



The Dogwood Times

A Publication of the Tyler County Forest Landowner Association

<http://tcforest.org/>

Tyler County Forest
Landowner Association

Volume 16 Issue 1

January 2014

Timber Theft on Rise in Texas

Texas A&M Forest Service News Release - January 15, 2014

COLLEGE STATION, Texas - Over the past four month, more than 20 timber theft cases have been reported in East Texas from Newton to Bowie Counties.

Approximately one-third of the more than 200,000 family forest landowners in East Texas are absentee forest landowners. This, plus the rising price of timber makes property vulnerable and easily accessible to timber thieves.

Timber theft is a crime and it affects everyone. Timber owners suffer monetary loss, but everyone stands to lose as the natural resource is taken without reforestation methods in place to ensure a new forest for the future.

In Texas, many timber theft cases involve absentee landowners who are susceptible because they aren't around to protect their property. In these cases, the thief is often long gone by the time the crime is discovered.

"We are discovering that in more cases than not, the thieves are promising higher

than market timber trend prices," said Les Rogers, Texas A&M Forest Service Chief Law Enforcement Officer. "In a few instances thieves also claimed to be affiliated with certain reputable organizations to gain the trust of unsuspecting landowners."

Landowners are advised to demand a bill of sale as Texas law requires that one is obtained from the seller. The bill of sale must include information such as the name of the landowner, seller and purchaser. It should also include a description or survey of the land and trees, and a warranty and signature from the seller.

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 the landowner does not know the timber business, find someone to help determine volumes, current prices and potential bidders.

For detailed information visit

<http://origin.library.constantcontact.com/download/get/file/1102418437760-421/Timber+theft+is+a+crime.pdf>.

To report suspected timber theft activity call the Timber Theft Hotline **1-800-364-3470** or contact Texas A&M Forest Service at (936) 639-8100.

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Winds, Dry Air Spark Burn Bans

Excerpts from Beaumont Enterprise, Thursday, January 23, 2014-Tim Monzingo

An ominous yellow is spreading across the U.S. Forest Service's fire map, indicating abnormally dry conditions that could foreshadow an unpleasant spring for the regions emergency responders.

Despite a wet winter, potential for drought is creeping back into the region. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Drought Monitor service shows abnormally dry conditions from Orange County west to Calhoun County and north to Tyler and Polk counties.

The cold snaps and hard freezes that have lingered in Southeast Texas the last few months have killed grasses and brush, creating prime fuel for spreading wildfires. John Matel, a forester for the Texas Forest Service's Office north of Kountze, said this is considered the prime time of the year to conduct prescribed burns. Such burns, done in highly controlled and monitored conditions, help clear out the ground level fuel sources that allow wildfires to spread so quickly when the landscape is parched.

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A lack of prescribed burning, he said, is what plays a big part in intense, large wildfires.

Matel said before doing a controlled burn, experts account for geography—the location of cities and highways—and weather and wind conditions. He said anyone who needs to do such a burn should consult with an expert beforehand to ensure it's done safely.

The weather patterns contributing to these dangerous conditions aren't expected to let up any time soon.

Donald Jones, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service, said the winds come on the heels of the frequent cold snaps that have killed off the vegetation.

As a front leaves Southeast Texas, high pressure builds in the atmosphere, keeping away the rain, he said.

So the frequent cold fronts have created a rain deficit. The area has receive only a little more than an inch in January, with the average closer to 3.7 inches.

Likewise, December rainfall was more than two inches below average

Orange County's Emergency Management Coordinator, Jeff Kelley, while it isn't usual to see a spike in fore calls this time of year, the weather pattern is concerning. If the dryness doesn't break, it could mean the region in for a rough time down the road.

Spring Meeting

Saturday, February 15, 2014

Tyler County Extension Office, 201 Veterans Way, Woodville, TX

The TCFLOA's first **General Meeting of 2014**, will take place in just two weeks, so schedule the date, **February 15, 2014** and attend. There will be presentations by **David McClintock** on **Gemma**, the Renewable Power Project south of Woodville, **German Pellets**, next door to Gemma, **Biomass** and **certified wood**; and **Daniel Savelle** speaking about the **MeadWestvaco** paper mill in Evadale. One of our active members and long time tree farmer, **Jack Clark**, will speak on **thinning plantations**, and **rust (fungus)** on trees.

