



The Dogwood Times

A Publication of the Tyler County Forest Landowner Association

<http://tcforest.org/>

Tyler County Forest
Landowner Association
(TCFLOA)

Volume 18 Issue 3
Fall 2016

General membership meeting—September 10

The Tyler County Forest Landowner Association will meet at **9:30 AM on Saturday, September 10** at the Tyler County Extension Office, 201 Veterans Way, Woodville, TX. The Extension Office is located on the short side street across from the Brookshire’s store on US 69 South. We have three speakers:

Dr. Neal Frank, former Director of the National Hurricane Center (NHC) in Miami, FL, and Former Chief Meteorologist at KHOU-TV in Houston, will talk on Global Warming/Climate Change.

Dr. Eric Taylor, Silviculturist with Texas A&M Forest Service and Forestry Specialist with Texas AgriLife Extension Service, will talk on “How to Increase Tree Vigor and Reduce Loss”.

Mr. Mike Oliver, State Forester, USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service, will talk on mimicking natural disturbances in managing forested ecosystems for desired objectives.

We will have a short business meeting for election of TCFLOA officers for the 2017-2018 term. Lunch is provided, with a suggestion to leave a donation to help cover the cost of lunch.

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Warren Teacher Learns Forestry Conservation

The Tyler County Forest Landowner Association awarded a full scholarship to Sheryl Muller, Warren ISD Science teacher, for the week-long Teachers’ Conservation Institute (TCI) at the Bugscuffle Inn, near Rusk.

The Teachers’ Conservation Institute, sponsored by the Texas Forestry Association, is a professional development workshop that uses the forest to teach conservation to Texas’ teachers. Sheryl Muller reported, “This was the best
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TCFLOA Election of Officers

Election of TCFLOA officers for 2017-2018 will be held during the Fall General Meeting. The nominees, approved during the May General Meeting, are as follows:

President: Brianne Parker
Vice President & Program Chair: Ken Turner
Secretary: Jeff Parker
Treasurer: Charles Zimmerman
Directors (3): Jack Clark, Dr. Jay Fish, Betty Zimmerman
Director (Past President): Sarah Reinemeyer

CALENDAR

September 10, 2016 Saturday—TCFLOA General Membership Meeting, 9:30AM, Tyler County Extension Office, 201 Veterans Way, Woodville, Texas. Election of officers and board members for the 2017-2019 term will be held at the meeting. **See above for information on the program.** Bring a guest.

October 26-28, 2016—Texas Forestry Association Annual Conference, La Torretta Resort, Montgomery, TX. Go to www.texasforestry.org for information.

March 4, 2017 Saturday—Save the date for the TCFLOA Spring General Meeting, 9:30AM, Tyler County Extension Office, 201 Veterans Way, Woodville, Texas. Information on the program will be announced later.



Websites of Interest



Texas A&M Forest Service Information Portal
<http://www.texasforestinfo.com>

National Timber Tax Website
<http://www.timbertax.org/>

Southern Forest Health – Southern Regional Extension Forestry
www.southernforesthealth.net

Texas Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal (TxWRAP)
www.texaswildfirerisk.com

(Warren Teacher Learns Forestry Conservation—continued from page 1)
teacher workshop I have ever attended.” She particularly enjoyed the field trips to the Arborgen Super Tree Nursery because she “loved learning about genetics and how baby trees are grown” and the Cal-Tex Lumber mill because she liked seeing the process from the raw material on the log truck to the finished product in the lumber yard. Sheryl said, “Everything about TCI has been amazing and will be directly applicable to my Environmental Science classes at Warren High School. More hands-on activities are needed in our curriculum.” Sheryl plans to integrate a forestry unit into her environmental science class.

Forest Fun Facts—American Forest & Paper Association, www.afandpa.org

Two-thirds of the nation’s drinking water comes from forests.

In the U.S., forests and forest products store enough carbon each year to offset approximately 10 percent of the nation’s CO₂ emissions.

During the American Revolution, paper was so hard to find that soldiers ripped pages from books to use them as wadding for their rifles.

The first paper merchant in America was Benjamin Franklin, who helped to start 18 paper mills in Virginia and surrounding areas.

