



# 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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## East Texas Sawmill History

During the TCFLOA Fall General Meeting, Kendall Gay from the Texas Forestry Museum explained that there was a sawmill boom in East Texas near the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Prior to railroads, logs were hauled by oxen, mules and horses to rivers and then floated downstream to sawmills. With completion of the north-south Sabine and East Texas Railroad through Tyler County in 1882, it was possible to mill the logs locally and then transport the lumber via rails to markets in Beaumont and beyond. Seventeen sawmills emerged along this railroad which came to be known as the East Texas Railroad.

The lumberjacks who used cross-cut saws to harvest the huge native East Texas trees were called flatheads. It is believed the name was derived from flathead wood borer beetles. The earliest skidders were high-wheeled carts which dragged the logs to either wagons or railroad cars. Later, steam skidders with retracted cables were used. The steam skidders moved the logs more easily but damaged small trees in their path. At the sawmill, logs were temporarily stored in mill ponds; the water minimized damaging bugs and facilitated the movement of the logs.

Sawmill employees were very specialized. Skills included edger men, length cutters, width cutters, saw sharpeners, managers, clerks, and timekeepers. The highly skilled saw sharpeners enjoyed job security. There were very few women employed at the mills and they were generally limited to clerical positions. Employees were provided simple housing and were paid with currency tokens

*(continued on next page)*

### Inside this Issue:

**German Prisoners** 2

**Post Storm Timber Considerations** 2

**Rainfall Totals** 4

### Jack Clark

Jack Clark stepped down as a Director of TCFLOA. Jack received a Certificate of Appreciation during the Fall TCFLOA meeting. A fourth-generation Tyler County tree farmer, Jack served as Director and Vice President, delivered presentations, hosted a tree farm tour, coordinated lunches, assisted with Dogwood Festival seedling distribution, and prayed numerous invocations and blessings.

## CALENDAR

**January 16, 2021, Saturday**—TCFLOA Board of Directors meeting. 9:00 AM, will be held outside at Eddie Boxx's hunting camp south of Warren off HWY 69 south. This is a planning meeting. Association members are welcome to attend; call for directions.

**March 20, 2021, 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. Watch for the spring issue of this newsletter for an update on this meeting.

**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.

At the last minute the association cancelled the spring general meeting for safety reasons, but was able to hold an outside fall general meeting — observing recommended safety guidelines. Forty-five people attended!

Also this year, TCFLOA awarded a \$1,500 college scholarship.

Your active membership covers the expense of the quarterly newsletter, website, programs, and scholarships.

The TCFLOA Board of Directors wishes you a **Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**

Editor



*(East Texas Sawmill History—continued from page 1)*

which could be spent only in a commissary (general store) owned by the same company that owned that mill. Towns frequently grew up around a sawmill.

The sawmills in East Texas began to decline in the 1930s because of the depression, the depletion of large trees and the rise of other industries.

*(Article submitted by Betty Zimmerman, TCFLOA)*

### ***Contributions of German Prisoners during WWII—by Betty Zimmerman, TCFLOA***

During the TCFLOA Fall General Meeting, Kaitlin Wieseman from the Texas Forestry Museum informed attendees of the contributions of WWII German prisoners to the timber industry in East Texas during the 1940s.

There were numerous Prisoner of War (POW) camps across the United States – including 120 in Texas which held 79,000 prisoners. Most of the German prisoners confined in Texas were from conflicts in North Africa and could not speak English. Gestures and hand signals were used for communication.

Productivity at Lufkin's Southland Paper Mills, Inc., which produced newsprint, began to decline because of labor shortages that reduced deliveries of logs. Because the pulp and paper industry was classified as essential to the war effort, Southland officials Ernest Kurth and Arthur Temple received approval from the War Manpower Commission to employ POWs.

### ***Post Storm Timber Salvage and Forest Health Considerations—Texas A&M Forest Service.***

From time-to-time nature can be very unkind to our forests. Wind, hail, ice, insects, diseases, fire, and other natural agents can cause devastating losses. Uprooted and broken trees can cause loss of life, damage property, and disrupt electrical and phone service. Homeowners often ask what can be done to save damaged shade and ornamental trees and forest landowners are interested in how to assess the damage to their timber and minimize losses. In addition to the direct damage caused by the storm, insects and fungi often cause additional losses. Recently cut trees and logs, trees damaged by storms or other causes, and dying trees are very susceptible to insect attack. Following weather events such as hurricanes, tornados, wind events, etc., storm damaged timber should be salvaged as quickly as possible to prevent serious degrade from insects. The most damaging insects that initially attack downed pine trees and logs are ambrosia beetles and wood borers.

**AMBROSIA BEETLES**—Ambrosia beetles will attack trees and logs of pine and hardwood and can cause serious degrade of lumber and plywood products. The galleries (about the diameter of the lead of a wood pencil) not only make a physical hole in the sapwood and heartwood, but the “ambrosia” fungus will cause a black stain on the wood around the gallery. In the South, the ambrosia beetle known as *Platypus flavicornis* can infest dead and dying pine trees, stumps, logs, and unseasoned pine lumber, especially during the warm months of the year. Wood that has a moisture content below 48% is seldom attacked by these beetles. They may also attack, but not kill, living trees in areas where the cambium and bark have been damaged. The adult ambrosia beetles typically colonize the lower 6-8 feet of the trunk of the tree. As they construct their galleries, they expel (sometimes in large quantities) creamy-white, fluffy “sawdust.” This sawdust that collects around the base of the tree is very characteristic of their attacks.