As usual lunch will be catered with a donation container for those who wish to help defray the cost to the Association. **Extension Office, 201 Veterans Way, Woodville, TX, 1 block E. of Brookshire's.**

The Hardwood Handbook, An Illustrated Guide to Appalachian and Southern Lumber (Introduction)

*Southeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association,
<http://www.slma.org/hh.shtml>*

Southeastern Forest Facts

The southeastern lumber industry relies on a renewable resource — trees — to make a variety of lumber products for shelter, furniture, industrial uses and other needs for the people of the Southeast, the nation and the world. Now, and even more so in the future, the world will look to the nation, and to the Southeast in particular, to meet the expanding demand for lumber and other forest products. Because of a vast forest of fast growing trees, advanced management, refined manufacturing techniques and excellent transportation facilities, we should be able to meet the demands for wood products domestically and for overseas consumption indefinitely.

Over 26 percent of the country's forested acres — some 194 million acres — is in the South. This land, and its timber resources, provide nearly half of the wood used in the pulp industry, almost a third of that used in the lumber industry and about two-fifths of that consumed in the veneer and plywood industry. The importance of the South as a source of timber has increased in recent years. Further, it appears that most of the expansion in the forest products

industry will likely be based on the timber resources of the southeastern United States.

Forest Statistics of the United States, 1992, shows that the U.S. grows far more hardwood timber than is harvested each year. In fact, there are 82 percent more hardwoods now than there were 40 years ago. Total U.S. growing stock now amounts to over 336 billion cubic feet as compared to 180 billion cubic feet in 1952. Currently, the United States is growing almost twice as much hardwood sawtimber volume as is being used.

The Forest Products Industry as Environmental Stewards

Suppose America stopped harvesting its trees to make lumber and other wood products. Let's consider what effect this would have on our environment. What could we use as a building material for homes and furniture, or paper for books and stationery? Would we substitute steel, aluminum, masonry, or plastic products? Buy wood from other countries? Or do without?

If we substituted non-wood building products, the environment would be the clear loser. Those non-wood products are environmentally expensive. The supplies of ores and petroleum for their production are finite; once gone, they are gone forever. Wood, on the other hand, is a renewable resource from an endless succession of trees. Non-wood products require far more energy to manufacture

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than wood: nine times as much to make a steel stud as a wood stud for example. That further depletes finite supplies of fossil fuels and coal, not to mention greater pollution of the air and water while adding to the potential of global warming through the greenhouse effect.

Wood is reusable, recyclable, and biodegradable. Inorganic materials call for yet additional energy drains to recycle or otherwise dispose of them when use has been terminated.

Contrary to popular opinion, we are not running out of trees by harvesting so many of them. Each American does use the equivalent of a 100 foot, 18 inch diameter tree every year for wood and paper products. But 6 million trees are planted every day, which works out to nine trees for every American. Countless additional seedlings are regenerated naturally on managed lands. As a result, more wood is grown each year in the U.S. than is harvested and/or lost to disease, insects and fire. Growth exceeds harvest by 33 percent. It is no surprise, then, that the nation has more trees today than it had 70 years ago.

Forests are oxygen factories and greenhouse exchangers. Growing just one pound of wood in a vigorous younger forest removes 1.47 pounds of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and replaces it with 1.07 pounds of life-sustaining oxygen. Carbon dioxide accounts for about half the world's greenhouse gases, which traps solar rays. An old forest reverses the process, removing oxygen and emitting carbon dioxide.

As long as America continues to plant and regenerate new trees for wood products, the environment will be the big winner. So in a very real sense, wood products are the most environmentally responsible building material available.

Appalachian and Southern Hardwood Lumber

Everyone is familiar with fine furniture manufactured from high-quality white oak, red oak, ash, walnut and cherry lumber which is grown and manufactured in the southeastern region. The unmatched warmth and traditional good looks of this furniture are unmistakable.

