



The Dogwood Times

A Publication of the Tyler County Forest Landowner Association

<http://tcforest.org/>

Tyler County Forest
Landowner
Association
(TCFLOA)

Volume 22 Issue 3
Fall 2020

General Membership Meeting – September 19

The next general meeting of TCFLOA is scheduled for Saturday, September 19, at 9:30 AM in the covered, open-air Pole Barn at the Heritage Village Museum, Hwy 190 W, Woodville, TX. To accommodate social distancing, attendees will be divided into two groups – one group will be led on a guided Tree Identification Tour on the Big Woods Nature Trail while the other group listens to a presentation titled “East Texas Sawmill History & Contributions of German Prisoners during WWII” by Ms. Kaitlin Wieseman and Ms. Kendall Gay, Texas Forestry Museum. Conor McInnary, Staff Forester, Texas A & M Forest Service and Jacob Spivey, Tyler County Exchange Agent, will be guiding the trail tour. After all have been given the opportunity to participate in both activities, lunch will be provided in the historic Pickett House with a suggestion to donate toward the cost of lunch.

Attendees are encouraged to wear face masks and maintain social distancing; hand sanitizers and bottled water will be available. Be sure to wear comfortable walking shoes for the Trail.

Inside this Issue:

<i>Big Woods Trail</i>	2
<i>Bear Sightings in East Texas</i>	2
<i>Increase Deer Population</i>	3

Hurricane Laura's Impact on Timber

East Texas timber may have missed a bullet with a glancing blow from Hurricane Laura. Unfortunately, timber on the western side of Louisiana may have been severely impacted with mature tracts being hardest hit – damage assessments will be forthcoming. Salvage operations to recover impacted timber in western Louisiana may last for many months and flood the mills - not only in Louisiana, but also in east Texas. This abundant new supply of timber is on top of already very depressed timber prices. We can hope that next year a booming economy will have a big demand for wood products.

Fortunately, our healthy trees can wait for better prices.

CALENDAR

September 19, 2020, Saturday—TCFLOA Fall General Meeting, Heritage Village Museum, Hwy 190 W, Woodville, TX. After a short business meeting, we will have a presentation on “East Texas Sawmill History & Contributions of German Prisoners during WWII” and a guided tour of the Big Woods Nature Trail. See **General membership Meeting** above for more information. Lunch will be served. The public is invited.

October 10, 2020, Saturday—Outstanding Tree Farm Tour, J. and Susan Rice, Liberty County. Go to texasforestry.org for details on this tour.

October 29-29—Texas Forestry Association annual meeting. Go to texasforestry.org for details on this meeting.

January 16, 2021—TCFLOA Board of Directors meeting. Time and place to be announced. This is a planning meeting. Association members are welcome.

March 20, 2021, Saturday—TCFLOA Spring General Meeting. Time and place to be announced.

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

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.

***Tyler County Heritage Society Big Woods Trail—Betty Zimmerman, Big Woods Trail Project Manager***

The Big Woods Trail at Heritage Village in Woodville now hosts five interconnected trails with a kiosk at the main trailhead and an additional trailhead which is positioned to serve primarily as an exit. The five trails provide a total of 1.09 miles of shaded walking, with the individual trails varying from .61 to .07 miles each.

The main trailhead kiosk includes an overhead sign, a map, a list of rules and a picture-of-the month. The highlight of the Big Woods Trail is the thirty colorful plant identification signs posted for native Texas trees and vines. The signs identify the plant's names (common and scientific), pictures of its structure and leaves and, if applicable, pictures of its fruit and flowers. The Big Woods forest which has evolved naturally over many decades, includes a magnificent post oak tree that is over seven feet around. Area pawpaw trees, which attract zebra swallowtail butterflies, were transplanted in the forest.

A complete list of the plants identified in the Big Woods forest is as follows: devil's walking stick, dogwood, loblolly and shortleaf pines, black cherry, farkleberry, American and blue beech, ironwood, green ash, American elm, hickory, American and yaupon holly, sweet gum, black gum, Florida maple (yes, it is native to Texas but the Floridians named it first), pawpaw, seven varieties of oak trees (white, red, water, willow, chestnut, post and Shumard), and three vines (muscadine, Virginia creeper and poison ivy).

Along the Trail are fifteen benches, two picnic tables and ten wayfinding signs with maps to accommodate guests and ensure that they always know where they are.

