



The Dogwood Times

A Publication of the Tyler County Forest Landowner Association

<http://tcforest.org/>

Tyler County Forest
Landowner Association

Volume 17 Issue 2

Summer 2015

Prescribed Burning Workshop – May 21

This one day workshop is FREE and includes lunch, refreshments, and workshop materials on prescribed fire. Learn about the benefits of burning, Texas laws & liability issues, where to find technical & financial assistance, smoke management and more. The workshop will give landowners the opportunity to talk with organizations and vendors that support fire management on private lands.

Big Thicket Fire Management Office
860 County Road 1040
Woodville, TX
May 21, 2015
8:00 AM—4:00 PM

To learn more about the workshop and to register, please visit the link:
www.ncsu-feop.org/rxfire/tx/

Pre-registration is required and space is limited. For questions, please call John Matel, District Forester, Texas A&M Forest Service at 409-246-2484.

The workshop is sponsored by the Texas Longleaf Taskforce.

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Preparing Your House for Wildland Fire Season

www.firewise.org

1. Remove dead or overhanging branches. Sparks and flames can travel from trees to the roof.
2. Remove leaf accumulation for your yard. It fuels fire.
3. Remove leaf clutter from your roof and gutters. It can be ignited by flying embers.

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CALENDAR— 2015

August — TCFLOA Board of Directors Meeting and tour. Date and time to be announced later. We are looking into a tour of a local facility that purchases wood from the area—either German Pellets or the ETEC biomass powered electric plant. TCFLOA members are invited.

September 19 — TCFLOA Fall General Meeting, Saturday 9:30 AM. More information will be announced later.

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

Websites of Interest –**Guide to 2015-2019 Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) Standards -**

<http://www.sfiprogram.org/sfi-standard/guide-to-2015-2019-standards/>

Is Wood Part of the Ecosystem? - <http://gowood.blogspot.com/2015/01/is-wood-part-of-ecosystem.html>

Where Does Lumber Come From? - <http://gowood.blogspot.com/2013/07/wood-science-101-10-where-does-lumber.html>

Real Firewood Stacking - <http://gowood.blogspot.com/2012/12/real-firewood-stacking.html>

Estate Planning for Texas Family Forest Owners -
http://txforestservicetamu.edu/uploadedFiles/FRDSF/Forest_Taxation/Estate_Planning/EstatePlanning.pdf

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4. Remove tall, dry grasses (fuel for fires).
5. Remove “ladder fuels”. Trim tree limbs to between 6’-10’ from the ground.
6. Check your generator and/or hose to be sure it is in good repair. Maintain yard equipment, fuel them carefully. Prune bushes and shrubs regularly, removing excess growth and dead materials to decrease flammability.

Publication Focuses on Texas’ Water and Related Issues – Texas Water Journal – Texas Water Resources Institute

Want to know what’s going on in the world of Texas’ water resources? Then take a look at ***Texas Water Journal*** - an online, peer-reviewed journal devoted to the timely consideration of Texas water resources management and policy issues from a multidisciplinary perspective. It integrates science, engineering, law, planning, and other disciplines. The Journal also provides updates on key state legislation and policy changes by Texas administrative agencies.

To access it, please go to: <https://journals.tdl.org/twj/index.php/twj/issue/view/365/showToc>.

TCFLOA Meeting and Forest Tour

On Saturday, April 18, 2015, thirty-seven Tyler County Forest Landowners toured five different tree farms, representing four different harvest stages and a Eucalyptus Experimental Tree Farm. The tour began after a brief business meeting that included the introduction of Jacob Spivey, the county’s new Extension Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources.

At the first stop on the tour, landowners viewed the first thinning of a fourteen year-old Loblolly Pine plantation established in 2001. Before the harvest, a timber cruise showed 362 trees per acre. While the harvest is still in progress, the goal is to harvest about 35 percent of the trees/stems. Every fifth row will be completely harvested, and the shear operator will selectively thin the trees between the rows by harvesting diseased, poorly formed and overcrowded stems first, and the remaining trees will be thinned so that they are free to grow. The basal area after the harvest should be about 75 square feet per acre with 250-280 stems per acre.

The second stop was of a completed first thinning of a twelve year-old Loblolly Pine Plantation. The basal area was 17 before the thinning. The harvest method is the same as the harvest in the first stop except that the trees were chipped onsite before being hauled to the mill. The residual basal area averages 75 and should yield 55 to 70 percent more tonnage.

