



# The Dogwood Times

A Publication of the Tyler County Forest Landowner Association

<http://tcforest.org/>

Tyler County Forest  
Landowner Association  
(TCFLOA)

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## TCFLOA General Meeting Summary

The Tyler County Forest Landowner Association met at 9:30 AM, Saturday, September 9, 2017, in Woodville. Thirty-six members and guests attended the program, presented by six speakers, followed by BBQ lunch.

**Emergency Situations:** Chief Scott Yosko, Woodville Police Department, reported that there was very little damage from Hurricane Harvey within the Woodville city limits. All houses of the Barlow Lakes community on the Neches River were damaged by rising water and some of the houses collapsed. Chief Yosko demonstrated night vision goggles and infrared viewing equipment that are an asset to law enforcement in search and rescue situations, as well as criminal events. For example, the heat imprint of an individual can be viewed immediately after a person has left the scene, providing evidence of their presence in the area. Some of the newer viewers can see through smoke which can enable locating a person who needs rescue from a fire. The attendees then walked outside where Chief Yosko exhibited three specialized vehicles – a Mine-Resistant-Ambush-Protection (MRAP) vehicle for entering shooter situations, a 5-ton truck with a snorkel that rises 10 feet above ground for high water situations, and a Hummer for diverse situations.

**Impact of Emergency Disasters on Tyler County:** Ken Jobe, Tyler County Emergency Coordinator, reported that Hurricane Harvey brought 25-30 inches of rain to Tyler County. The hurricane's additional landing at Port Arthur increased the rain amounts. There was no loss of life in Tyler County. Over 4,000 sandbags were filled by volunteers and distributed by the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Emergency responders completely evacuated the area just below Dam B on the Neches River and the Red Cross established a temporary shelter for the evacuees. As the water threatened to overflow Dam B, it was necessary to release water. About 300 homes were damaged; some were destroyed. Most of the

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The new Roy O Martin Oriented Strand Board (OSB) mill in Corrigan, Texas will begin operations in the first quarter of 2018. The mill will be accepting pulp wood at least 13 ½ feet long with not less than 3-inch tops from an 80-mile radius – which includes most of Tyler County. TCFLOA is already in contact with management to arrange a spring tour of the mill.

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The Texas A&M Forest Service reported this month that the presence of Southern Pine Bark Beetles (SPB's) has been found in western Louisiana. Previously, the closest SPB's to east Texas were in Alabama.

## CALENDAR

**January 6, 2018, Saturday**—TCFLOA Board of Directors Meeting, 9AM at the Bulldog Café in Colmesneil, Texas. Breakfast will be Dutch. The focus of the meeting is to finalize the 2018 calendar and present ideas for general meeting programs. Association members are encouraged to attend.

**April 2018, Saturday**—TCFLOA Spring General Meeting, 9:30AM, Tyler County Extension Office, 201 Veterans Way, Woodville, Texas. Information on the program will be announced in our next newsletter.

**July 2018, Saturday**—TCFLOA Board of Directors Meeting and potential tour. Date, Time, and location to be announced.

**September 2018, Saturday**—TCFLOA Fall General Meeting, 9:30AM, Tyler County Extension Office, 201 Veterans Way, Woodville, Texas. Information on the program will be announced in a later newsletter.



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damaged structures are along the Neches River, but there were about a dozen in Woodville behind the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) that were also impacted. Ken Jobe encouraged the attendees to heed evacuation notices. Texas Parks and Wildlife personnel performs search and rescue of individuals, but will not provide delivery services to individuals who refuse to evacuate. He encouraged property owners to manage trees along easements to minimize damage to power lines during a bad weather situation.

**Property Rights During Hunting Season:** Brandon Mosley, Tyler County Game Warden, explained that game wardens work with landowners to deal with timber theft and trespassers. Brandon acknowledged that thieving and trespassing are prevalent in Tyler County – usually by repeat offenders. He said that many of his calls are regarding hog hunters using dogs. Brandon emphasized that while game wardens have the right to go on private property without the consent of the owner, he does not do so without a specific reason.

It is important for landowners to obtain descriptions and license plate numbers of trespassers and he encouraged landowners to use game cameras to do so. Because poachers are likely to destroy or remove a camera at a feeder, he recommended mounting a second, well-hidden camera nearby. Brandon likes Spartan Gocam cameras (about \$500) for real time monitoring and Reconyx cameras (about \$1200).