* * *

Bear Conservation Efforts Prove Successful as Sightings Increase in Northeast Texas—Texas Parks and Wildlife

AUSTIN— Since April, there has been an uptick in black bear sightings in Bowie, Grayson and Titus counties in northeast Texas. The bears are thought to originate from the neighboring states of Oklahoma and Arkansas, or possibly Louisiana, where resident bear populations are well established and expanding. As the numbers of this iconic species grows, dispersing black bears find their way across state lines into Texas, signaling the possibility of its eventual permanent return to our landscape.

“It is inspiring as a biologist to watch these animals make their return to Northeast Texas after being absent for a century or more,” said Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) biologist, Penny Wilkerson.

The recovery of black bears in the three-state region has been ongoing for 30-50 years. Thanks to conservation efforts, the Louisiana black bear is no longer listed as a federally threatened species. Similarly, efforts in Oklahoma and Arkansas have increased and expanded bear populations by focusing on habitat conservation and species management.

Bears are secretive but curious and have an excellent sense of smell, with much of their behavior driven by their appetite. These natural characteristics can, however, become a problem when bears find an easy meal from a human-related source. Most sighting reports come from game camera photos around game feeders dispensing corn or pelleted feed.

“Bears do not generally pose a threat to pets or livestock. These critters are omnivores and are more interested in berries, grubs and acorns than anything else,” Wilkerson said.

Texas hunters should make sure that they know their targets as hogs and bears can look very similar from a distance. Black bears are currently a protected species in Texas.

TPWD is interested in documenting all sightings of bears and encourages reporting any sightings to a local

(continued on next page)



(Bear Sightings—continued from page 2)

biologist. Biologists can provide technical help on how to detour bears, and other unique animal visitors, from areas near your home. Residents can find a local biologist and more information about bears and bear safety on the TPWD website. Residents are also encouraged to call the east Texas Region Office at 903-566-1626 extension 209.

* * *

Increase Deer Population on your Acres

Deer consume a ton of food each year and Dr. James Kroll (also known as Dr. Deer) encourages landowners to plant 2% of their acreage in food plots. Each food plot acre will support three to five deer. The three winter plants recommended for our area in east Texas are Buck Forage oats; Grouse or Tecomate® chicory; and red or white (not crimson) clover. When planted in combination, the three plants meet multiple nutritional needs and provide a balanced food source. Early to mid-September is the time to apply Roundup® herbicide to the designated plot area to remove grass and weeds. Leave the area idle for two to three weeks. Then fertilizer and lime, based on the results of mid-summer soil tests, should be disked into the soil. Winter food plot seeds should be planted the last week of September or the first week of October. Plant oat seeds 1½ to 2 inches deep. Plant chicory and clover seeds 1/8 inch deep. Protect a three-foot square exclusion area inside the plot to provide a visual measure of the quality of the plants as compared to volume of foliage deer are eating outside the exclusion area. In mid-winter, apply ammonium nitrate to replenish nutrients in the soil. Fusilade® herbicide may be applied in the spring to kill grass growing in the food plot. Good hunting!

* * *

TCFLOA Election of Officers and Directors for the 2021-2022 Term

PROXY

September 19, 2020

The TCFLOA Nominating Committee recommends the names shown for each position. You may also add names. Vote for seven by circling your choices below—no more than seven total.

President: **Col. Eddie Boxx**
 VP: **Steve Lauff**
 Secretary: **Oliver Hensarling**
 Treasurer: **Charles Zimmerman**
 Director: **Dr. Jay Fish**
 Director: **Elizabeth Parker**
 Director: **Andy Niemann**

Director Josh Lempert continues as director for being past president.

How to submit your vote:

1. By attending the September 19 TCFLOA General Meeting—you will be given a ballot to cast.
2. Mail a copy of this PROXY to TCFLOA, 298 CR 2152, Woodville, TX 75979, and it will be counted.
3. Email your selection to merle.charles.zimmerman@gmail.com and list the names you select or just say "I vote for the Nominating Committee recommendations".



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	3.44	4.25	3.64
Colmesneil	1.98	4.15	2.75
Fred	4.11	3.96	5.37
Spurger	3.33	3.87	7.46
Warren	*	*	4.53
Woodville	4.23	4.22	2.24

* - Not available or bad data

**OFFICERS & DIRECTORS
2019-2020**

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

* - Jack Clark resigned the TCFLOA board in June and Steve Lauff was appointed to fill out his term.

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

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

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. You may also consider sending in your 2021 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**.