



The Dogwood Times

A Publication of the Tyler County Forest Landowner Association

<http://tcforest.org/>

Tyler County Forest
Landowner
Association
(TCFLOA)

Volume 21 Issue 3
Fall 2019

General Membership Meeting — September 21

The next general meeting of TCFLOA is scheduled for Saturday, September 21, at 9:30 AM in the Tyler County Extension Office, 201 Veterans Way, Woodville, Texas. The Extension Office is located on the short side street across from the Brookshire's store on US 69 south. We have three speakers:

John Hamilton, Procurement Officer, ROYOMARTIN Oriented Strand Board (OSB) manufacturing plant, Corrigan, Texas. John will give us a current assessment of the timber and forestry industry.

Courtney McInnerney, District Biologist for Texas Parks and Wildlife. Courtney will cover biology trends and observations for east Texas forest landowners.

Jeff and Elizabeth Parker, Parker Forestry Consultants, Woodville, Texas. The benefits of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) applications for landowners will be illustrated.

We will have a short business meeting. A BBQ lunch will be served, with a suggestion to leave a donation to help cover the cost of lunch.

Inside this Issue:

<i>Timber Bees and Tilapia</i>	2
<i>Feral Swine Eradication</i>	3
<i>Southern Forest Today</i>	3

TCFLOA 2020 spring meeting

The Texas Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) encourages private landowners (who own 67% of East Texas' forest land) to follow Best Management Practices (BMPs) to protect their resources. Texas A & M Forest Service is sponsoring a one-day SFI Workshop for TCFLOA's Spring Meeting in Woodville, Texas on Saturday, March 21, 2020.

By completing the enclosed questionnaire and forwarding your selections to the address on the questionnaire, or just emailing your selections, you will help select the topics for this workshop.

* * *

CALENDAR

September 21, 2019, Saturday—TCFLOA Fall General Meeting, 9:30 AM, Tyler County Extension Office, 201 Veterans Way, Woodville, Texas. See **General Membership Meeting** above for more information. A BBQ lunch will be served. The public is welcome.

September 27-October 20—State Fair of Texas. The Texas Forestry Association will have a booth at this event.

September 28, Saturday—Harrison-Panola-Gregg Forest Landowner meeting, 9am-1pm, Gold Hall, 101 E. Elm St., Hallsville, Texas. Presentations on invasive species, cost share programs and timber theft. The event is free with lunch provided. RSVP to 903-938-8712.

October 16-18—Texas Forestry Association (TFA) Annual Meeting. The Fredonia Hotel in Nacogdoches, Texas. Online registration is available at texasforestry.org.

Visit the Tyler County Forest Landowner Association website at 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.

***Timber, Bees and Tilapia***—By Col Eddie Boxx, TCFLOA Vice President

The Tyler County Forest Landowner's Association met Saturday, 23 March for the Spring General Meeting with over 40 members in attendance. The event kicked off with well-known and highly respected forester Mr. Hap Hatchel who discussed current timber and forestry trends in East Texas. He emphasized that each forest landowner should have a plan that specifically meets his/her vision - and stay in charge of the plan and its execution. He also warned when acquiring forestland, new owners should be aware that landlocked property is a potential issue. Historically (especially in southern Tyler County) large tracts of lands were owned by mills and timber companies have since been fractured and sold, thus some of the newly created tracts are landlocked. Some landowners have misinterpreted the 1990 era Texas legislation regarding property access via state-owned land. Mr. Hatchel discussed how timber sale prices reported via the Texas A&M Forest Service ultimately impact property taxes. (To review how timber tax valuations are calculated, please reference the **Summer 2016** issue of "The Dogwood Times"; which can be found at tcforest.org. To report your timber sales, use the Timber Tax Valuation Price Reporting Form at tcforest.org/downloads/TimberTaxValuationPriceReportingForm.pdf.

The next speaker, Mr. Terry McFall (Master Beekeeper) shared his knowledge and experience of Piney Woods beekeeping. Tyler County remains an important stop on the mercantile-like triad of California, Texas, and the northern states. Currently, beehives from almond growers out west are being placed locally. Beekeeping focuses on the maintenance of bee colonies, commonly in beehive boxes. There are 40,000 – 60,000 bees in a colony and the goal is "to keep the colony one bee short of a swarm." Mr. McFall highlighted "an average worker bee makes only about 1/12 teaspoon of honey in its lifetime. A hive must visit two million flowers and fly 55,000 miles to produce just one pound of honey. One bee colony can produce 60 to 100 pounds of honey per year." Typically, landowners are paid in "honey" by professional beekeepers. Many attendees were interested in raising bees and Mr. McFall advised that a landowner should expect to devote 1 – 2 hours a week for 20 beehives." Attendees enjoyed the "almost hands on" beekeeping presentation by Mr. McFall

