



# The Dogwood Times

A Publication of the Tyler County Forest Landowner Association

<http://tcforest.org/>

Tyler County Forest  
Landowner Association

Volume 17 Issue 1

Spring 2015

## General Membership Meeting –April 18th

The Tyler County Forest Landowner Association will meet at 9:00 AM on Saturday, April 18th at the Tyler County Extension Office, 201 Veterans Way, Woodville. After a very brief business meeting, the attendees will travel to local tree farms to observe various stages of the harvest process and the equipment used during the process. Pro-logger credits will be available to loggers who attend. Please wear shoes appropriate for the activity.

The meeting is open to the public. Lunch is provided, with a suggestion to leave a donation to help cover the cost of lunch.

## TCFLOA Offering Scholarships

TCFLOA is offering two types of scholarships this year. One is for university students and the other is for teachers.

A university scholarship for \$1000 is available to Tyler County high school graduates or TCFLOA family members, who are majoring in forestry or forestry related degrees. Students enrolled or enrolling in undergraduate or graduate studies, including prior scholarship recipients, are eligible. The deadline for submitting the application is Monday, June 1, 2015.

The \$250 Teachers' Conservation Institute (TCI) scholarship is available to educators employed by or living in Tyler County. TCI is a weeklong, professional development workshop that uses the forest to teach environmental education. Workshops will be held in June and July at the Bugscuffle Inn, nestled in the piney woods of East Texas off Highway 84 West between Mt. Enterprise and Rusk.

*(continued on page 2)*

## CALENDAR— 2015

**April 18**—TCFLOA Spring General Meeting, Saturday 9AM (see above).

**April 4**—Tyler County Dogwood Festival. TCFLOA will be giving out potted dogwood trees at our booth next to the courthouse.

**August**—TCFLOA Board of Directors Meeting. Date and time to be announced.

**September 12 or 19**—TCFLOA Fall General Meeting. Date, Time, Subject to be announced.

**October 21-23**—Texas Forestry Association Annual Conference, Nacogdoches.

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## THANK YOU!

A good start has been made for 2015 with 131 members having renewed by March 1. Year-end 2014 totaled 171 paid members—a record high! Your active membership covers the expense of mailing the quarterly newsletter to you, supports our website, cover operating expenses, and funds scholarships when the additional funds are available.

**Websites of Interest –****Smartphone Apps for the Forest Industry**

(National Timber Harvesting & Transportation Safety Foundation) - <http://loggingsafety.com/content/smartphone-applications-forest-industry>



**txH2O** - Online magazine from Texas Water Resources Institute and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension - <http://twri.tamu.edu/publications/txh2o/>

**Tax Tips for Forest Landowners (revised for law changes)** - <http://texasforestservice.tamu.edu/uploadedFiles/Sustainable/tax/Publications/Articles/TaxTips2014.pdf>

**(Scholarships-continued from page 1)**

Educators will receive 45 hours continuing education credit. Room and board are included. The deadline for submitting the application is April 15, 2015.

A university scholarship application is included with this newsletter. Applications are also available at Parker Forestry, 411 N. Pine Street, Woodville, and on the TCFLOA website <http://tcforest.org/>.

**Nature Saving Water and Soil** - from *Texas Land Trends* - <http://txlandtrends.org/>.

Texas' increasing population, particularly within or in surrounding urban centers, continues to have significant influence on the continued loss of working lands, changing ownership sizes, and land values.

From 1997 to 2012, the Texas population increased from 19 million to 26 million residents, an increase of 36 percent or approximately 500,000 new residents annually. The majority (87 percent) of the population increase occurred within the state's top 25 highest growth counties.

Average ownership size declined from 581 acres in 1997 to 521 acres in 2012. By the end of 2012, the USDA Census of Agriculture accounted for nearly 249,000 farming and ranching operations in the state, representing a 9 percent increase since the 1997 census.

More than 54 percent of total land conversion occurred in the state's 25 fastest growing counties. During this period (1997-2012), approximately 590,000 acres were lost from the agricultural land base in these counties.

**Interstate 69 (I-69) Federal Transportation Limitations**—by Betty Zimmerman, TCFLOA board member

While we are blessed with a pellet mill and a hardwood mill in Tyler County, many of us also sell to other mills are thus impacted by events outside the county. As you probably know, US-59 and US-84 are slated to become Interstate-69. There are over twenty wood mills along US-59 in Texas with loggers delivering loads daily.

When the designation for a section is changed to an Interstate Highway, loggers will be subject to federal transportation limitations which do not recognize state permitted loads on Interstates. Options available to loggers will be to (1) reduce the load weights to the federal limits which will increase the number of loads, or (2) find alternate, longer routes avoiding I-69 which will increase fuel cost and potentially reduce the number of loads a driver can deliver in a day. Either option increases the overall cost of harvesting our trees. With the rates at the mills tightly controlled and the margins for loggers so small, it is the landowner who will pay for this increased cost through reduced stumpage prices.

