



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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Spring 2017

Tyler County Dogwood Festival and TCFLOA Dogwood Reception—April 1

The Dogwood Festival is a celebration of springtime when the dogwood trees are in full blossom in the area. Starting at 9AM in the downtown district, there will be many booths displaying arts and crafts, an exhibition of motorcycles and antique cars, and a variety of food vendors. At 2PM The Dogwood Queen's Parade starts featuring entries from all over the county as well as the near by Alabama Coushatta Tribe of Texas. This is a great event for the entire family but you may want to bring additional folding chairs for the parade.

From 3 to 5 pm you and your guests are invited to attend the TCFLOA members Dogwood Reception at the public library reading room located two blocks from town center. We will be serving wine, beer, coffee, and appetizers. See the insert in this newsletter for more information.

General Membership Meeting—April 29

The next General Meeting of TCFLOA is scheduled for **SATURDAY, April 29, 9:30AM in the Tyler County Extension Office, 201 Veterans Way, Woodville.** Martco L.L.C. (a.k.a Roy O. Martin Lumber CO.) headquartered in Alexandria, LA will be presenting an overview of the Oriented Strand Board (OSB) facility near Corrigan, TX that will begin operation later this year. It is a large plant that will employ 165 people and create many more jobs to provide wood for its mills. The plant will be a major market for Tyler County pine timber.

We are also looking at a presentation on Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

CALENDAR

April 1, 2017, Saturday—Tyler County Dogwood Festival in Woodville. TCFLOA members reception 3-5pm at the Allen Shivers Library meeting room.

April 29, 2017, Saturday—TCFLOA spring general membership meeting, 9:30am, at the Tyler County Extension Office, 201 Veterans Way, Woodville.

June 16, 2017, Friday—Outstanding tree farm tour. Texas Forestry Association awarded the 2017 Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year to Dr. Jay and Sally Fish of Tyler County. Time and meeting place will be announced in our next newsletter.

August 19, 2017 Saturday—TCFLOA Board of Directors Meeting, 9:30AM in Woodville, Texas. See tcforest.org for location. Members are encouraged to attend.

September 9, 2017, Saturday—TCFLOA Fall General Meeting, 9:30AM, Tyler County Extension Office, 201 Veterans Way, Woodville, Texas. Information on the program will be announced in our next newsletter.

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Landowner Tips

- Removing some of the shade alongside your woods roads will allow them to dry out more quickly after a rain.
- Inspect your firelanes now before the beginning of the spring prescribed burning season.
- Brush removal from your firelanes is easier in winter and early spring when most vegetation is dormant, and frees up young trees for both nutrients and additional sun when they are ready to make their spring growth spurt.

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

TCFLOA Portal
tcfloa.org

TCFLOA Board of Directors Meeting

The TCFLOA Board of Directors met January 7, 2017. In attendance were Jeff & Elizabeth Parker, Ken Turner, Charles & Betty Zimmerman, Jack Clark, Jay & Sally Fish, and Keelin Parker.

The board discussed the dogwood seedlings giveaway and agreed that the seedlings would have a better chance of survival if they were planted in January – rather than waiting until the Dogwood Festival in April. Plans were made to distribute 500 dogwood seedlings, donated by Keelin Parker, from the Courthouse Grounds on January 28th. Recipients would be given the opportunity to donate to the TCFLOA Scholarship Fund.

Ken Turner presented a list of program proposals. 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.

It was agreed to again host a Dogwood Festival Reception at the Allan Shivers Library from 3:00 – 5:00 pm on Saturday, April 1, 2017.

The board discussed and voted to offer a College Scholarship and a Teachers Conservation Institute Scholarship for this year.

Tawny Crazy Ants So Bad, Some Wish for the Return of Fire Ants—TexasInvasives.org, December 2016

Yes, that's right. In some places in Texas, the invasion of tawny crazy ants (*Nylanderia fulva*) is worse than the red imported fire ants (*Solenopsis invicta*) that it has replaced. Yes, that's right, too: the crazy ant displaces the fire ant. Both are from South America, where they naturally compete and are kept in check by the full ant community there. The crazy ant has evolved resistance to the fire ant's venom, which combined with its ability to form large, multi-queen colonies and the absence of other population control factors, allows them to outcompete the red fire ant here in Texas.

It's the crazy ant's ability to form huge colonies, rather than a sting or bite, that makes it such a nuisance. It will nest in any cavity and literally take over buildings, swarming inside and wreaking havoc with electronics, air conditioning units, and wiring. Outside, "they drive out almost all other bugs, including spiders, through sheer weight of numbers... Even nesting songbirds can be overrun by crazy ants."

