



# The Dogwood Times

A Publication of the Tyler County Forest Landowner Association

<http://tcforest.org/>

Tyler County Forest  
Landowner Association

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## Low-Cost Habitat Improvements Working with Wildlife

North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service, Marka A. Megalos, Edwin J. Jones, J. Chris Turner

Managing for wildlife involves the maintenance and enhancement of the food, water, and cover components necessary for healthy populations.

The smaller habitats that abound on private lands and in many backyards can be enhanced using a variety of improvement options. Wildlife improvements can be simple, inexpensive and fun for the whole family. The following low-cost habitat improvements will enhance food and cover for wildlife on private lands.

### Protect Key Areas

Not all habitat components are created equal. Within habitats, there are a few special areas that are important for their ability to provide unique benefits necessary for wildlife. The availability of these areas may often be a limiting factor for wildlife species. The protection of key habitat areas is the easiest and least expensive way to enhance wildlife populations.

After key wildlife areas are protected, improve and enhance food and cover components by using the following low cost techniques:

-Promote tree, shrub, vine, and flower species that are beneficial to wildlife.

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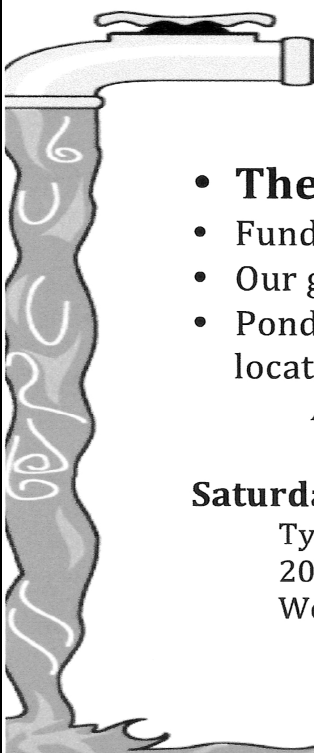
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## WATER ... WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



- **The TEXAS water plan.**
  - Funding the water plan.
  - Our ground water status.
  - Ponds: building, selecting locations, & managing
- And more!

**Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am,**  
Tyler County Extension Office  
201 Veterans Way  
Woodville, TX

### Learn From:

Dr. Matthew McBroom, Forest  
Hydrology, SFASU  
John Martin, General Manager SE  
Groundwater Conservation District  
Josh Johanson, USDA Natural Resources  
Conversation Service

Public welcome  
Lunch provided, with suggestion to  
Leave a donation to cover the cost of lunch



## Texas Forest Info Website – Benefits of the Resource, Seven Applications & Counting

Texas A&M Forest Service website – <http://www.texasforestinfo.com>

Can't see the forest for the trees? Now you can at [www.texasforestinfo.com](http://www.texasforestinfo.com)

The Texas Forest Information Portal — accessible online at [www.texasforestinfo.com](http://www.texasforestinfo.com) — lets users identify where different trees and forests are located across the state and see the environmental benefits they provide.

Geared for landowners, natural resource managers, local community groups, educators and investors, the interactive website allows users to explore maps, query data and generate summary statistics and printable reports.

“Texas forests provide significant economic and ecological benefits to the people of Texas,” said Tom Boggus, director and state forester of Texas A&M Forest Service. “This innovative tool will help inform and educate Texans about our valuable forest resources and help ensure they are available to enjoy now and in the future.”

### Agroforestry – Diversified Income

*The Center for Agroforestry, University of Missouri; and “Profitable Farms and Woodlands – A Practical Guide in Agroforestry for Landowners, Farmers and Ranchers; USDA National Agroforestry Center, Lincoln, NE; Forest Stewardship Briefings, December, 2012.*

In simple terms, agroforestry is intensive land-use management combining trees and/or shrubs with crops and/or livestock. Agroforestry practices help landowners to diversify products, markets and farm income; improve soil and water quality; and reduce erosion, non-point source pollutions, and damage due to flooding.