The final speaker was regional pond expert Mr. Ken Hall, CEO of Boatcycle. He presented options for managing unwanted vegetation in ponds, with a focus on using Tilapia to prevent weed growth. Silting on the sides of ponds creates shallow water that promotes algae and pondweeds (such as duckweed and watermeal), submerged plants (coontail, southern naiad, and hydrilla) and emergent plants (water primrose and waterlilies). To improve the quality of pond water, Mr. Hall encouraged landowners to first contact their county's Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Agent and maintain "fresh" weed samples for the agent's identification. Mr. Hale emphasized proper alkalinity (pH) is important for a pond. Since the pH of the pond will vary as much as 2 points during the day, measurements should be taken several times daily in order to determine alkalinity. Ultimately, weeds can be controlled by either mechanical (earthmoving equipment), chemical or biological means. Mechanically removing weeds from a pond can be expensive; chemical treatments can produce short-term results, while biological solutions focus on introducing plant-eating fish such as the Mozambique tilapia. It is the only tilapia species legal for ponds in Texas and does not require a permit. Tilapia not only consume algae and some floating plants (azolla, duckweed and watermeal), they also suppress mosquitoes and are an excellent food source for bass.

The meeting concluded with a BBQ lunch and social.

* * *

*If you see a beautiful black-and-white striped butterfly, you probably have a Pawpaw patch nearby. The common **pawpaw tree**, *asimina triloba*, and the **zebra swallowtail butterfly**, *eurytides marcellus*, are both members of families that typically live in tropical climates and are possibly survivors from when East Texas enjoyed a much warmer climate.*



USDA Announces Feral Swine Eradication and Control Pilot Program—U.S. Natural Resource Conservation Service

WASHINGTON, June 20, 2019 – USDA announced today it is offering \$75 million in funding for the eradication and control of feral swine through the Feral Swine Eradication and Control Pilot Program (FSCP) in a joint effort with USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). The 2018 Farm Bill included this new pilot program to help address the threat that feral swine pose to agriculture, ecosystems and human and animal health.

NRCS will direct up to \$33.75 million of the allocated FSCP funds toward partnership efforts to work with landowners in identified pilot projects in targeted areas. Applications are being accepted through Aug. 19, 2019, for partners to carry out activities as part of these pilot projects in select areas of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina and Texas. APHIS has determined that these states have among the highest feral swine population densities and associated damages in the country.

“NRCS state conservationists and APHIS state directors, in coordination with state technical committees, have identified pilot projects that can be carried out within these target states,” NRCS Chief Matthew Lohr said. “Our agencies stand ready to work with partners at the state and local levels to respond to the threat of feral swine.”

Pilot projects will consist broadly of three coordinated components: 1) feral swine removal by APHIS; 2) restoration efforts supported by NRCS; and 3) assistance to producers for feral swine control provided through partnership agreements with non-federal partners. Projects can be one to three years in duration.

“The projects selected for funding will allow APHIS and NRCS to collectively reduce the damage and disease caused by one of the most destructive and formidable invasive species in the United States,” said APHIS Administrator Kevin Shea. “Overall, this pilot program builds upon and expands work already underway by APHIS’ National Feral Swine Damage Management Program to both manage feral swine and eliminate populations in partnership with local government, the private sector, industry and academia.”

NRCS is now accepting proposals from non-federal partners to provide landowner assistance for on-farm trapping and related services as part of the pilot projects described above. NRCS will provide funding for these services through partnership agreements. The funding limit for a single award is \$1.5 million. Awardees will be required to provide at least 25 percent of the partnership agreement budget as a match to NRCS funding.

Additional information on the complete funding announcement and about specific pilot projects, including target areas and the roles for which partner assistance is being requested, can be found on the FSCP webpage.

Southern Forests Today

The South has more than 208 million acres of forestland that contain some of the most diverse and productive ecosystems in the world.

Southern forests provide clean air and water, wildlife habitat, clean energy, recreation opportunities and a stronger economy. In addition to the many wood products used for building, furniture and paper, forests produce non-timber products such as medicines, food, specialty products and pine straw.

Approximately 89% of the South's forestland is privately-owned, making it the nation's stronghold for private forestland ownership. In order to sustain healthy forests and maintain the economic viability of forestland, forest management is vital.



A Publication of the Tyler County Forest Landowner Association

<http://tcforest.org/>

C/O Charles Zimmerman
298 County Road 2152
Woodville, Texas 75979

Phone 409-200-1451
merle.charles.zimmerman@gmail.com

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

	June	July	August
Chester	10.18	3.75	4.63
Colmesneil	8.21	1.82	2.60
Fred	10.86	7.93	5.95
Spurger	7.46	4.03	5.09
Warren	7.41	8.36	3.99
Woodville	6.57	1.37	4.22

**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 2019 - 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 2019

Check your memberships status for 2019. Look at the address label on the envelope for your status—if the **year number** after your name is not **19** 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**.