Although furniture manufacturing often takes the limelight in regard to hardwood lumber, many other categories consume vast amounts of hardwood lumber. For instance, billions of board feet of lumber are used each year in shipping (containers, wooden pallets, blocking and bracing). Wood pallets alone account for over 5 billion board feet of lumber within this category annually. Nearly a billion board feet of hardwood lumber is used annually to manufacture millions of railroad crossties which are used in new construction and the maintenance of existing track.

Finally, millions of board feet of hardwood lumber are used each year in the manufacture of fine hardwood flooring, trim, paneling, and timbers.

Websites of Interest



Forest Pests (insects, diseases, invasives, etc.) -

<http://texasforests.tamu.edu/main/article.aspx?id=1168>

Forest Taxation (income tax, estate tax, property tax) -

<http://tfsweb.tamu.edu/tax/>

Estate Planning for Forest Landowners: What Will Become of your Timberland? -

http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/gtr/gtr_srs112.pdf

Tax Tips for Forest Landowners for the 2013 Tax Year -

http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/ja/2013/ja_2013_wang_003.pdf

Ensure Sustainability with a Timber Sale Contract -

<http://www.forest2market.com/blog/ensure-sustainability-with-a-timber-sale-contract>

Forests can recycle water to cope in drought -

<http://planetearth.nerc.ac.uk/news/story.aspx?id=1541&cookieConsent=A>

Can a great green wall of trees stop China's spreading desert? -

http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/let-a-billion-trees-bloom-can-a-great-green-wall-of-trees-stop-chinas-spreading-desert/2013/11/22/12908e0e-...2d13-11e3-b139-029811dbb57f_story.html

Did You Know This about Water

from American Forests website

<http://www.americanforests.org/discover-forests/forest-facts/water/>

Forests are key to clean water. Trees' hair-like root fibers help filter groundwater by absorbing nutrients and potential contaminants. The leaves and branches slow the movement of rain to the ground, allowing it to soak in slowly, while roots stabilize the soil so it doesn't wash away. Mature trees reduce the costs of stormwater controls and drainage systems by filtering and slowing down the water before it washes pollutants into streets, down drains and into our rivers. Freshwater also feeds lakes and streams that we enjoy for recreation in forests and parks, and is a critical habitat for fish and wildlife.

Did you know?

Seventy percent of the Earth's surface is covered in water. About 2.5 percent of the Earth's water is freshwater. Less than one percent is in the form of groundwater.

More than half of the country's drinking water originates in forests. Approximately 180 million people depend on forests for their drinking water. A single front-yard tree can intercept 760 gallons of rainwater in its crown, reducing runoff and flooding on your property.

On average, a mature tree can absorb 36 percent of the rainfall it comes in contact with.



Emerald Ash Borer Not Yet Found in Texas

*Ron Billings, Manager, Forest Health, Texas A&M Forest Service,
College Station, TX*

The emerald ash borer, an invasive pest of Asian origin, has been found killing native ash trees (*Fraxinus* spp.) in at least 18 states, including Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, Wisconsin, and West Virginia, as well as Canada. In 2013, two more states were added to this growing list: Georgia (near Atlanta) and Colorado (near Boulder). Because this beetle is readily spread by man's activities, like moving infested firewood to uninfested areas, the Texas A&M Forest Service (TFS) and various collaborators conducted an extensive survey in 2012 to check for the presence of the beetle in Texas. With additional funding from the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), the detection survey was repeated in 2013.

The TFS contribution to the 2012 EAB survey involved placing and monitoring 552 standard EAB detection traps in 56 counties in Texas, utilizing TFS field staff and Master Naturalist groups located in East, Central and South Texas. The EAB detection survey in other Texas counties targeted by APHIS was conducted by staff at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (218 traps) and Sam Houston State University (549 traps). A total of 1,319 large purple panel traps baited with EAB lures were deployed on ash trees in 84 counties.

The process of locating ash trees, installing traps, checking the traps twice, collecting possible emerald ash borers, removing the traps from the field, and reporting the data was a sizable job. Without the help of Master Naturalist groups, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Sam Houston State University, and Stephen F. Austin State University, this project would not have been possible. In 2013, the same collaborators put out 387 traps in 69 counties, primarily in East and Central Texas. The reduced number of traps and involvement of the same, experienced collaborators made the 2013 survey much easier.