If an individual shoots across a property line onto your property, the shooter can potentially be charged with both hunting without consent and for trespassing by projectile. However, it is hard to file charges without physical evidence of something shot.

Trespassing is typically a Class C misdemeanor. (It escalates to a Class B felony for trespassing onto a personal residence.) Technically, a tree line can serve as a “notice” of a property line, but to file charges a landowner must keep gates closed and clearly mark property lines with “No Trespassing” signs and/or purple paint. The purple paint must be vertical lines of not less than eight inches in length and not less than one inch in width, placed so that the bottom of the mark is not less than three feet from the ground or the top of the mark more than five feet from the ground; and placed at locations that are readily visible to any person approaching the property and no more than 100 feet apart on forest land or 1000 feet apart on land other than forest land.

By-laws for hunting leases on adjoining properties can provide some protection; for example, lands managed by John Hancock have by-laws for hunting leases that prohibit blinds closer than 150 feet from a property line.

**Dozer Site Preparation:** Todd Harrell, Harrell Dozer Service, emphasized that there is a strong, direct and positive correlation between seedling survival and site preparation. Preparation may include reducing unwanted competition for seedlings, removing slash and logging debris, and preparing or modifying the soil. Preparation can be done by either mechanical or chemical means. While chemical treatments produce better competition control, mechanical procedures produce better debris removal and can also prepare the soil. The appropriate site preparation is determined by the soil.

Types of mechanical site prep including chop, shear, rake (pile), bed (row), subsoil breakup, and combinations of the various techniques.

- Chopping is similar to mulching, but the chips are not as small. It can be performed on trees up to 6 inches in diameter, but not stumps. Chopping does not disturb the soil or seedlings
- Shearing shears off stumps, brush and saplings, Debris is moved aside to leave clean lanes for planting. Shearing can displace topsoil and facilitates machine planting. Machine planted seedlings have a better survival rate than hand planting.
- Raking or piling is performed after shearing. Debris is usually pushing into long windrows that can be burned, if desired. Leaving the windrows unburned, promotes wildlife habitat but reduces the area available for planting. If the equipment used has teeth, the topsoil can be displaced.
- Bedding may be performed after shearing. It creates mounds of organic matter and topsoil. The mounds will keep seedlings out of standing water. This technique is ideal for contour slopes but is not appropriate for drought prone sites.
- Ripping is good for hard red clay that is hardpan. In Tyler County, this occurs in small sections in the northern part of the county. Ripping loosens compacted soil, allows rainfall to percolate in the soil and seedling roots to get deeper into the ground. Time must be allowed for the rip to close before planting.

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*(TCFLOA General Meeting Summary—continued from page 3)*

- Combination plows, which combine bedding and subsoiling, throw topsoil into the rip made by the ripping tool on the plow. Most often performed after shearing, combination plowing is adapted to both upland and lowland areas.
- The most effective mechanical technique is a single piece of equipment that shears, rips and beds in a single pass. Letting stumps decay for a year after clear cutting simplifies site prep. The most effective approach for creating pasture land is to shear, rake and then burn. The cost of mechanical site preparation varies from \$120 - \$250 per acre, depending on the techniques selected. There is usually a \$500 move-in fee for less than 50 acres.

Precision, site specific tree farming will become prevalent in the future. Not all sites are the same and not all soils on a single site are the same. Using soil tests, nutrient tests and electronic/computer controls, the soil can be prepared and treated, as appropriate, per GPS coordinates.

**Master Tree Farmer Course:** Col. Eddie Boxx, sought to socialize and gain member feedback on a new Tree Farmer course modeled after the former Master Tree Farmer Course previously available. The new course would be specific to the east Texas ecosystems. Classes would be presented using webinars along with guest speakers and experts, culminating with a field trip and a “certificate of completion”. Suggested content would include long leaf restoration, hardwood management, wildlife and recreation interests, forestry terminology, the value of Streamside Management Zones, how to locate vendors, where to put gates, how to identify boundaries, and more.

Dr. Eric Taylor, Silviculturist with Texas A&M Forest Service, Elizabeth Parker, TCFLOA president, and Jacob Spivey, Tyler County’s Agriculture Agent, are collaborating with Eddie to design and develop the course. The course materials would be made available to other east Texas counties upon completion of the initial offering in Tyler County.