In order to learn more about the crazy ant as part of efforts to control it, researchers at the University of Texas Brackenridge Field Laboratory (BFL) are focusing on its behavior, and on a species of fungus and of phorid fly that are potential biological control agents.

Texas Forestry Museum

Founded in 1976, The Texas Forestry Museum offers a rare look at historic and contemporary development of one of Texas' oldest industries: forest products. Exhibits feature a glimpse of fire towers and modern fire control, reforestation, life in a sawmill town, logging railroads, papermills, and the history of the men and woman who worked in the woods. The Urban Wildscape Trail extends the interpretation to the natural resource.

Offering relics, photographs and interpretive displays depicting almost 200 years of lumbering in east Texas, the Texas Forestry Museum provides as interesting as well as an educational experience the whole family can enjoy.

Almost half the yearly visitors are school children who come to the museum to capture the spirit and tradition of an era that contributed greatly to Texas.

Consider visiting the Texas Forestry Museum. Check out their website: www.treetexas.com. They are located at 1905 Atkins Dr., Lufkin, TX. Call 936-632-9535 for information.



Texas Timber Industry Roundtable—Betty Zimmerman, TCFLOA

Members of US Representative Brian Babin's Texas Timber Industry Roundtable met with him in Woodville on Tuesday, February 21st. After the Texas Forestry Association presented Rep. Brian Babin with TFA's Legislator of the Year Award, the roundtable discussed several topics that impact the forestry industry -- including tax change implications, impacts of endangered species regulations, truck access on interstate highways and proposed US agency organizational changes. Members attending were John Lock, Bill Oates, Ron Hufford, Dr. Jerry Marcontell, Dave Duren, Jeff Rogers, Steve Jeansonne, and Betty and Charles Zimmerman.

Income Tax Changes. While we do not yet know what tax changes are currently being considered, we do know that in 2014, Representative Dave Camp's draft tax reform legislation proposed (1) changing the way timber operating costs are deducted, (2) changing the timber revenue from capital gains to gross income, and (3) removing the deduction for reforestation costs. The proposal also eliminated the ability for Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) to categorize timber as real estate rather than inventory.

While many of us strongly support the US Congress addressing tax simplification, each of us can comprehend how the first three proposed changes would increase income taxes for individual tree farmers.

How REITs and Timber Investment Management Organizations (TIMOs) response to tax changes would impact us is more complex. REITs and TIMOs own and/or manage 328,162 of the Tyler County's 599,040 acres - which is over half the land in the county. We private tree farmers piggy-back the financial model driven by the REITs' and TIMOs' economies of scale. If the REITs and TIMOs change their business practices, the financial model will be altered and the effects will ripple down to us. Not knowing what those changes would be makes it impossible for us to know if the changes will be beneficial or detrimental to us individually.

Endangered Species Regulation - Bill Oates, TFS, reported that the recovery plan for the endangered dusky gopher frog will restrict use of specified long-leaf forests areas in Mississippi and Louisiana. While there are about 100 of the dusky gopher frogs living along the Mississippi gulf coast, the recovery plan includes over 1,500 acres of a private tract in Louisiana within an area defined by the US Fish and Wildlife Service as Critical Habitat. Frogs have not been seen on this property since the 1960's. The landowner sued, losing in the lower Federal court and in the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals. This decision, which amounts to the government taking away private property rights, could serve as case law for future litigation under the EPA.

Trucks on Interstate Highways - Representative Brian Babin will support legislation to allow commercial vehicles, including log trucks, to use I-14 with permits that are currently recognized on Hwy 190.

US Agency Organizational Changes - Bill Oates, TFS, requested that the US Forest Service remain under the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) rather than moving it to the US Department of Interior (USDO), as some have proposed. The goals of land management within the USDA are significantly different than those of the USDO. The Forest Service was established for conservation through working forests, intent on supplementing/protecting the nation's timber supplies. The USDO, which includes the Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, USFWS, etc. is focused on preservation.

The Texas Timber Industry Roundtable appreciates Representative Brian Babin's support.

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

	December	January	February
Chester	3.99	6.59	2.02
Colmesneil (4E)	4.78	7.08	2.25
Fred	5.97	7.29	2.97
Spurger	3.97	5.50	2.19
Warren (5SSE)	4.70	4.89	2.37
Woodville	4.31	4.43	2.55

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

Membership 2017

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

It is time to renew memberships for 2017. Look at the address label on the envelope to check your membership status—if the year number after your name is not **17** 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**.

editor

MEMBERSHIP FORM
For Calendar Year 2017 - 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