Emerald Ash Borer Now in Texas—Texas A&M Forest Service, <http://tfsweb.tamu.edu/eab>

The invasive emerald ash borer (EAB) beetle that has killed tens of millions of ash trees across the U.S. has been detected in Texas. State and federal agencies are preparing people and communities with information, education and preventative measures to fight the pest.

Earlier this year (2016), the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and Texas A&M Forest Service (TFS)—agencies leading the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) EAB survey in the state—trapped four adult beetles in Harrison County just south of Karnack, Texas. Although the ash trees in the immediate vicinity of the trap did not exhibit symptoms of the pest, the USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) laboratory confirmed the specimens were emerald ash borers. Efforts are underway to identify any infested trees.

Texas has anticipated the arrival of the EAB and has strategically placed beetle detection traps across the state for the past four years in an effort to provide an early warning if and when the invasive pest arrived.

“Early detection of this destructive pest minimizes its spread and enables us to effectively work with those affected by providing information and science-based solutions to potential attacks,” said Texas A&M Forest Service Forest Health Coordinator Shane Harrington. “TFS is working with other state and federal agencies to ensure that the general public, home and landowners know fact from fiction and what to look for when monitoring for EAB.”

The EAB is a destructive, non-native, wood-boring pest of ash trees and poses a significant threat to urban, suburban and rural forests, killing both stressed and healthy ash trees. The trees typically die two or three years after becoming infested. Native to Asia, the EAB was first discovered in southeast Michigan in 2002. Since then, infestations of this invasive pest have been found in 26 states and have killed tens of millions of ash trees.

In the United States, there are 16 ash species susceptible to attack—Texas is home to seven of these species. Ash trees make up less than 5 percent of rural Texas forestlands but comprise a large population of the state’s urban forests. Texas A&M Forest Service is working with APHIS, the Texas Department of Agriculture, and the U.S. Forest Service, among other state and federal

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(Emerald Ash Borer Now in Texas—continued from page 2)
agencies, to implement a response plan.

“The Texas Department of Agriculture, through our biosecurity program, is committed to defending Texans from invasive species like the EAB, which have the power to decimate our crops and landscapes,” Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller said. “Working together with Texas A&M Forest Service and our federal counterparts, we will implement a comprehensive response plan to tackle this threat to all Texans.”

Texas A&M Forest Service is also working with the state’s forest industry, rural landowners, urban communities and homeowners on detecting possible infestation and taking measures to slow the movement of the beetle. Measures of control include protecting ash trees through the use of insecticide tree injections and soil drenching and bolstering the urban forests with other tree species not susceptible to the emerald ash borer.

“Proper planning can reduce the impact of EAB in our communities,” said Texas A&M Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Program Coordinator Paul Johnson. “Removal of poor quality ash, planting trees that aren’t susceptible to EAB, and protecting high value ash by treating them will help us weather this attack. Work with a forester or an ISA-certified arborist to help you assess your EAB risk and care for your trees.” To learn more about EAB, please visit www.emeraldashborer.info and <https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/eab/>

Six Reasons Thinning is Good for the Forest—Forest2Market, www.forest2market.com

Thinning is an important silvicultural practice that increases the growth potential of the forest as well as the return on investment with higher vigor and higher-value trees. Thinning is also a practice that improves the overall health of the forest by mitigating disease and insect susceptibility while minimizing catastrophic fire risk. An unmanaged forest is an unhealthy forest, as well as a potentially dangerous tinderbox of wildfire fuel.

Increased Growth

Private landowners have demonstrated repeatedly that properly managed, working forests have both economic and ecological benefits. Regular thinning provide an improved environment for maximizing a site’s growth potential, which results in larger, healthier trees and more valuable timber. As a silvicultural practice, thinning allows for the continued growth of the healthiest preferred species within a timber stand while removing the suppressed, diseased and low-vigor trees that will impede the growth of the entire stand. Many of the low-vigor trees in such stands continue to grow at a reduced rate until competition claims them or they are removed via thinning. An integral piece of properly managing the forest is the removal of these trees, which can also serve as unnecessary fuel load during a fire event.