**Jacob Read Spivey**, Tyler County Extension Agent, followed Col. Boxx’s presentation and further illustrated the proposed course modules and canvassed the attendees for potential students (15-20 attendees expressed interest in the course). The proposal presented was for classes in Woodville one evening a week, i.e., Tuesday, in April – July, 2018. At least half the interested attendees expressed a preference for Saturday classes – maybe every 2 weeks. The schedule is particularly sensitive to tree farmers who live outside the county and tend to their farms on weekends. In conclusion, the TCFLOA articulated a clear “demand signal” for the timber education course to the county agent and Jacob will continue to work with the Texas representatives on the course content and design. Col. Boxx will provide a status update to the TCFLOA Board on the course project in December, 2017.

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### ***The Importance of Forests to Water Resources – Part 4 of 4***

***Hughes Simpson, Texas A&M Forest Service*** *(This series is continued from the Summer 2017 issue of The Dogwood Times)*

Healthy forests are critically important to protecting water resources and sustaining them in the future. In fact, one of the primary reasons for establishing the National Forests (Organic Act of 1897), and many State Forests, was to protect the country’s water resources. The National Association of State Foresters clearly recognizes the connection between forests and water resources, stating in a 2005 position statement that “*water, in all its uses and permutations, is by far the most valuable commodity that comes from the forest land that we manage, assist others to manage, and/or regulate.*”

As previously discussed in this series, forests enhance water quality and supply by intercepting and absorbing rainfall, refilling groundwater aquifers, stabilizing soils and stream banks, filtering stormwater runoff, regulating steam flow, and maintaining watershed stability and resilience. With an ever increasing population

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and demand for water, coupled with intense weather, insect, disease, and invasive species outbreaks, forests, and the many watershed benefits they provide, are constantly at risk. In order to sustain these “services”, creative solutions must be developed and embraced. Listed below are a few potential opportunities that should be investigated.

### Partnerships

One innovative approach is the *Southeastern Partnership for Forests and Water Resources*. This collaborative effort between the forest sector and water managers seeks to explore the relationship between forested watersheds and water resources, with a special focus on surface waters needed for municipal water supply. Discussions from the initial meeting of the *Partnership* indicated strong consensus that maintaining or expanding healthy forests in watersheds is a cost-effective strategy for helping ensure a clean water supply, and that a watershed based pilot project should be implemented within the region. Texas A&M Forest Service, in cooperation with TRWA and Texas AWWA, are working to host a Texas Partnership forum later this year to gauge interest in Texas.

### Forest Conservation

Several local governments in Texas have taken proactive approaches to protecting water supplies through various forms of forest conservation. For example, Austin Water, owned by the City of Austin, manages land within the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer, a critical part of the city’s drinking water supply. These Water Quality Protection Lands, totaling approximately 26,000 acres, are managed to produce optimum levels of clean, high quality water to recharge this segment.

The Woodlands has also utilized forest conservation measures for environmental protection. Based on George Mitchell’s vision over 40 years ago, the community has truly been “designed with nature.” Currently over 7,000 acres of green space have been preserved, part of which are included in the area’s Spring Creek Greenway Project, an initiative to connect 12,000 acres of forests along Spring Creek in Harris and Montgomery Counties.

### Low Impact Development

Strategies exist to incorporate green infrastructure, or the natural environment, into the land use planning process. This type of “smart growth”, through the reduction of impervious surfaces, enhances water resources through effective storm water management. Polluted runoff water is treated “at the source”, instead of flowing through a traditional curb and gutter system. Examples of low impact development (LID) include conservation design, permeable pavement, green roof systems, rain gardens, constructed wetlands, rainwater cisterns, and many other common sense practices. LID practices have been implemented throughout Texas, including Houston, Dallas, and San Antonio.

### Education

Education and public awareness are critical for protecting water resources. In addition to promoting water conservation to the general public, homeowners, especially those on the waterfront, need to be made aware of the impact their actions can have on adjacent waterways. For example, maintaining a well-manicured lawn up to the water’s edge can result in water pollution from fertilizers and pesticides. Forest buffers can mitigate these kinds of impacts.

