



The Dogwood Times

A Publication of the Tyler County Forest Landowner Association

<http://tcforest.org/>

Tyler County Forest
Landowner Association

Volume 16 Issue 3

August 2014

General Membership Meeting—Sept 20th

The next General Meeting of the TCFLOA is scheduled for **SATURDAY, September 20th, 9:30 AM in the Tyler County Extension Office, 201 Veterans Way, Woodville.** The Extension Office is located on the short side street across from the Brookshire's Store on US 69 South. There is plenty of parking and the program, **MANAGING YOUR FARM**, will be informative and bring everyone up to date on what is happening with timber and timber producers in Tyler County.

Mr. Michael Murphrey, SE Texas Invasive Species Coordinator, Texas A&M Forest Service, Lufkin, TX, will talk on East Texas Forest Health.

Mr. Timothy (Shane) Harrington, Texas A&M Forest Service, will present an overview on the Farm Bill as relating to your tree farm.

Mr. Nolan Alders, Private Forest Landowner, Nacogdoches, TX, will talk on the Challenges for Small Tree Farm Tracks.

Following the individual presentations the speakers will have a panel discussion where you may ask questions. Then there will be a short business meeting with election of officers (Nominees listed below) for the 2015-2016 term.

Pres: Sarah Reinemeyer	Dir: Jack Clark
VP: Jeffrey Parker	Dir: DeAnna Turner
Sect: Brianne Parker	Dir: Jay Fish
Treas: Charles Zimmerman	Dir: Betty Zimmerman (past President)

Open to the Public. Lunch is provided, with suggestion to leave a donation to cover the cost of lunch.

CALENDAR—2014

September 20—Tyler County Forest Landowner General Meeting, 9:30 AM, at the Tyler County Extension Office, 201 Veterans Way, Woodville, Texas.

October 21-23—Texas Forestry Association Annual Conference in Lufkin, Texas.

Quarterly - Newsletter, Tyler County Texas Forest Landowner Dogwood Times published, event driven.

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Do You Know?

- * There are nearly 747 million acres of forests in the USA today.
- * Texas has about 11.8 million acres.
- * Although our population has nearly tripled since 1900, the amount of forest land is about the same today as then.
- * Nearly 4 million tree seedlings are planted each day in the USA.
- * About half the US forest lands are owned by private landowners.
- * In Texas it is about 65%.
- * The US forest inventory has increased by 39% since 1952 and currently covers 33% of US land.



Texas Legislative Topics

Betty Zimmerman, President of TCFLOA and a member of Texas Forestry Association's Legislative Committee, met with Representative Trent Ashby and Senator Robert Nichols -- along with twenty-three other members of the Legislative Committee on June 18, 2014. (Representative James White had a conflicting event in Hardin County.) I was pleased to learn that Rep. Trent Ashby is a tree farmer and a TFA member.

It was noted that only 30 logging trucks have acquired the new Truck Weight 777 Permit for \$1500. Senator Nichols asked what could be done to increase the number. Several modifications were discussed and presented.

1. Those present would like to add a \$750 permit for up to 20 timber counties as an alternative to the \$1500 permit for 43 timber counties. Both options would be available.

2. It was recommended that the harvesting notification requirement be reduced from two days to 24 hours. The two day notification requirement is problematic when a harvesting operation is forced to move on a moment's notice because of weather or other factors.

3. There was discussion about removing the bond requirement, but one member pointed out that some counties require higher bonds and that having a single bond requirement from the state was a better solution.

Senator Nichols reported that the legislation that introduced Truck Weight 777 Permits also made available thousands of new dollars to the counties for county roads, but they have to ask for it. Checking with the Tyler County Commissioners Office after the meeting, I learned that our Commissioners and their staff are working diligently to complete and comply with the horrendous procedures and volume of paperwork required to acquire the funds. Based on the county's oil production, Tyler County is eligible to receive \$463,521.00. That sounds like a lot of money. However, road work is expensive and use of the funds is restricted to specific types of projects. For example, the funds would cover the cost of four miles of limestone – that is one mile per precinct. Some counties are not pursuing the funds because of the difficulty in complying with the procedures. The next time you see your commissioner, be sure to thank him and his staff for their hard work.

Relative to water issues, several expressed speculation that the proposed Marvin Nichols Reservoir in Northeast Texas will never happen because other water technologies are improving and the EPA will probably never approve it. Ron Hufford reported that the current watermaster review of the Sabine River, Neches River, and Neches-Trinity Coastal basins is being conducted because it is required by legislation. There is no evidence that *anyone* supports implementation of a watermaster in East Texas to manage the use of surface water.

Advice to Landowners Regarding Timber Theft Prevention – TFS News Release, May 28, 2014

Timber theft is a crime that potentially affects everyone. Timber owners incur monetary loss and the removal of natural resources without reforestation methods to ensure new forests for the future.

To help property owners avoid timber theft tactics, the Texas A&M Forest Service advises:

- Have someone you know and trust report any cutting on your land immediately.
- Never sign a contract without checking several references of the buyer.
- For the best price insist on getting bids for your timber.
- Mark all property lines to assure cutting on adjacent property does not encroach on yours.
- If you are unfamiliar with selling timber, you are urged to contact your local TFS office. Our field staff will assist you with securing the assistance of a professional resource manager to help determine trees for harvest, estimated values, and potential buyers.

To report suspected timber theft activity call the Timber Theft Hotline **1-800-364-3470** or contact Texas A&M Forest Service at (936) 639-8113.

