



# 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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## RoyOMartin, Forestry Wildlife, Rep James White and Geographic Information Systems

On Saturday, September 21, 2019, fifty-two attended the Tyler County Forest Landowner Association Fall Meeting and enjoyed a great program.

**RoyOMartin:** Mr. John Hamilton, Procurement Officer for the RoyOMartin Oriented Strand Board (OSB) manufacturing plant in Corrigan, Texas, explained that the plant produced its first load of OSB in April 2018. The plant accepts over 800 loads of chip and saw logs per week. The logs are cut into canter wood for making oriented strand board.

Rather than employing loggers, RoyOMartin partners with Walsh Timber Company, LLC, who procures the timber, contracts the harvesting crews and delivers the logs. Mr. Hamilton stated that Tyler County's forest land is well located because it is centrally located to several mills and much of the forest land is operable in wet weather; i.e., much of it can be harvested during rainy seasons. When asked about timber prices, Mr. Hamilton reflected that timber prices were up this spring and summer but are dropping again. OSB prices were at an all-time high in 2018 but began dropping in the spring of 2019. The lower OSB prices were triggered by wet weather that discouraged building, labor shortages in some areas and delayed building decisions by some large builders who are waiting until after the presidential election.

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### Plant a Wildflower Meadow

Want to create an eye-catching sight and help wildlife at the same time? Convert that empty field or part of your sprawling lawn into a dazzling wildflower meadow.

Planting a field full of colorful wildflowers not only gives you a season full of fresh-cut flowers and a place to reflect on nature's beauty, it offers passing drivers a reason to slow down. More importantly, a meadow brimming with flowers provides vital food for a wide variety of birds and insects.

So what should you plant? Annuals tend to produce more flowers and many perennial varieties won't bloom until their second year. However, perennials don't have to be planted every year and will often spread from their own seeds.

Not sure? Combine them. Plant perennials, but over seed each spring with easy-to-grow annuals like zinnias, bachelor's buttons and larkspur for a variety of color.

## CALENDAR

**January 11, 2020, Saturday**—TCFLOA Board of Directors meeting, 9:00 AM, Neches Room at the Tyler County Extension Office, 201 Veterans Way, Woodville, Texas. This is a planning meeting. Association members are welcome to attend.

**March 21, 2020, Saturday**—TCFLOA Spring General Meeting, 9:30 AM, Tyler County Extension Office, 201 Veterans Way, Woodville, Texas.. Texas A&M Forest Service is sponsoring a one-day Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) program on Best Management Practices (BMP's) to protect your resources and advance your objectives. Lunch will be served. The public is invited.

**April 4, 2020, Saturday**—Tyler County Dogwood Festival, Woodville, Texas. This is a great time for out-of-county landowners to check on their property and see the spring blossoms and enjoy the downtown festivities and parade.

**Quarterly**—Newsletter, *The Dogwood Times*, published by TCFLOA.

Visit the Tyler County Forest Landowner Association website at [tcforst.org](http://tcforst.org) for a summary of past presentations, interesting articles, upcoming events, contacts, and the latest news relating to effective forest and land management practices for Tyler County landowners.



*(RoyOMartin—continued from page 1)*

At this time OSB prices are beginning to rise again. Mr. Hamilton expressed concern about the shortage of loggers and stated that the high insurance rates for log trucks (timber haulers) is an obstacle.

Texas Representative James White was invited to the podium and stated that timber hauler insurance deserves legislative attention. Points accumulated by drivers for moving vehicle warnings are shared with state and federal agencies – and eventually with insurance companies. In addition to legislative attention, we need safe timber haulers. At the federal level, the Canadian government owns much of that country's timber, which is regulated in a trade agreement separate from the pending US-Mexico-Canada (USMCA) trade agreement.

**Forestry Wildlife:** Mrs. Courtney McInnerney, District Biologist for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), presented forest management practices that create open pine forests and encourage wildlife. When planning for replanting after clearcutting, landowners may consider creating open spaces by not planting seedlings in areas designated for firebreaks and food plots. After thinning, use herbicide to keep yaupon from taking over. Prescribed burning will also create open pine stands that are good for wildlife management.

Wildlife management requires work. Since ninety-five percent of Texas land is privately owned, that work falls on landowners. Quality habitat management is more important than supplemental feeding. Habitat management includes timber management, prescribed burning, streamside management zones (SMZs), rotational grazing and controlled hunting. Corn feeders for deer are considered baiting and their use is like serving candy to a toddler for dinner. Landowners are encouraged to plant food plots instead. Each food plot should be ½ to 3 acres, irregularly and linearly shaped and with adequate sunlight and nearby cover. Rights-of-way, log sets, fire lanes, private roadsides and pasture edges all provide potential food plot areas.

Presently, there is no hunting season for turkeys in Tyler County. The stocking of 7,000 turkeys in 1979-2003 failed for several reasons. Because the turkeys were transported from a region without pine trees, some of the turkeys flew into the first pine tree they saw, resulting in the death of the turkeys. More importantly, there was not appropriate habitat where the turkeys were released. Learning from that earlier failure, the Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD) is currently using super stocking techniques to increase the eastern wild turkey population in Texas. Large numbers of turkeys are being released in areas that provide appropriate habitat. An area along the Neches River, which includes northeastern Tyler County, is a priority area for super stocking eastern wild turkeys. Turkeys require a minimum of 10,000 areas of contiguous habitat which needs to include areas of open, bare ground. Landowners are urged to report any turkey sightings, either in person or on game cameras, to the local game warden or to the TPWD.

