unexpected outbreak of the notorious southern pine beetle (SPB) occurred in southwest Mississippi. Like in East Texas, it had been over fifteen years since Mississippi had suffered a major outbreak of SPB – historically the most destructive pest of southern pine forests.

To be sure a similar SPB outbreak was not developing in East Texas, TFS District crews conducted reconnaissance flights over some 5.9 million acres of beetle-prone pine stands in 33 counties in July and August. Even though trees killed by last year's drought, engraver beetles, and frequent wildfires were evident, no SPB infestations were detected. This lack of SPB activity confirmed earlier predictions of very low SPB populations using pheromone traps.

TFS continues to take advantage of the lull in SPB activity by promoting prevention practices through the SPB Prevention Project, now in its 11<sup>th</sup> year. Funding from the U.S. F. S. Forest Health Protection was reduced substantially across the South in 2012, including in East Texas. Nevertheless, federal cost-shares amounting to \$150,000 were offered in FY 2012 and all funds were obligated by last May.

As of September 1, the Project has approved over 100,000 acres of first thinning of beetle-prone pine stands in East Texas involving more than \$6 million in cost shares. Of this total, 1,353 cases involving 87,000 acres have been

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completed and participating landowners paid in excess of \$5 million in cost shares. The remaining cases are scheduled to be thinned within 18 months of approval. Due to the demand for federal cost shares and reduction in federal funding, cost share rates were reduced in mid-February 2011 to a flat \$50/acre for first thinning of high-hazard pine stands, plus up to \$5/acre for consulting forester fees, in 30 beetle-prone counties. Precommercial thinning is no longer cost shared. No new applications are being accepted until additional federal funding is received in the next federal fiscal year. Although there are no promises, TFS expects the SPB Prevention Project to continue at some funding level in FY2013.

Has the SPB Prevention Project eliminated the potential for SPB outbreaks in East Texas? Frankly, no.

Although some 100,000 acres of high-hazard pine stands on small private landholdings have been or will soon be treated to reduce the hazard, data from Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) provides perspective to the problem. According to FIA data, the acreage of loblolly and shortleaf pine (considered SPB host type) in East Texas has increased by more than one million acres since 1992. About half of these pine forests are of large diameter (more than 9 inches in diameter). Larger trees are more attractive to SPB. Also, little harvesting of timber has occurred on federal forest lands in recent decades. These factors suggest that the potential for another SPB outbreak may be greater than it was prior to the last outbreak in the early 1990s.

Responding to the next SPB outbreak also will be a challenge. East Texas has suffered a loss of chainsaw crews as well as foresters and field technicians with SPB experience. There are fewer mills to process beetle-killed trees. Forest industry in the past typically conducted their own ground evaluation and control of beetle infestations, and some did their own aerial detection. Will the new owners of these lands have the same capabilities? Clearly, training on SPB management for TFS personnel and others with large land holdings will be a necessity.

On the positive side, the federal wilderness areas in East Texas are much less prone to SPB outbreaks now because much of the pine host type was killed by SPB in the 1990s. Affected forests have been replaced largely by hardwoods or mixed pine-hardwood stands. Also, most Timber Investment Management Organizations (TIMOs) and Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs), who now own the 26% of the forest lands in East Texas previously held by forest industries, have continued to intensively manage their pine stands. The periodic thinning and short rotations prescribed for these pine plantations render them less susceptible to SPB outbreaks.

TFS and the National Forests in Texas have developed strategic plans for suppression of the next SPB outbreak which members of the SPB Task Force have reviewed. These strategic plans describe how these agencies will respond to the next beetle outbreak and will be updated periodically as new information becomes available. Hopefully, we will be prepared when the SPB decides to again make an appearance in the great state of Texas.

### ***Lumberjack Legacy Forests—Stephen F. Austin State University: Ensuring Forests Remain Forests***

You can now ensure that your timberland remains forested for future generations while supporting education at Stephen F. Austin State University (SFA). This can be done through their Lumberjack Legacy Forest program.

In addition to maintaining your forested land for future generations, you can ensure that your land is used for the purpose(s) that you intend, eliminate property tax burdens, qualify for tax deductions, and choose among options for maintaining timber revenue, occupancy, and other personal or family or business values.

Lumberjack Legacy Forests are used for laboratory and research sites, and to provide students with hands-on forest and environmental management opportunities. Revenue generated from Legacy Forests may be specified to benefit SFA scholarships or any university research effort or academic program you choose.

The faculty and professional staff of SFA's Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture manage Legacy Forests' properties, using sustainable forest management principles. SFA is a member of the American Tree Farm System. Deed restrictions can be used to prevent future land sales or land conversion to help prevent forest fragmentation and deforestation.

To discuss donation options or inquire about the program, please contact Jason Grogan, Lumberjack Legacy Forest Program, at (936) 468-5588 or [jgrogan@sfasu.edu](mailto:jgrogan@sfasu.edu) or Dr. Steve Bullard, Dean of the Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture at (936) 468-3304 or [bullardsh@sfasu.edu](mailto:bullardsh@sfasu.edu). More information, including the example of a Legacy donation from STMMicroelectronics, is available at <http://forestry.sfasu.edu/legacy>.

### ***Water Resources/BMP Information from TFS Now Available via Blog***

Current information about water resources and the use of forestry Best Management Practices is now available in a new user friendly format – a blog. The Texas A&M Forest Service (TFS) Water Resources Program's discussion and information site will interest landowners wanting to access up-to-date information on what the program is doing, learn about upcoming educational events and read articles on Best Management Practices and other water related issues. "We feel this new approach will engage a wide audience, helping us to reach more Texas landowners," said Hughes Simpson, Program Coordinator.