There are five agroforestry practices:

**-Alley Cropping** – planting rows of trees at wide spacings with a companion crop grown in the alleyways between the rows. Some examples, corn, hay, sunflowers, or medicinal herbs.

**-Forest Farming** – high-value specialty crops grown under the protection of a forest canopy. Some of the “crops” that can be produced in a forest include mushrooms, fruits and nuts, bee products, medicinal plants, and craft products.

**-Riparian Buffers** – living filters comprised of trees, shrubs, forbs, and grasses, including native plants. They protect the water quality of streams and lakes and are an effective tool for controlling erosion and providing food and cover for wildlife.

**-Silvopasture** - the intentional combination of trees, forage, and livestock managed as a single integrated practice. Perennial grasses and/or grass-legume mixes are planted between rows of trees for livestock pasture. The trees provide the animals shade in the summer and a windbreak in the winter.

**-Windbreaks** – planned and managed as part of a crop and/or livestock operation to enhance production, protect livestock and wind-sensitive crops, and control soil erosion. They can also provide excellent habitat for quail, turkey, song birds and other wildlife.

More information: <http://www.centerforagroforestry.org>. or [http://nac.unl.edu/profitable\\_farms.htm](http://nac.unl.edu/profitable_farms.htm).

The portal serves as a clearinghouse for readily-available, easily-accessible information about trees and forests in Texas.

Now, the site offers seven applications: *Timber Supply Analysis, Forest Distribution, Forest Values, Economic Impact and Timber Decision Simulator, Forest Action Plan and Forest Products Directory* - all of which can be customized by geographic area using data derived by the Forest Inventory and Analysis Program, as well as other resources.

*Timber Supply Analysis* estimates the timberland area, as well as timber volume, growth and removals. *Forest Distribution* features tree distribution and biomass. *Forest Values* estimates the economic value attached to certain environmental benefits that forests and trees provide. *Economic Impact* summarizes the economic impacts of the forest sector in East Texas for 2007 and 2009. The *Timber Decision Simulator* is a web-based decision tool for non-industrial private forest landowners and others who are interested in timberland investment and management. *Forest Action Plan* is a mapping tool for assessment and strategy. And the *Forest Products Directory* has an interactive mapping tool displaying locations of forest products industries in Texas.

Future applications still in the planning stages include those featuring urban tree canopy and Texas Tree Trails, both of which will be geared to people seeking information about trees in urban and residential areas.

The portal was developed by the Texas A&M Forest Service Sustainable Forestry Department.

### Websites of Interest



#### Texas Bluebonnet Sightings

<http://www.texasbluebonnetsightings.com/texas-bluebonnet-season-2013/>

#### Coping with Feral Hogs

<http://feralhogs.tamu.edu/>

**Encyclopedia of Forestry:** for persons not familiar with forestry, including the general public and students through graduate work, teachers, journalists, and professionals who want a brief summary of a subject outside their area of expertise

<http://www.encyclopediaofforestry.org>

**2012 Timber Tax Tips** [www.timbertax.org](http://www.timbertax.org) or <http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/loa/tax.shtml>



(continued from page 1)

Examples:

<b>Trees</b>	Oak	Black walnut	Dogwood
	Black cherry	Redbud	Maple
	Hickory	Beech	Pine
	Holly	Pecan	Persimmon
<b>Shrubs</b>	Blackberry	Smooth sumac	Waxmyrtle
	Strawberry bush	Elderberry	Blueberry
	Pokeberry	Wild plum	Sassafras
<b>Vines</b>	Trumpet creeper	Virginia creeper	Wild grape
	Honeysuckle	Greenbriar	
<b>Flowers</b>	Smartweeds	Sunflowers	Clovers
	Wild strawberries	Black-eyed Susan	Thistle
	Ragweed	Beggarweed	

- Broadcast fertilizer on honeysuckle during the growing season; burn or severely prune old, unproductive patches.
- Broadcast Japanese millet in damp areas prone to flooding.
- Transplant useful aquatic plants such as duckweed, bulrushes, smartweed, sago and panic grass in wetland areas where they are scarce or absent.
- Manage for herbaceous vegetation by disking, mowing, or a controlled burning where practical. Always check local regulations before burning.
- “Daylight” or remove trees shading access roads and logging decks to provide important browse, nesting, and brooding areas.