Some deer in the panhandle and in south-central Texas have contracted the chronic wasting disease (CWD). Chronic wasting disease is a contagious neurological disease affecting deer, elk and moose. It causes a degeneration of the brain and results in emaciation and death. While CWD has not been detected in East Texas, TPWD would like to collect at least 17 samples for testing in Tyler County in 2019. If you would like to have a deer sampled, please contact TPWD. If you observe a deer that appears to be thin and weak, please call a game warden or TPWD to kill the deer and have it tested. It takes about two weeks to receive the results. It is recommended that you not eat a deer that has tested positive for CWD.

**Tyler County Timber Property Appraisal and Geographic Information Systems (GIS):** Jeff and Elizabeth Parker, foresters with Parker Forestry Consultants, presented information about timberland in Tyler County. If your forest has been approved by the Tyler County Tax Appraiser for Timber Valuation, your property tax is based on the productivity value of an acre of timberland – not the value of your forest property. Forest type (pine, hardwood or mixed) and soil type (Class I – IV) are two of the factors included in the State's calculation of Timber Valuation. The Texas Timber Tax Valuation article posted on the TCFLOA website details the calculation process — go to [tforest.org](http://tforest.org), select LIBRARY, scroll down to “12/14/16—Texas Timber Tax Valuation”, which is a PDF file.

Completing Tyler County's Timber Use Questionnaire is the first step in applying for a timber valuation designation in our county. You can find this at the Tyler County Appraisal District website, [tylercad.net](http://tylercad.net).



*(RoyOMartin—continued from page 2)*

One of the questions on the form is the timber type (pine, hardwood or mixed). The Appraisal Office may confirm the timber type by aerial photographs and/or site visits. Approximate 10% of the timber forestlands are visited by the appraisal office each year.

Restricted areas designated as Aesthetic Management Zones (AMZs) and Streamside Management Zones (SMZs) will further reduce your property taxes. Taxes for pond areas are lower if the pond is used by cattle or other livestock.

For Timber Tax Valuation purposes, Texas relies on soil type analysis provided by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Class I soil tends to be along streams and is the most productive class. Most of Tyler County (70%) has Class II soil. A single property may have multiple soil types. If you think your soil is incorrectly classified, you may bring soil analysis results to the Tax Appraisal Office to protest the classification.

While at the podium, Representative White shared that Chief Appraisers in Texas can seek new applications for reappraisal of all timberland. Tyler County's Chief Appraiser has not done so. New timber land appraisal applications for 1-d-1 (open space) must be postmarked no later than April 30<sup>th</sup> to be considered for that year.

Elizabeth Parker showed how she researched property in Tyler County to locate the parcel that she and her husband, Jeff, wanted to purchase. She used ArcGIS, a geographic information system for working with maps and geographic information. Elizabeth submitted selection criteria against the system and produced a map of the location of parcels that met her criteria. The software identified 595 properties that were 20-50 acres, within 15 miles of Chester and 1.5 miles of a major road, but not within 500 feet of a US highway. Of those properties 19 intersected a creek, had less than 85-foot elevation variation and less than \$50,000 in improvements.

Jeff Parker showed screenshots from the Tyler County Appraisal District website, [tylercad.net](http://tylercad.net). Property searches can be performed by the property owner's name or the county's property ID (PID). You then have the option to view a map of the property -- or location and ownership information. From the location-and-ownership-information page, you can click on "Values", "Taxing Jurisdiction", "Improvement/Building", "Land", "Roll Value History", "Deed History" and "Tax Due". The Land page will list how many acres you have in pine, hardwood and/or mixed timber.

Maps of Tyler County can be viewed by clicking on "Map Downloads" from the home page of the Tyler County Appraisal District website. Select a file, e.g., Parcels. Then open Google Earth and import your selected file. The Tyler County Appraisal Office now has access to real estate Multiple Listing Services (MLS) information.

\* \* \*

***A new wood mill will create about 60 jobs with the possibility of 250 in the future***—From Mike Lout/KJAS

KJAS is reporting Texas Cross Laminated Timber, LLC is expected to expand its wood products business to Highway 63 East in Jasper. The property encompasses 92 acres at site of the former Louisiana Pacific Plywood Mill.

If all goes as planned, Jasper will soon be home to a new wood mill and some 60 jobs to come with it. The Executive Director of the Jasper Economic Development Corporation, Eddie Hopkins, said Tuesday evening that negotiations had been successful and all indications were that Texas Cross Laminated Timber, LLC., a wood products company based in Magnolia, Arkansas would soon expand its operations to Jasper.

For more information: [kfdm.com/news/local/new-wood-mill-to-create-60-jobs-with-possibility-of-250-in-future](http://kfdm.com/news/local/new-wood-mill-to-create-60-jobs-with-possibility-of-250-in-future)



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

	September	October
Chester	5.75	11.93
Colmesneil	4.77	8.02
Fred	8.40	10.59
Spurger	6.53	13.15
Warren	8.50	10.28
Woodville	4.59	6.37

*Note: November data was not available at time of publication—will be included in the spring issue.*

**OFFICERS & DIRECTORS  
2019-2020**

- Pres: Josh Lempert
- VP: Col Eddie Boxx
- Sect: Oliver Hensarling
- Treas: Charles Zimmerman
- Dir: Andy Niemann
- Dir: Jack Clark
- Dir: Dr. Jay Fish
- Dir: Elizabeth Parker (past President)

**Tyler County Forest Landowner Association (TCFLOA)**

The Tyler County Forest Landowner Association is a non profit organization whose objectives include educating landowners about good forest management and harvesting practices, and keeping landowners up to date on matters affecting timberland operations, taxes and legislative actions.

**MEMBERSHIP FORM**  
**For Calendar Year 2020 - 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

**Membership 2020**

Check your memberships status for 2020. Look at the address label on the envelope for your status—if the **year number** after your name is not **20** (for 2020) or greater, then consider renewing your membership.

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**.