



The Dogwood Times

A Publication of the Tyler County Forest Landowner Association

<http://tcforest.org/>

Tyler County Forest
Landowner
Association
(TCFLOA)

Volume 23 Issue 1
Spring 2021

Spring General Meeting rescheduled to May 1

The next general meeting of TCFLOA has been rescheduled from March 20 to Saturday, May 1, at 9:30 AM in the covered, open air Pole Barn at Heritage Village Museum, Hwy 190 W, Woodville, TX.

Wyatt Walsh, mini sawmill owner and operator, will give us a demonstration of his **Portable Sawmill**. He will also give information about ownership and how to use a mini-mill, and cover the options for contracting small-scale sawing jobs.

Final arrangements for a **Pond Construction and Maintenance** speaker are pending at this time. We will email the agenda a week before the meeting.

Lunch will be provided in the historic Pickett House with a suggestion to donate toward the cost of lunch.

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TCFLOA Offering \$1,000 academic Scholarship

TCFLOA is now accepting applications for a university/college scholarship for TCFLOA members, their children, grand children, and Tyler County high school graduates, who are majoring in Forestry or Forestry related curriculums.

The deadline for submitting the application is April 30, 2021. The scholarship recipient will be selected by the TCFLOA Scholarship Committee.

Dogwood Seedling Giveaway

Saturday, February 6, 2021 was a cool, overcast day in Tyler County — a perfect day for planting seedlings. The Tyler County Forest Landowner Association, a non-profit organization of tree farmers, gave away 1,000 dogwood seedlings in the Heritage Village/Pickett House parking lot, west of Woodville. After about two hours the seedlings were all distributed. Those who received the seedlings generously donated a total of \$974 toward a scholarship the association will be awarding a college-bound student this summer. The seedlings were donated by Keelin Parker of Parker Forestry Consultants.

CALENDAR

April 17, 2021, Saturday—TCFLOA Board of Directors meeting, 9:00 AM, in the covered, open air Pole Barn at Heritage Village Museum, Hwy 190 W, Woodville, TX. This is a planning meeting. Association members are welcome to attend.

April 3, 2021, Saturday—Tyler County Dogwood Festival, 8 AM - 5 PM, Woodville, Texas. This is a great time for out-of-county landowners to check on their property, see the spring blossoms and enjoy the downtown festivities and parade. Go to tylercountydogwoodfestival.org for more information.

May 1, 2021, Saturday—TCFLOA Spring General Meeting, 9:30 AM, in the covered, open air Pole Barn at Heritage Village Museum, Hwy 190 W, Woodville, TX. See **Spring General Meeting** above for more information.

Visit the Tyler County Forest Landowner Association website at 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.



President's Corner

The Power of Education in Forest Stewardship—At our recent board meeting, the directors and officers discussed upcoming agenda topics and one thing I would like to emphasize is the importance of education in managing our forests. It simply cannot be overemphasized. Over the last few years, the Tyler County Forest Landowners Association has provided an outstanding collection of speakers and topics at our General Meetings (most of these presentations are saved to our association's website). As a current university instructor, I am constantly amazed at the caliber of expert educators who volunteer their time to help educate us about wildlife, forestry topics and best practices, and land improvements. They can seamlessly transition from graduate-level discussions or like in the case of myself, they can dumb it down for beginner, neophyte landowner. Whether you are focused on timber production, or an avid sportsman, or simply enjoying being a steward of our God-given forests – these general meetings equip landowners with the opportunity to grow and manage their investments (no matter a new or longtime landowner). As a reminder, if you have a topic or speaker to recommend for a future meeting, please pass the info to our vice president for meeting agenda, Mr. Steve Lauff. Our next general meeting is scheduled for 1 May, but we are committed to your safety and please remain flexible with us as we track and respond to COVID. I am excited about the proposed agenda and hope we all can get together this spring at Heritage Village. The fall meeting was a huge success due to the Pickett House staff and our amazing speakers. These events are fun, educational, so please “save the date” in your calendars and join us as we share “tactics, techniques and procedures” in maintaining sustainable forests.

Col Eddie Boxx, USAF (ret)

Timber Damage after Winter Storm Uri—Jacob Spivey, Tyler County AgriLife Agent

A few weeks back we received some of the coldest and longest tenured temperatures of my life. Typically, when we have winter storms, our concern with timber damage relates to ice accumulation and limb breakage. February's storm saw very little breakage from ice accumulations. In fact, when Texas A&M Forest Service conducted an aerial timber assessment survey of more than half a million acres in East Texas, they found no significant timber damage.