Websites of Interest

Groundwater 101 - <http://twri.tamu.edu/publications/txh2o/summer-2014/groundwater-101/>

Did You Know? Q&A about groundwater in Texas - <http://twri.tamu.edu/publications/txh2o/summer-2014/did-you-know/>

Texas Drought Map - <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/response/drought/drought-map.jpg>

Secret Ingredient in Burgers – Wood Pulp - <http://qz.com/223742/there-is-a-secret-ingredient-in-your-burgers-wood-pulp/>



Licensed water well drillers help to ensure safe and properly functioning wells

Do you own a water well, had one recently drilled, or are planning on having a new well drilled in the near future? Take a few extra minutes and be sure you are hiring a licensed well driller or pump installer. This will help ensure that your well will work properly and protect the groundwater that you and your family will be drinking.

You might save a few dollars up front but, by hiring an unlicensed driller, the cost of your well can end up skyrocketing and cost you much more in the long run that it would have if you hired a licensed driller from the start. Unlicensed drillers often cut corners and do not complete the well to the state's standards. You as the landowner can end up having to pay thousands of dollars to have your well repaired, brought up to the state standard, or you may even have to have a new well drilled as was the case recently for a family in the City of Ivanhoe in Tyler County (in some cases you could be required to have the well plugged). They paid an unlicensed driller \$3,500 for a new well and had to have it replaced less than three months later. A licensed water well driller discovered that the well was not even close to being properly completed and the family spent an additional \$5,600 for a properly drilled and completed well, and for the plugging of the well drilled by the unlicensed driller.

State standards, set by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR), are in place to protect you, as well as your neighbors, by protecting the groundwater from potential contamination. Unlicensed drillers are not usually concerned about these standards, and are often only concerned with getting in and out, with your money in hand, as fast as they can.

Completion and location standards help protect your well from being a direct conduit for bacteria and other hazardous contaminants to the groundwater that you and your neighbors drink. For example, if the well isn't sealed properly or isn't a safe distance from sources of pollution such as your septic field (among other sources), contaminants may get into the groundwater - your family's water supply. A licensed driller has all of the knowledge necessary to safely locate and complete your water well!

It's not always simple knowing whether or not the person you hired is properly licensed. In the recent case in Ivanhoe, the unlicensed driller was providing business cards that included an expired license number. Do not be afraid to ask to see their state license or, to be even more sure you are dealing with a licensed driller/pump installer, call TDLR with the name and license number to verify that the information that you have been provided is real, accurate and up to date. You can also visit TDLR's website at

<http://www.tdlr.texas.gov/LicenseSearch/> and search the database yourself to check on a license, although we recommend calling for the most current and accurate information. Additionally, the name of the drilling company must be located on both sides of the drilling rig along with the license number of the driller. If the name and license number isn't on the rig this is a red flag. State law requires these items to be on the drilling rig and unlicensed drillers usually prefer to go unnoticed leaving this information off of their rig.

Additionally, a local water well driller should provide you with a registration form for the local groundwater district. The registration form for the Southeast Texas Groundwater Conservation District is a one page form simply requiring some basic information such as: the name and address of the well owner, the location of the well, name and address of the driller, the size of the well casing, and the anticipated drill date. If the driller does not provide this form to you, this is another red flag, as TDLR's rules require that a licensed driller follow all local groundwater district rules. In some cases, groundwater conservation districts have higher completion standards than the state standards, and the driller is legally required to meet those standards.

If you have an issue with your well that has been drilled by a licensed driller, TDLR has the ability to require that the driller resolve the issue if it is deemed that the problem was in-fact driller related, or face penalties and possible loss of license. A protection you certainly do not have with an unlicensed driller.

Other things you can do to protect your water supply is to be sure not to store any hazardous materials around your well. Items such as motor oil, pesticides and fertilizers stored near the well head can cause contamination if spilled or leached onto the nearby ground, especially if the well was not properly completed. Also, a well head should be completed to at least one foot above the ground (three feet if it is located in an area susceptible to flooding). Some people believe this unsightly; however, by keeping the well head visible, the well itself is less likely to be accidentally damaged.

For more information, call the Southeast Texas Groundwater Conservation District at (409) 383-1577 or Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation at (512) 463-7880.

John M Martin, General Manager, SETGCD (Southeast Texas Groundwater Conservation District)



**Tyler County Forest
Landowner Association**

C/O Charles Zimmerman, Treasurer
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DO NOT FORWARD

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Check your membership date above. '14 or greater = OK.

LANDOWNER MEETING—Sat, Sept. 20, 2014 - 9:30 AM, Woodville, TX

Membership 2014

Be sure to check the two digit code on the mailing label, above. If it is a 14 or greater, then you are paid through 2014 already. And if it is greater than 14 then you are way ahead of the pack, so you are done for at least a couple or more years.

If you see you haven't paid for 2012, not to worry, the TCFLOA does not attempt to entice anyone into paying for years gone by.

Be sure to use the form in the next column and send your check to the Treasurer, Charles Zimmerman at the address at the bottom of the form. This will insure a speedy turn around on your check.

Note that we are asking for your e-mail address. This will allow us to get time sensitive information on special programs, conferences, workshops and hearings to you. We will **NOT** give your address to any other groups, people, advertisers, etc. This information is for your board members and newsletter editor **only**.

Look at the address label above to check your membership status **now**. Remember, if the number on the last line **isn't** a 14 of greater, then consider renewing your membership **now**.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

For Calendar Year 2014 - 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 APPROX # TIMBER ACRES IN TYLER CO.

E-Mail

Please make checks payable to TCFLOA, and mail to:
TCFLOA, 298 County Road 2152; Woodville, TX 75979-9001