



# The Dogwood Times

A Publication of the Tyler County Forest Landowner Association

<http://tcforest.org/>

Tyler County Forest  
Landowner  
Association  
(TCFLOA)

Volume 23 Issue 2  
Summer 2021

## Warren graduate receives TCFLOA Scholarship

Cason Reid was awarded the Tyler County Forest Landowner Association's \$1,000 scholarship for 2021. Cason is a graduate from Warren High School this year and will attend Stephen F. Austin State University majoring in Forestry with a minor in Business. His plan is to obtain a job in the forestry industry to help preserve our natural resources.

The scholarship committee wishes success to all the students who applied and looks forward to offering another scholarship next year—which is available to TCFLOA family members and Tyler County graduates majoring in forestry or forestry related degrees.

## Inside this Issue:

<i>Wooden Satellite</i>	3
<i>President's Corner</i>	3
<i>Rainfall Totals</i>	4

## Pond Construction & Maintenance and Portable Sawmill Demonstration

On Saturday, May 1, 2021, 45 association members and guests attended the Tyler County Forest Landowner Association spring meeting and enjoyed a great program followed with lunch at the historic Pickett House.

**Pond Construction and Maintenance**— Josh Clarke of HC Oilfield Services (Chester) and John Melvin of Aquatic Remediation Services (Bryan) shared their extensive knowledge and experience about ponds. Ponds add fun and value to property, reportedly \$30,000 per acre.

Josh Clarke, whose grandfather began constructing ponds on his property in the 1970's, has been constructing ponds and observing how they hold up for decades. If you are planning to build a new pond, Josh recommends a Y-shaped drainage area for the site. Springs, if present, will keep the water clear, cool, and oxygenated. Ask your neighbors how their ponds are doing.

(continued on next page)

## Websites

### [MyLandManagementConnector.com](http://MyLandManagementConnector.com)

Find and connect with service providers in your area to get assistance with land management practices on your property

### <https://tpwd.texas.gov>

Find out more information on wildlife management, hunting and fishing regulations and much more!

### <https://tfsweb.tamu.edu>

Find a plethora of forest management resources and many people that can assist you in your forest management goals.

### <https://TexasForestInfo.tamu.edu>

Check out these FREE landowner tools that can assist you in making land management decisions on your property.

### <https://nrcs.usda.gov>

Find out more information on natural resource conservation and federal programs in your area.

## CALENDAR

**August 28, 2021, Saturday**—TCFLOA Board of Directors meeting, 9:00 AM, in the Tolar Cabin, 1099 County Road 1205, Woodville, TX. This is a planning meeting. Association members are welcome to attend.

**September 18, 2021, Saturday**—TCFLOA Fall General Meeting, 9:30 AM. Location has not been finalized but will be announced in the fall newsletter. This will be a one-day Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) program to protect your resources and advance your objectives, sponsored by Texas A&M Forest Service.

Visit the Tyler County Forest Landowner Association website at [tcforest.org](http://tcforest.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.



*(Pond Construction—continued from page 1)*

It is important to analyze the soil type that will be underneath the pond. Drilling test holes can be costly. Josh, who was selected to rebuild Lake Amanda, stated that soil tests at Lake Amanda showed the need for significant excavation. However, when Josh checked the NRCS soil survey data for the site, he determined that he could reduce the expense by mixing the soil. NRCS soil survey data for Tyler County is available online at the [nrcs.usda.gov](http://nrcs.usda.gov) website. If your chosen site has heavy clay, it will need to be packed.

Josh likes a levee that is 12' wide on the top and with a 4:1 slope to reduce pressure and to facilitate mowing. When digging a pond, reserve the topsoil for the backslope of the levee to prevent clay erosion fingers. Once the levee is formed, push the reserved topsoil back over the levee. A dug-out pond should be dug at least 8' deep with a horseshoe-shaped levee constructed on the sloping side.

The spillway should be dry, wide, and grassed over so that it can handle heavy rains. Josh builds berms to divert the overflow from the levee and to disperse the water. If a spillway siphon system is installed, it serves as a deep-water release, removing stale water and increasing oxygen at deeper levels.

While there are no guarantees, Josh has had issues with very few ponds. He knows of about half a dozen ponds on HW-256 (Harmony) that will not hold water even though their sites were promising. Josh has been able to fix some ponds by breaking up the dirt and repacking it. He repaired an oil well water reserve pit in Colmesneil by removing a pine tap root and covering the hole with clay.

John Melvin followed Josh with a discussion of pond maintenance. It is easier to manage ponds if they are built right – with grassy, sloping levees, for example. Fertilizing a pond stimulates the growth of microscopic plants. East Texas soil is acidic, which causes the pond water to be acidic. For fertilizer to be effective in these conditions, agricultural lime should be applied.

Clear water is pretty but is not ideal for fish such as bass. Pond clarity to about 18"-24" is good. A muddy pond can be corrected by either mechanical or chemical means. Fill a jar with pond water. If the mud settles to the bottom, the pond can be treated by mechanical methods; if it does not settle out, then treat the pond with lime, aluminum sulfate or gypsum. Pond dyes are sometimes used for esthetics of muddy ponds.