I would say the very same for Tyler County. Other than a few isolated spots, I saw little to no damage to timber around Tyler County in the days after the thaw as I made my rounds. That's not to say that landowners will see absolutely no signs from the freeze. Several species of hardwoods had already started to put on new buds, many of those buds were damaged which may cause a setback when it comes on to new leaf growth. The extreme cold triggered a normal physiological response in the trees of East Texas. Needles and leaves of trees showing signs of freeze damage were impaired likely from the formation of ice crystals inside the leaf cells causing the cell's walls to rupture. However, native trees are adapted to this and responded by shutting off leaves (needles) that were no longer functioning causing a discoloration of leaves.

Fortunately, trees are resilient and have the ability to leaf out again when the initial growth is damaged or destroyed. It would not surprise me to see many trees at this time, and in the coming weeks, have some browning off of leaves and needles until new growth occurs. If the tree was unhealthy prior to the freeze, then it may not be able to recover or might be the target of insects and disease later this year. There is always the worry that trees become so stressed from these events that they are lost to insects. However, the freeze also severely impacted and reduced insect populations which should provide a period of respite and time for trees to recover their leaves and needles.

The best advice I can give to timber owners is the same advice I've given to those worried about landscape plants, don't panic, let's take a deep breath, and pause to let this be a “wait and see” approach. In a month's time, we will be firmly in the growing season for most of our trees, and we will be able to know then, if plants, including trees, are going to recover. I suspect that we will have little to no long-term effects from this event, but only time will tell.

* * *



Transparent Wood Could be the Window of the Future—Amy Androff, Forest Products Laboratory; Robert Westover, USDA Forest Service Office of Communication

Could looking through trees be the view to a greener future? Trees replacing the clear pane glass in your windows is not a work of science fiction. It's happening now.

Forest Products Laboratory (FPL) researcher Junyong Zhu in co-collaboration with colleagues from the University of Maryland and University of Colorado, have developed a transparent wood material that may be the window of tomorrow. Researchers found that transparent wood has the potential to outperform glass currently used in construction in nearly every way.

Their findings were published in the Journal of Advanced Functional Materials in their paper, "A Clear, Strong, and Thermally Insulated Transparent Wood for Energy Efficient Windows."

While glass is the most common material used in window construction it comes with a costly economic and ecological price.

Heat easily transfers through glass, especially single pane, and amounts to higher energy bills when it escapes during cold weather and pours in when it's warm. Glass production in construction also comes with a heavy carbon footprint. Manufacturing emissions are approximately 25,000 metric tons per year.

Now, transparent wood is emerging as one of the most promising materials of the future.

Transparent wood is created when wood from the fast-growing, low-density balsa tree is treated to a room temperature, oxidizing bath that bleaches it of nearly all visibility.

The wood is then penetrated with a synthetic polymer called polyvinyl alcohol (PVA), creating a product that is virtually transparent.

The natural cellulose in its wood structure and energy-absorbing polymer filler in transparent wood means that it is far more durable and lighter than glass. It can withstand much stronger impacts than glass and, unlike glass, it bends or splinters instead of shattering.

Switching to transparent wood could prove to be cost efficient as well. It is approximately five times more thermally efficient than glass, cutting energy costs. It is made from a sustainable, renewable resource with low carbon emissions. It's also compatible with existing industrial processing equipment, making the transition into manufacturing an easy prospect.

With all of these potential benefits for consumers, manufacturing and the environment, the case for transparent wood couldn't be...clearer.

Editor's note: No mention was made regarding UV damage on transparency over time.

Preparing Your House for Wildland Fire Season—firewise.org

- Remove dead or overhanging branches. Sparks and flames can travel from trees to roofs.
- Remove leaf accumulation for your yard.
- Remove leaf clutter from your roof and gutters. They can be ignited by flying embers.
- Remove tall, dry grasses (fuel for fire).
- Remove "ladder fuels". Trim tree limbs to between 6'-10' from the ground.
- Check your generator to be sure it is in good repair. Maintain yard equipment, fuel them carefully. Prune bushes and shrubs regularly, removing excess growth and dead materials to decrease flammability.

Editors Note: This article has previously appeared in this newsletter but is an important reminder that we are approaching fire season.



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

	December	2020	January	February
Chester	4.30	44.74	5.24	1.10
Colmesneil	8.48	55.51	5.69	1.81
Fred	6.10	58.68	6.00	2.42
Spurger	5.33	58.13	7.12	0.77
Warren	7.64	59.30	6.84	2.27
Woodville	6.75	45.56	4.95	2.16

**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