**Providing Protective Cover**

Animals depend on dense cover throughout the year for concealment, protection from predators and severe weather, and for resting and loafing.

Construct brush piles on your land to provide cover for ground-nesting birds, rabbits, and other small mammals. Here’s how:

- Stack layers of 6” diameter logs at right angles to each other to make a base for the pile. Space logs within each layer 6-10 inches apart.
- Place tree tops, old Christmas trees, limbs, stones, or stumps on top of the base to complete the pile.
- Ideal piles are 4 to 8 feet tall and from 10 to 20 feet in diameter. Well-constructed brush piles can supplement natural cover for 10-15 years.
- Construct up to four piles per acre. On woods edges, one brushpile every 200 to 300 feet will provide adequate cover and travel lanes between food sources.
- Place piles along forest edges and in openings, field corners, or along streams and marshes.
- Situate brush piles in close proximity to food sources and other natural cover. Isolated piles will receive little use and may be detrimental to some wildlife species.

In addition to constructing brush piles, take the following steps to improve and create wildlife habitat:

- Thin unwanted trees and/or control burn to “restart” woody vegetation in fencelines and hedgerows. Periodic renewal maintains optimal wildlife cover.

**Invasives Watch**

(Caddo Lake and others): The Great Raft Invasives Program (GRIP) is an effort to provide public information and education about giant salvinia and other invasive aquatic species in the lakes that were created by the historic log jam on the Red River known as the Great Raft, and in other lakes and streams connected to or affected by them. Information about the Great Raft and Invasives Watch can be found on this website. - <http://www.invasiveswatch.org/site/Home.aspx>

- Construct and properly place artificial nest structures for birds, bats, and small mammals.
- Manage for new snags by mechanically girdling or injecting selected trees with herbicide.
- Create temporary pools for breeding frogs and salamanders, songbirds, and other wildlife by digging out springs and potholes or by placing logs in low areas to pond flowing water.
- Open dense forest canopies with annual firewood cuttings or “daylight” logging and access roads

**Living Brush Piles**

- Choose wide-crowned trees that are 6 to 8 feet tall; red cedar and holly provide excellent cover.
- In the spring of the year, make a cut in the trunk with a hand or chainsaw 3-4 feet above the ground opposite the intended location of the pile.
- Cut deep enough so that you can push the top over, leaving a connecting strip of bark and wood (hinge) to nourish the tree. Use a stake or stone to tie the top of the tree to the ground.
- Rework old piles every 5 or 6 years.
- Select trees with grape or honeysuckle vines nearby that will grow and cover the pile.

For a complete copy of this article, which includes references regarding specific procedures mentioned in the article and other wildlife articles, please see:

[http://library.rawlingsforestry.com/ncces/working\\_with\\_wildlife/habitat\\_improvements/www18.pdf](http://library.rawlingsforestry.com/ncces/working_with_wildlife/habitat_improvements/www18.pdf)



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

**General MEETING - Saturday, April 13 - 9:30 AM (See story pg 1)**

**Membership 2013**

Spring is here, the flower are blooming, birds are chirping and we have an extra hour of daylight.

So have you thought to pay your 2013 dues? Remember we have some terrific meetings, like the one coming in a couple of weeks. And this issue of the NL offers all sorts of interesting and useful information, too.

**Be sure to check the mailing label above.** If the 2 digit code is **'13 or greater**, then you are up to date. If you are behind, we only ask that you pay for 2013.

Remember you also are fulfilling one of the requirements for earning the timber tax exemption from the Tyler County Appraisal District.

So look at the mailing label above for the 2 digit number. **If is isn't a '13 or greater**, then take care of that matter now while it is on your mind.

And attend the meeting, **Saturday, April 13, Tyler County Extension Office, 9:30 AM.**

**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:

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