Improved Utilization

While the economic benefits of regularly removing suppressed and dying trees are minimal, intermediate thinnings do pay for themselves and provide the economic advantage of improving the health of the entire timber stand. Arranged thinning during growth cycles will yield wood that can be utilized for pulp, chip or pellet operations. Again, while the economic gain may be minimal in this case, the health of the overall stand is improved and thus, the value of the overall stand increases.

Reduced Vulnerability to Disease and Insects

Maintaining proper stand density is essential to reducing tree damage from both disease and insects. As a rule, healthy trees are less susceptible to insect infestation than unhealthy ones. For example, the Southern Pine Beetle (SPB) is the most harmful insect to forests in the US South—an area with a high proportion of pines. The University of Georgia Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health notes that, “Uninfested trees are generally larger, have thicker bark, greater crown/bole ratios, larger crowns, and faster growth rates, and occur in less dense stands. The infested trees were usually located in heavily stocked stands that were under stress.”

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(Six Reasons Thinning is Good for the Forest—continued from previous page)

While other factors can also impact the health of a stand, “high stand density was the most important factor predisposing stands to SPB attack.”

Such pests are not only limited to pine trees in the US South; the US West and British Columbia (BC) are still reeling from a Mountain Pine Beetle outbreak that began in the early 1990s. This insect has since killed roughly 50% of the total volume of commercial pine in the province of BC.

Loblolly and slash pine in the US South are particularly susceptible to certain diseases that flourish in unmanaged forests. Annosum root rot is the most common of these diseases and once a tree in the stand becomes infected, the disease spreads to adjacent trees through root contact. In a dense forest, the root systems of the trees are intertwined providing an easy pathway for this disease to spread. As these systems deteriorate, the trees die and gradually fall over due to lack of support.

Genetic Enhancement

Genetic enhancement can also be achieved through proper and regular thinning. Trees removed in thinnings are usually inferior, diseased or have objectionable shape, which is sometimes due to genetics. By removing such trees early and prior to forest regeneration, the landowner or land manager can minimize the number of trees with undesirable traits in a stand.

Environmental Benefits

Thinnings will alter the environment of the forest, which is a good thing. Thinnings allow the penetration of light, which increases the temperature of soil as well as the availability of moisture and nutrients within the soil. With these changes, forest vegetation flourishes and produces a more favorable habitat for wildlife. Thinnings will invariably reduce the canopy of the forest, which allows a greater amount of rainwater to reach the forest floor as well.

Fire Prevention

Despite the benefits of thinning listed above, opponents typically rely on the same, haggard argument that is not rooted in environmental science or best forest management practices. These same opponents typically believe that “letting nature take its course” is the preferred method of managing our forests, and they generally eschew any economic gain that might result from forest management and the sale of timber. While Mother Nature has indeed used fire to control forest growth for eons, managing the damage and mitigating the risk that extreme wildfires pose to communities is a challenge that must be addressed. The best available science (and experience) tells us that proper thinnings and controlled burns are the most effective ways to minimize fire exposure.

As the American Forest Foundation (AFF) recently noted, “The good news comes in research showing that managing western forests through thinning and prescribed burns can reduce the impact of these fires. A recent study by The Nature Conservancy and the U.S. Forest Service showed that a 12,000-acre ‘doughnut hole’ within the Carlton Complex fire zone remained untouched by the inferno. The area survived, the researchers believe, because it had been previously thinned and burned. They say that 9.5 million acres of Washington and Oregon forests would benefit from the same management that protected the doughnut hole.”

The AFF continues, “In Arizona, thinned forests and prescribed burns helped stop the huge 2011 Wallow Fire before it reached homes, according to ecologist Morris Johnson of the Pacific Wildland Fire Science Laboratory. ‘As it hit the thinning treatment there’s a transition in the fire type. It went from an active crown fire down to a passive crown fire,’ Johnson says.”