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*(the Importance of Forests to Water Resources—continued from page 4)*

In addition to informing the general public, the importance of forests also needs to be communicated to local governments. Providing for urban forests, trees, and other vegetation in land use plans and development decisions can have multiple benefits. In this regard, Texas A&M Forest Service, in cooperation with local organizations, hosted the *Emerging Communities* workshop series across the state several years ago. City and county land use planners, engineers, and public works officials participated and learned about watershed protection, sustainable planning, the benefits of trees, and how to plan for trees within their community.

The above listed strategies are samples of programs in place that are working to encourage forest enhancement for the protection of surface water supplies in Texas. Projected population increases, continued weather and precipitation variability, and forecasted forest losses over time, heighten the need for creative solutions that benefit the state's forestlands, while at the same time, sustain the area's water supplies.

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### ***Operation Ponderosa—Texas A&M Forest Service***

The Davis Mountains of West Texas contain some of the largest populations of Rocky Mountain Ponderosa Pine, *Pinus ponderosa* var. *scopulorum*, in Texas. The Davis Mountains Preserve in Fort Davis contains a majority of these endemic stands.

Environmental stresses - a lack of soil moisture from drought, coupled with secondary bark beetle infestations - have killed the majority of trees. In addition, wildfires in 2011 burned through some of the most productive stands. Up to 75 per-cent of the Ponderosas in the Davis Mountains Preserve have been lost over the past decade, and it is predicted that losses will continue if nothing is done.

In 2014, Texas A&M Forest Service (TFS) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) staff assessed 18 Ponderosa Pine stands in the TNC Preserve – leading to recommendations to help maintain and improve existing stands.

Recommended tactics were:

- collect native seed
- thin overpopulated stands
- remove competing vegetation
- collect baseline data to monitor the recovery of forest stands over time

TFS marked stands and gathered baseline data in 2015 in preparation for thinning operations scheduled for 350 acres of forestlands on the TNC Preserve. TFS received a grant from USDA Forest Service for forest stand assessments and management prescriptions. TNC received a grant to thin competing trees. TFS gathered cones from trees in yards in Ft Davis and grew out 2,800 ponderosa seedlings at the TFS West Texas Nursery in Idalou.

In 2016, over 2,000 of the grown-out seedlings were planted. Herbivory, mainly from gophers, took its toll on the plantings, and less than 25% survived. Data shows that survival rates below 25percent is on par with average numbers from other Ponderosa plantings in New Mexico and Arizona.

The second round of cone collection yielded only 180 seedlings for the 2017 planting, but the third round yielded a large cache of seeds for 2018. TFS gave away seedlings to landowners in the surrounding communities of Ft Davis, Al-pine, and Marfa.

TFS will be creating a handbook of Best Management Practices. These and other educational resources will serve as technical information and assistance to land-owners and the public in restoring and recovering Ponderosa Pines in Texas and the American Southwest.



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***Rainfall Totals (inches)—Tyler Co. Emergency Management Weather Division***

	September	October	November
Chester	1.70	1.40	1.81
Colmesneil (4E)	4.82	1.02	0.90
Fred	0.10	0.91	1.78
Spurger	0.66	0.90	1.82
Warren (5SSE)	0.64	0.67	0.34
Woodville	1.15	0.85	1.10

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

**OFFICERS & DIRECTORS  
2017-2018**

Pres: Elizabeth Parker  
VP: Josh Lempert  
Sect: Jeffrey Parker  
Treas: Charles Zimmerman  
Dir: Betty Zimmerman  
Dir: Jack Clark  
Dir: Dr. Jay Fish  
Dir: Sarah Reinemeyer (past President)

**Membership 2018**

Check your memberships status for 2018. Look at the address label on the envelope for your status—if the year number after your name is not **18** or greater, then consider renewing your membership.

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**.

At the January, 2017 board of directors meeting, a discussion about funds for program expenses led to a decision to raise TCFLOA annual dues from \$10 to \$15 starting in year 2018. This is the first dues increase since the organization was chartered in 1991.

*Charles Zimmerman—editor*

**MEMBERSHIP FORM**  
**For Calendar Year 2018 - TCFLOA**

**Regular Membership:** Private non-industrial owners of five (5) or more acres of land in Tyler Co. **Dues:** \$15 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:** \$15 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