The third stop was a completed second thinning harvest of a nineteen year-old Loblolly Pine Plantation. A first thinning was completed in 2009. For the second thinning, the shear operator selected trees for harvest, leaving the best trees for the final harvest. The residual basal area is about 70.

The fourth stop was an active first thinning of a fourteen year-old Loblolly Pine plantation that was established in 2001. The timber cruise before the harvest shows 424 trees per acre. Plans are to harvest about 35 percent of the stems. Every fifth row will be completely harvested, and the shear operator will then selectively thin the trees between the rows by harvesting diseased, poorly formed and overcrowded stems first. The remaining trees will be thinned so that they are free to grow. The residual basal area after the harvest should be about 75 square feet per acre with 250-280 stems per acre.

The fifth stop was of the first thinning of a twelve year-old Loblolly Pine plantation established in 2003. Originally there were 348 trees per acre with a 69 basal area. The advantage of thinning early is to recover the investment sooner and to allow trees to grow faster.

The sixth stop was of the second thinning of a twenty-one year-old Loblolly Pine Plantation. The first thinning was completed in 2009. The first thinning reduced the stems to 217 per acre. The basal area before the second thinning was 101. The second thinning left the best trees with a residual basal area of 65-70 square feet.

The group enjoyed lunch catered by John Kenner at the Big Thicket Visitors Center.

The seventh stop was of a completed chipped clear-cut which is now ready for replanting – potentially with Eucalyptus.

The final stop was of a Eucalyptus stand.



Texas' Land Values Changing –

<http://txlandtrends.org>

Texas working lands are undergoing a fundamental change, one that has implications for rural economies, national and food security, and conservation of water and other natural resources. Native landscapes are increasingly threatened by suburbanization, rural development and land fragmentation driven by rapid population growth.

Land Fragmentation

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.

The average land value within the top 25 fastest growing Texas counties was \$5,266 per acre in 2012, compared to the state-wide average of \$1,573 per acre. Changes in land value were closely tied to distance from major metropolitan growth areas.

Working Land Loss

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. The shift in ownership size or loss of larger ownerships through fragmentation may have potential implications for profitability and continued stability of working lands.

Population Growth

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. The state's 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.

PLT Workshop

One of the primary objectives of TCFLOA is to provide continuing education to members and the community concerning forestry management practices. Accordingly; TCFLOA sponsored a Project Learning Tree (PLT) Workshop at Heritage Village in Woodville on Saturday,

March 14, 2015. PLT, sponsored in Texas by Texas Forestry Association and Texas A&M Forest Service, is an award-winning environmental education program, designed for teachers and other educators with students in pre-kindergarten through grade 12 to transform the outdoors into a classroom.

After performing a number of activities during the workshop, teachers Pamela Niemann and Lauren Beech were given a manual full of even more activities to lead students in learning about conversation from the perspective of forests. Having Pamela's daughter, Lilly, participate gave everyone an opportunity to observe how much fun "real" students have with the activities.

Special thanks to Reagan and Patricia Bounds for assisting Misty Bowie with the instruction and to DeAnna Turner, who with Fred's assistance, provided special gourmet refreshments from recipes that dated back to the 1800's.

New Partnership Forms the Center for Private Land Stewardship - Texas A&M Forest Service

The Texas A&M Institute of Renewable Natural Resources recently joined with the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation and the East Foundation to form the Center for Private Land Stewardship (CPLS).

The center is designed to fill critical research, extension/teaching, and policy needs to further a vision of private land stewardship. It will be the hub of education for private landowners and the public. Activities will include land use forecasting, experiential learning, professional training and policy innovations. It will communicate and demonstrate the value of proper stewardship of private lands.

The goal is to advance private land stewardship and integrate the interest of landowners with community well-being.

Organizers of the Center expect that the founding organizations will be joined by others who also understand private land stewardship.

Editors note: "Stewardship" of your private land is the new buzzword in our industry that requires your attention. To sell your trees at a good price in the future may require certification of good land stewardship.



**Tyler County Forest
Landowner Association**

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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.

Prescribed Burning Workshop – May 21—8 AM, 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 year 2014, not to worry, TCFLOA does not entice anyone into paying for years gone by.

Send your renewal check to the treasurer at the address on the membership form. Use the form to join TCFLOA or to update your information; i.e., address.

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**.

Remember, **look at the address label above** to check your membership status—if the number on the last line isn't a **15** or greater, then consider re-newing your membership.

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