One solution is for the U. S. Congress to amend Section 127 of title 23 of the U. S. Code to allow a vehicle that could operate legally on certain segments of the proposed Interstate before the date of such designation to continue to operate on that segment after designation as part of the Interstate System, without regard to the weight and axle limitations otherwise imposed on designated Interstate Highways.

It would be good to have the support of the Texas Department of Transportation for the proposed legislation. However, it is not clear that we do. I, along with other members of the Texas Forestry Association Board of Directors, listened with concern to Jeff Austin III, Director of Texas Department of Transportation, express his views about the proposed legislation in Austin on February 23, 2015. When I asked him specifically if he would support such legislation, he did not answer in the affirmative.

Fortunately for us, U. S. Representative Brian Babin is a member of the U. S. House Transportation Committee – as well as a member of the Tyler County Forest Landowner Association. It is interesting to note that both Tennessee and Mississippi have already secured the proposed legislation to provide weight limit relief for their loggers on existing highways that were changed to Interstates in their state.

\* \* \*



### ***Why Trees Shed Their Branches*** - Texas A&M Forest Service

You've come home from a long day at work and are relaxing on your back deck when you notice it. Scads of tiny, thin branches — some with bright green leaves still attached — are scattered around your tree.

What could cause your tree to shed its branches? Is there something wrong with it? Worse yet, is it dying?

Probably not.

Trees are hardy. During severe drought, pine and hardwood trees conserve water by prematurely shedding needles and leaves. When leaves or needles don't get enough sun, their branches often die, naturally pruning themselves from the tree.

The same happens when a loblolly pine is shaded by surrounding trees. Its lower branches simply die and drop off.

Homeowners are sometimes alarmed by this natural pruning because they think the tree is dying. But you shouldn't necessarily worry if you come home and find pencil-sized branches at the base of your tree.

If there's been no bad weather, then **branch abscission** - also known as cladoptosis - is likely to blame. The phenomenon is similar to the process that occurs when trees shed their leaves each fall.

The process is relatively common in trees such as cottonwood, post oak, white oak, white ash, American beech, black cherry, black willow, bald cypress and longleaf pine. But it doesn't occur in others like water oak, willow oak, black walnut, sugarberry, eastern red cedar and Virginia pine.

The picture above to the right shows the typical swelling and smooth break that often is found when branches fall off as a result of abscission. In the case of hardwood trees, twig girdling beetles also may prune off the ends of small branches. More information is available on twig girdling beetles at <http://texasforests.tamu.edu/main/popup.aspx?id=1208>

### ***Feral Hog Facts*** - Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, <http://feralhogs.tamu.edu/>

- **Average litter:** Five to six pigs per litter, with 1.5 litters per year
- **Lifespan:** Four to eight years
- **Average weight:** 200 pounds for adult males, 175 for females
- **Sense of smell:** Can sense some odors 5 to 7 miles away or 25 feet underground
- **Food preference:** Believed to be 90 percent plant matter and 10 percent animal matter
- **Eating habits:** Small pigs eat 5 percent of body weight daily, large pigs eat 3 percent
- **Speed:** Can run up to 30 mph

### ***Wooden Sponge Takes On Oil and Chemical Spills*** - USDA Forest Service

Nanotechnology researchers have developed a cellulose-based aerogel that's thirsty for oil and chemicals while turning its nose up at water.

Researchers at the biotechnology–nanotechnology lab at the University of Wisconsin used a freeze-drying process to produce an aerogel made of wood cellulose nanofibrils. Aerogels are highly porous materials and the lightest solids in existence.

“The cellulose aerogel can absorb 50–100 times its own weight, but is so low-density that it would still float for easy collection and clean-up,” says Qifeng Zheng, UW graduate student. Additionally, the contaminants could be squeezed out of the aerogel and the material could be used again, albeit with somewhat less effectiveness.

The results of this study were published in the *Journal of Materials Chemistry A*. The aerogel technology has been patented, and researchers are now looking for paper or petroleum industry partners to scale-up and further develop the technology.



**Tyler County Forest  
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**DO NOT FORWARD**

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS  
2015-2016

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

Check your membership date above for 2015 dues. '15 or greater = OK.

**General Meeting - April 18, 2015—9AM, Woodville, TX**

**Membership 2015**

**Be sure to check the one or two digit code on the mailing label, above.**

If you see you haven't paid for 2014, not to worry, TCFLOA does not 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 and phone number. This will allow us to get time sensitive information on special programs, conferences, workshops and hearings to you when there is short notice. Also, when an address on the newsletter bounces I need to contact you. We will **NOT** give your address or telephone number 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 **15** or greater, then consider renewing your membership now.

*Charles Zimmerman— editor*

**MEMBERSHIP FORM**  
**For Calendar Year 2015 - 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.

**USE THIS FORM TO JOIN TCFLOA OR TO MAKE CORRECTIONS**

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP

PHONE                      APPROX # TIMBER ACRES IN TYLER CO.

E-Mail

Please make checks payable to TCFLOA, and mail to:

Charles Zimmerman, Treasurer TCFLOA, 298 County Road 2152, Woodville, TX 75979