For small ponds, John recommends channel catfish, bluegills, redear sunfish or largemouth bass. Croppie need a large area and are good for reservoirs but are generally not good for ponds. Too many species of fish in a pond can cause stunting. John likes tilapia for bass food because tilapia die when the weather gets cold and will therefore not overpopulate in the pond.

To determine a pond's fish population, electrofishing devices are used to bring the fish to the surface by stunning them. The stunned fish are retrieved, weighed, measured, counted, and then returned to the pond. The fish's otoliths, also known as ear stones, record the fish's annual growth increments. Similar to the light spring and dark summer rings of trees, fish otoliths' light rings record summer growth while the dark rings record winter growth. If there are unwanted fish in the pond, they can be eliminated by draining the pond and applying pesticides; then restock with the desired fish.

Grass carp are used to clear vegetation, such as hydrilla from Lake Conroe. Texas Parks and Wildlife is trying to prevent grass carp from getting out of designated ponds. When applying for the state permit, apply for as many grass carp as possible, as it is not necessary to buy all of them at once. If you later decide you want more, you can use the same permit – up to number permitted. However, be careful to not overpopulate and be aware that grass carp may churn up the bottom of the pond.

It is important to put herbicides out correctly. **READ THE LABEL.** Water temperature is important when applying herbicides because warm water holds less usable oxygen for fish and plant decay in warm water further reduces the oxygen.

John recommended [websites https://www.pondboss.com/Home](https://www.pondboss.com/Home) and Texas A&M's website <https://aquaplant.tamu.edu/>.

*(continued on next page)*



*(continued from page 2)*

**Portable Sawmill Demonstration**—Wyatt Walsh, a sixth-generation resident of Tyler County currently living in Colmesneil, demonstrated his portable sawmill. He explained how he aligns logs to maximize the lumber yield. The dimensions of the lumber are defined to meet the customer’s requirements. It is easier to cut lumber when it is green.

Wyatt explained that lumber for cabinets needs to dry for a long time, while freshly cut lumber can be used immediately for framing a barn. Because freshly cut green wood will shrink in a climate-controlled building, the lumber used inside must be dried thoroughly prior to construction.

One of the forest landowners present shared pictures of her den which is paneled with boards milled by Wyatt from trees on her family’s tree farm. She was particularly proud of the beautiful, rustic sliding barn door and end tables built from select slabs.

\* \* \*

***The world's first wooden satellite will launch this year***—Tereza Pultarova, *space.com* (article has been condensed-editor)

A Scandinavian cubesat will test how plywood withstands the space environment. A nanosatellite that measures 4 by 4 by 4 inches and weighs about 2.2 lbs., uses a special type of coated plywood for its surface panels. The wooden satellite will launch as part of a mission, designed by Arctic Astronautics, a Finnish company. The aim of the mission is to test the behavior and durability of these plywood panels in the extreme conditions of space and assess its suitability for future missions.

The satellite will be outfitted with two cameras, one of which will be attached to a metal selfie stick, allowing the mission team to observe how the satellite's plywood surface changes in the space environment. In addition to testing the coating on the plywood, engineers will also test various other varnishes and lacquers on sections of the wood.

Aside from the two cameras, the satellite will also carry a set of pressure sensors that will monitor pressure in onboard cavities, especially in the spacecraft’s first days in orbit.

Woodsat is a new generation of the technology. It will be launched into its 300 and 370 miles polar orbit on Rocket Lab's Electron rocket in November of this year.

***President’s Corner***—TCFLOA President Eddie Boxx - *Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary class of 2020*

**A forest landowner and the pursuit of godliness**—Being a landowner and good steward of the environment means to portray the image of God. For centuries, theologians and even secular philosophers have tried to understand, “What does it mean to be made in the image of God?” Genesis 1:26-28 (known as the dominion verses) states “Let us make humankind in our image and according to our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of heaven, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every moving thing that moves upon the earth.” So God created humankind in his image, in the likeness of God he created him, male and female he created them. And God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it, and rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of heaven, and over every animal that moves upon the earth.”

So, forest landowners, caring for 10 acres or 10,000 acres have an active role to play in the quest for a healthy, sustainable forest. Whether it is financial - managing an investment for one’s children and grandchildren, or building fire lanes and roads, or keeping invasive species at bay, or even harvesting deer and wild pigs, or simply aesthetics - they are activities that represent a pursuit of godliness. A major goal of the TCFLOA is to empower local forest landowners with tactics, techniques and procedures in managing woodlands. Twice a year, the association hosts general meetings featuring experts in biology, game and wildlife management, timber procurement, industry, beekeeping, taxes, pond construction and maintenance, law enforcement and legal issues and sawmills. But perhaps the greatest synergy comes from like-minded private landowners learning from each other, discussing “best practices” and a shared devotion to forest stewardship.



**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](mailto:merle.charles.zimmerman@gmail.com)

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

	March	April	May
Chester	2.38	8.53	12.87
Colmesneil	2.17	8.53	15.03
Fred	1.38	5.57	12.93
Spurger	2.13	5.92	20.30
Warren	1.71	4.42	13.47
Woodville	1.73	5.27	10.59

**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 send in your 2022 dues at this time.

Note that we are asking for your e-mail address. This will allow us to communicate time sensitive information on programs, workshops, late cancellations or fire situations. We will **NOT** give your address to any other group, people, advertisers, etc. Membership 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