Join us at <http://tfswater.blogspot.com> to find a wealth of information all in one spot!



## 2013 Timber Tax Workshop

A Timber Tax Workshop, focusing on tax laws for 2012 will be held Tuesday, February 12, 2013, from 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. at the Lottie and Arthur Temple Civic Center, 601 Dennis St., Diboll, Texas.

This workshop will provide an understanding of timber tax including basics about timber taxation and the latest changes to tax laws and rules for 2012 tax return preparations. Topics will focus on federal timber income tax issues for private forest owners with a refresher on local timberland property tax incentives. Participants will gain a clear understanding of commonly misunderstood timber tax issues.

For individuals who have had timber losses due to the recent drought, wildfire or other casualties, this course can explain determination of allowable loss deduction and how to claim the loss.

Forest landowners, consulting foresters, accountants, attorneys, and others who work with forest landowners in matters pertaining to timber taxes will benefit from this workshop.

Dr. Harry L. Haney, Jr., nationally recognized expert with over 40 years of experience in timber taxation, estate planning and financial analysis and Dr. Yanshu Li, forest Economist, Texas A&M Forest Service, College Station, TX will be the presenters.

Cost: \$70.00 for workshop and workbook, catered lunch and refreshments. CEU's available – CFE (7 hours); CLE (6 hours), CPE (8 hours).

Call (979) 458-6630 to register by telephone or download a registration form at <http://texasforestservicetamu.edu/taxworkshop>.

For more information, contact Monica Jadowski at (979) 458-6630 or [mjadowski@tfs.tamu.edu](mailto:mjadowski@tfs.tamu.edu).

### Websites of Interest

Find Local Tax Data, Texas State Comptroller's Office - <http://www.texas transparency.org/yourmoney/localtax/rates.php>



My Land Plan – tool for woodland owners by woodland owners - <http://mylandplan.org>

The rains have returned, so why are my trees dying? - <http://tfsweb.tamu.edu/main/article.aspx?id=16442>

How to protect my woods from timber theft - <http://www.eforester.org/lp/landowners.cfm>

New Pine Planting Strategies for the Western Gulf States – [http://www.sref.info/resources/publications/print\\_pubs/new-pine-planting-strategies-for-the-western-gulf-states](http://www.sref.info/resources/publications/print_pubs/new-pine-planting-strategies-for-the-western-gulf-states)

Economic Dynamics of Forests and Forest Industries in the Southern United States - [http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/gtr/gtr\\_srs152.pdf](http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/gtr/gtr_srs152.pdf)

## Excerpts from Southern Fire Exchange Fact Sheet 2012-7 ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF WILDFIRE

*John M. Diaz*

Wildfires can have both positive and negative effects on local economies. Positive effects come from economic activity generated in the community during fire suppression and post-fire rebuilding. These may include forestry support work, such as building fire lines and performing other defenses, or providing firefighting teams with food, ice, and amenities such as temporary shelters and washing machines.

However, local economies only experience positive effects if fire suppression spending and contracting is done locally. In addition, future benefits are only possible if the fire stimulates, rather than stops, economic development efforts associated with recovery and forest restoration.

Among other negative economic effects for communities, wildfires can burn timber, make recreation and tourism unappealing, and affect agricultural production. Depending on the severity and location of a wildfire, post-disaster recovery can come with a considerable price tag.

Factors that affect state and local budgets in the long-term include:

- replacement of lost facilities and associated infrastructure,
- watershed and water quality mitigation, and
- sensitive species and habitat restoration.

For the complete Fact Sheet, go to:

<http://www.southernfireexchange.org/factsheets/2012-7.pdf>

## Industry Making Progress

The American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA) has released the results of its biennial Sustainability Report, which shows that the U.S. Paper, pulp and wood products industry has made significant, measurable progress toward achieving the goals of its "Better Practices, Better Planet 2020" sustainability initiative. The progress made toward reaching each goal is reported in the 2012 AF&PA Sustainability Report, which includes:

- Increased paper recovery to 66.8%, nearly doubling the rate of paper recovery since 1990.
- Reduced greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions intensity by 10.5% since 2005.
- Improved energy efficiency in purchased energy use by 8.1% since 2005.
- Increased fiber procured from certified forestlands by 24% and increased fiber procured through certified fiber sourcing programs to 96% from 87% in 2005.
- Reduced water used at member pulp and paper mills by 6% since 2005. AF&PA members have established a new goal to reduce water consumed in member mills by 12% by 2020.

To review the report visit: [www.afandpa.org/sustainability](http://www.afandpa.org/sustainability)



**Tyler County Forest  
Landowner Association**

December 2012  
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**DO NOT FORWARD**

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Check your membership date above. '13 or greater = OK.

**Membership 2013**

It's time to think about renewing your dues for calendar year 2013.

Take notice of the 2 digit number on the same line as your name in the address label above. The number indicates the year you are paid through. For example if the number is "13", then you have already fulfilled your dues obligation through December 2013.

If the number is less than 13, you might consider using the form to the right and send in your dues.

For those of you who wish to take advantage of applying your next year's dues as a business deduction for calendar year 2012, you may wish to sent in your dues before the end of this month. If you wish to claim the deduction for 2013, then delay sending in your dues till after January 1, 2013.

As always, if you find you are in arrears with your dues, your Association never asks you to pay for preceding years, just become current by paying for 2013.

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

**For Calendar Year 2013 - 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:

Bill Tetley, Treasurer TCFLOA, 3607 Gary Ave., Nederland, TX 77627-7145