During March and April of each year, field crews successfully set out all assigned traps and recorded pertinent information such as county, date trap was placed in the field, latitude and longitude of the trap, height of trap above ground, size of the ash tree where the trap was placed, and other information on field data sheets. Copies of these data sheets were sent to TFS, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, and Sam Houston State University for eventual entry into a national EAB database maintained by APHIS.

In late May and June of each year, field crews and volunteers inspected all traps, put out fresh baits and collected all insects that resembled EAB in size and/or color (EAB look-alikes). Collected insects were preserved in alcohol and sent to experts for initial screening. The traps were checked for beetles again in late August and early September, before being removed from the field. After each trap check, field data sheets were updated and submitted for entry into the APHIS national data base.

Fortunately, no EAB adults were found in either the 2012 or 2013 detection surveys. Whether the EAB detection survey will be repeated in 2014 will depend on availability of federal funding. In the meantime, if a landowner observes one or more dying ash trees (the only tree species this insect attacks), accompanied by distinctive signs of emerald ash borer attack (bark chips at the base of the tree, winding trails or galleries on the surface of exposed wood, and "D"-shaped emergence holes in the bark), please contact your nearest Texas A&M Forest Service office or the TFS Forest Health Department in Lufkin. More information on how to identify ash trees and recognize signs of EAB infestation is available on the TFS web page at <http://texasforests.tamu.edu>. Click on "Insects and Diseases", then "Insects" then "Invasives". Early detection is essential if we hope to avoid destructive losses of ash trees to this invasive pest in Texas.

TIMBER TAX WORKSHOP Texas A&M Forest Service and Texas Forestry Association will host a timber taxation workshop at the **Pitser Garrison Convention Center, Lufkin on February 18, 2014**. The daylong workshop will provide an understanding of timber tax including the latest changes to tax laws and rules for 2013 income tax return preparations with a refresher on local timberland property tax incentives. Our workshops have trained hundreds of foresters, landowners, tax preparers, attorneys, logging professionals, land trust managers, and financial advisors in East Texas.

- Learn special timber tax laws and rules that are not well understood by many tax professionals
- Apply the rules through examples that apply basic concepts
- Find answers to your top questions

Instructors will be...

Dr. Harry L. Haney, Jr. – Dr. Haney is the Garland Gray Emeritus Professor, Department of Forestry, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA. He is a nationally recognized expert with over 40 years of experience in timber taxation, estate planning and financial analysis. He has written numerous technical publications on timber taxation. He is coauthor of the widely-referred book on timber taxation, *Forest Landowners' Guide to the Federal Income Tax* (Agriculture Handbook 718). He is also coauthor of *Estate Planning for Forest Landowners: What will become of your timberland?* He has written frequently for Virginia Forests Magazine and Forest Landowner magazine on timber taxes and financial management issues.

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Market Report, Sept. – Oct., 2013

Product	Statewide Ave. Price		Previous Ave. Price		Price/Ton Difference
	Weight	Volume	Weight	Volume	
Pine-Sawlogs	\$20.86/ton	\$165.80/ mbf	\$23.53/ton	\$188.22/ mbf	-13%
Pine-Pulpwood	\$7.38/ton	\$19.89/cord	\$6.31/ton	\$17.03/cord	+15%
Pine-Chip'n'Saw	\$10.27/ton	\$27.72/cord	\$12.09/ton	\$32.65/cord	-18%
Mixed Hardwood-Sawlogs	\$27.65/ton	\$264.60/ mbf	\$29.91/ton	\$269.21/ mbf	-8%
Hardwood-Pulpwood	\$7.99/ton	\$22.38/cord	\$6.20/ton	\$17.36/cord	+22%

Texas Timber Price Trends is a bimonthly publication reporting average prices paid for standing timber in Texas. *This report is intended only as a guide to general price levels.* It should not be used to judge the fair market value of a specific timber sale, which may vary considerably due to many factors. It is recommended that you use the services of a professional consulting forester in managing any timber sale. Important factors affecting timber prices include the type, quality and volume of timber for sale, accessibility, distance to mills/markets, weather conditions, economy/market conditions, who is handling the sale or is buying the timber, and contract requirements by the landowner. Hard copies of this publication can be purchased by contacting Dawn Spencer at (979)458-6630. The complete Texas Timber Price Trends can be viewed at <http://tfsweb.tamu.edu/main/article.aspx?id=145>.