**ROUNDHEADED WOOD BORERS (SAWYERS)**—Wood borers (called sawyers) will also infest dead and dying pine trees and logs. They require the presence of bark on recently cut or dead trees to initiate an infestation. Eggs are laid on the bark and the larvae or grubs begin feeding between the bark and the wood. After a month or so, the larvae cause damage by boring into the wood to complete their life cycle. Tunnels in the wood may be over one-quarter inch in diameter.

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(Post Storm Considerations—continued from page 3)

**REDUCING DAMAGE**—Damage caused by ambrosia beetles and wood borers can be reduced by prompt utilization or by keeping decked logs under a water sprinkling system. Rapid drying of green lumber is also encouraged. Use of insecticides is generally not recommended. Infested wood that is used for oriented strand board (OSB) is not impacted by these insects.

**PINE BARK BEETLES AND STORM-DAMAGED TIMBER** —Not only are ambrosia beetles and wood borers a concern, but forest landowners often expect a build-up of pine bark beetle populations, in particular the dreaded southern pine beetle, after timber is damaged by storms. In East Texas and across the South, storm damage to timber has not caused southern pine beetle outbreaks. A brief comment about pine bark beetles needs to be made.

There are five different pine bark beetles that attack and kill pine trees in East Texas (as their name implies, they do NOT attack hardwood trees). The southern pine beetle (SPB) is the most serious because it alone is capable of killing healthy trees and can kill large areas of pine timber (Texas has not had an SPB infestation since 1993). The other four pine bark beetles (three species of engraver or Ips beetles and the black turpentine beetle) attack weakened, injured, and stressed pines and individual infestations seldom encompass more than 10-20 trees. They usually attack scattered single trees or two or three trees in a group. Salvaging beetle-infested trees, especially after a storm, is the recommended way to minimize losses caused by pine bark Beetles.

**BLUE STAIN FUNGUS**—When pine bark beetles attack pine trees, they introduce a fungus commonly called blue stain. This fungus grows into the sapwood and stains it a blue-gray color. It does not alter the strength quality of the wood. Wood products such as “2-by-4” studs and oriented strand board (OSB) would not be impacted by this fungus. It could have some impact on certain paper products. Dead timber left in the woods or on log decks for longer than two or three months are likely to be colonized by various decay fungi. These fungi can rapidly degrade the wood and render it unusable. Prompt utilization or storage under a water spray should keep decay fungi at bay.

**EXOTIC INVASIVE PLANTS**—Another consideration related to storm-damaged timber is exotic invasive species. At least two alien plants that have become established in parts of East Texas may present additional concern following Hurricane Rita. Chinese tallow (*Triadica sebifera*) is well established in most East Texas counties. Japanese climbing fern (*Lygodium japonicum*) is not as widespread as Chinese tallow but is spreading. Both plants are known to invade disturbed sites that are open to abundant sun light. The areas where timber stands were heavily damaged in southeast Texas will be especially vulnerable to invasion by Chinese tallow. Fire and herbicides will slow the spread and invasion of both species, but repeated treatments are required for complete control.

**REDUCING TIMBER LOSSES FOLLOWING STORMS**—Forest landowners with storm-damaged timber should consider salvage logging to utilize the timber rather than letting it go to waste. Timber salvage operations are more time consuming than regular logging, therefore the prices paid for the damaged timber will be lower than standing, green timber prices. Salvage should be conducted as soon after the damage as possible before various wood boring insects and decay and stain fungi further degrade the timber. Also, dead timber often dries out rapidly and has less dollar value if weight scaled. Large volumes of harvested pine logs that will not be immediately processed at a mill can be kept under a water sprinkler system or in a log pond to prevent invasion of insects and fungi.

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

	September	October	November
Chester	5.78	1.22	3.54
Colmesneil	8.35	0.37	2.30
Fred	8.60	5.22	3.48
Spurger	9.09	3.27	3.43
Warren	9.39	2.75	2.75
Woodville	8.48	3.64	2.70

**OFFICERS & DIRECTORS  
2021-2022**

- Pres: Col. Eddie Boxx
- VP: Steve Lauff
- Sect: Oliver Hensarling
- Treas: Charles Zimmerman
- Dir: Andy Niemann
- Dir: Elizabeth Parker
- Dir: Dr. Jay Fish
- Dir: Josh Lempert (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 2021**

Check your memberships status for 2021. Look at the address label on the envelope for your status—if the **year number** after your name is not **21** (for 2021) or greater, then consider renewing your membership. You may also consider sending in your 2022 dues at this time.

Note that we are asking for your e-mail address. This will allow us to get time sensitive information on programs, conferences, workshops, late cancellations 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**.

**MEMBERSHIP FORM**

**Tyler County Forest Landowner Association (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, 298 County Road 2152, Woodville, TX 75979