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The Importance of Forests to Water Resources (Part 1 of 4)—Hughes Simpson, Texas A&M Forest Service

Over 50 percent of the nation's freshwater resources originate from forests that cover about one-third of the United States. Forests provide a number of essential economic, social, and environmental functions in addition to supplying the cleanest water of any land use. These lands absorb rainfall, refill groundwater aquifers, slow and filter stormwater runoff, reduce floods, and maintain watershed stability and resilience. A 2013 report by Texas A&M Forest Service (TFS) estimates watershed services provided by Texas forests are valued at \$13.2 billion annually.

In an effort to identify and highlight the most important lands to surface drinking water across the nation, the United States Forest Service (USFS) developed the *Forests to Faucets* project. This interactive, web-based Geographic Information System tool maps critical forestlands, documents the role they play in protecting water supplies, and models the extent to which these lands are threatened. TFS is currently refining this national analysis to provide higher resolution for priority areas throughout the state.

While the benefits of forests are numerous, these lands are constantly at risk. Population growth throughout the state is expected to explode over the next 50 years, leading to significant changes in land use throughout the state. The *Southern Forest Futures Project*, conducted by the USFS, forecasts that over 1 million acres of forestland will be lost to development and urban sprawl in Texas.

Not only will this forecasted population growth result in increased water demands, it will also lead to increases in impervious cover in areas where forestlands occurred, resulting in impacts to water quality and supply. This growth will not be spread evenly throughout the region, being concentrated near population centers and major travel corridors.

Several municipalities and water management organizations have already recognized the important role forests play in supplying fresh drinking water, and as such, have taken action to conserve these critical landscapes. The most prominent example of this is the *New York City Watershed Project*, in which city leaders decided in the early 1990s to begin conserving the forestlands in Upstate New York where their source water originated rather than building a new water filtration facility, as would have been required by the *Safe Drinking Water Act*. This facility would have cost an estimated \$6 billion upfront to construct and \$250 million annually for maintenance. By spending approximately \$167 million annually to purchase forestland, conservation easements, and encourage landowners to implement sustainable management practices, New York City has been able to comply with the legislation at a fraction of the cost. Water quality monitoring over the last 20 years has demonstrated the success of this project. Approaches such as this are currently being explored for application in the South.

In addition to threats from urbanization, forests also may become more susceptible to insect, disease, invasive species, wildfire, and natural disasters in the future that will affect watershed function. The Southern Pine Beetle, Emerald Ash Borer, and other pests have the potential to cause widespread mortality and changes to species composition. To counteract this, sustainable forest management can improve health and vigor, improving forest resilience, and enabling these lands to continue providing watershed services.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) are the principle means by which the forest sector protects water resources through sustainable land management. These non-regulatory conservation practices are designed to provide an economical way of protecting soil and water resources, two key elements necessary for growing a healthy, sustainable, and productive forest. Examples include leaving buffer zones of trees next to streams, properly sizing and installing culverts or temporary bridges to cross waterways, establishing grass on forest roads to prevent erosion, and many other practices that have been tested and proven effective over the years. TFS, working cooperatively with numerous organizations, manages the forestry BMP program in Texas.

Given the challenges that water providers, watershed managers, and forest landowners will face in the future, it will be essential that their interdependence be better understood and the fundamental importance of forests for each of these acknowledged. The vast majority (almost 95%) of Texas forests are privately owned, so their future lies in the hands of individuals and corporations. Motivating them to take actions beneficial for water resources will require creative thought and investment.



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Rainfall Totals—Tyler Co. Emergency Management Weather Division

	June (inches)	July (inches)
Chester	2.91	3.60
Colmesneil (4E)	6.09	1.80
Fred	8.02	0.40
Spurger	8.78	2.92
Warren (5SSE)	9.44	2.28
Woodville	7.67	3.09

Rainfall totals for August were not available when this newsletter was published. August will be reported next issue.

Note: When the official rain gauge is located outside the town, i.e., “(4E)” after Colmesneil, see above, means 4 miles east of town.

Membership 2016

Be sure to check the two digit code on the mailing label.

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

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

Look at the address label on the envelope to check your membership status—if the year number after your name is not **16** or greater, then consider renewing your membership.

Since the year is half over, new memberships received this year will remain in good standing through 2017.

Charles Zimmerman—editor

MEMBERSHIP FORM

For Calendar Year 2016 - 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