Conversion factors between volume and weight vary from sale to sale, so the differences in volume prices above may not equal differences in weight prices.

Stumpage price statistics include gatewood sales (estimated by subtracting cut-and-haul costs, other expenses and profits provided by reporter). Statewide data excludes U.S. Forest Service sales.

Price calculated from specific conversion factor reported for each sale if available; otherwise, average conversion factors listed on page 4 of *Texas Timber Price Trends* (<http://texasforestservicetamu.edu/main/article.aspx?id=145>) are used. MBF = thousand board feet. Doyle Log Scale used for board foot measurements

Market Overview*

Sustained economic recovery and accelerated U.S. lumber exports have increased the demand for timber products. Seasonally adjusted building permits were up during this period, showing a continuous improvement in the housing market. However, sawlog prices in Texas were not able to follow the national trend. A reporter noted that inventories dropped off due to weekly rains but flows were good on clear days.

Statewide pine sawlog prices averaged \$20.86 per ton, down 13% from last period and down 18% from the price a year ago. In Northeast Texas, average pine sawlog price was \$22.37 per ton and it was \$20.57 per ton in Southeast Texas.

The statewide average pine pulpwood price increased to \$7.38 per ton. This was up 15% from last period and up 6% from the price a year ago. In Northeast Texas, the average pine pulpwood price was \$6.84 per ton. It was \$7.60 per ton in Southeast Texas.

Small diameter pine sawlogs (CNS) averaged \$10.27 per ton statewide, down 18% from last period. It was down 12% from the price a year ago.

The average hardwood sawlog price was \$27.65 per ton, 8% lower than last period but 2% higher than the price reported a year ago.

The average hardwood pulpwood price was \$7.99 per ton, 22% higher than last period. The price this period was 9% higher than the price for the same period last year. In North-east Texas, the average price was \$9.75 per ton. It was \$6.22 per ton in Southeast Texas.

*The average prices reported here represent statewide volumes of 112,559 tons of pine sawlogs, 340,642 tons of pine pulpwood, 60,060 tons of pine CNS, 10,688 tons of mixed hardwood sawlogs, and 38,916 tons of hardwood pulpwood during September/October 2013.

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Ms. Sharon Hersh – Ms. Hersh is Manager, Information Analysis and Security, Property Tax Assistance Division, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts.

How to register...

Click [here](#) to register online, fill out and mail in the registration form found in the *attached brochure*, or contact [Dawn Spencer](#) at (979) 458-6630. Registration fee will be \$70 per participant (\$30 per additional family member). The registration fee includes the workbook, catered lunch, and refreshments. Space is limited. Early registration is strongly encouraged.



**Tyler County Forest
Landowner Association**

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DO NOT FORWARD

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

General MEETING - Saturday, February 15, 2014 See story pg 2

Dues Reminder 2014

The new year has begun and here is a friendly reminder that it's time to pay dues to the various organizations you are a member of. Of course one of these organizations is the Tyler County Forest Landowner Association.

Be sure to check the 2 digit year on the address label above to see if you have already paid your dues for 2014 or if you need to pay your dues now.

With your yearly dues, you receive quarterly newsletters with information the editor hopes has some benefit or interest for you.

The newsletters also notify you of meeting dates and for those of you with Internet access, informative and interesting Websites to learn more about how important trees are to our lives.

And consider approaching your neighboring landowner, friends and relatives and apprise them of the benefits of joining the TCFLOA. Our organization is here to educate landowners about good steward-ship of their land, conservation of its resources, protection of its wildlife and plant communities, and encourage each to seek and fulfill his/her own personal goals for their lands.

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

E-Mail or FAX

Please make checks payable to TCFLOA, and mail to:

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