



The Dogwood Times

A Publication of the Tyler County Forest Landowner Association

<http://tcforest.org/>

Tyler County Forest
Landowner
Association
(TCFLOA)

Volume 26 Issue 4
Winter 2024-2025

Fall General Meeting Notes

Fifty-three members and visitors attended the Tyler County Forest Landowner Association Fall General Meeting on Saturday, September 21, 2024, at the Nutrition Center in Woodville, Texas.

Texas Wildflowers and Pollinators. Caitlin Gallegon, Jasper County Extension Agent, presented pictures of a plethora of colorful wildflowers that are adapted to Tyler County. Some wildflowers are native while others were introduced into Texas from other parts of the globe. There are several non-native flowering plants, such as wisteria, mimosa and Japanese honeysuckle, that are considered invasive.

Most wildflowers should be planted in the fall from October 1st through December 1st. Unless your property is a wetland, drought tolerant wildflowers are better for our fluctuating weather patterns.

All five species of bluebonnets that are native to Texas are the state's flower. Two of the five will grow only in Texas -- lupinus subcarnosus and lupinus texensis.

In addition to bluebonnets, Caitlin's list of wildflowers for our region included Texas paintbrush (Indian paintbrush), black-eyed susans, Texas bluebell, butterfly milkweed, compass plant (sunflower family), crimson clover, drummond phlox, foxglove (imported from western Europe), giant purple coneflower, Indian blanket, lemon mint, prairie coneflower, purple passionflower, silverleaf nightshade, standing cypress, Texas thistle, and wine cup.

Pollinators are important for our food supply. For an effective pollinator garden, choose plants that flower in different seasons.

(continued on page 2)

Inside this Issue:

Cost-share Program 3

President's Corner 3

Rainfall Totals 4

Red - cockaded woodpecker downlisted from "Endangered" to "Threatened"

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has determined that populations of these woodpeckers are currently stable or increasing after decades of conservation efforts. Classified as "Endangered" in 1970 when it was estimated that there were only 1,470 active family groups (1-3 birds) ranging from Virginia to east Texas. Today, that number is estimated to be 7,800 family groups.

Over 1,800 red-cockaded woodpeckers are presently dwelling in east Texas. They are located at the W.G. Jones and I.D. Fairchild State Forests as well as Texas' four National Forests and a few private lands. One colony is documented in Tyler County.

CALENDAR

January 18, 2025 Saturday—TCFLOA Board Meeting, 10:30 AM, BAR-B-Q Pit, Warren, TX. This is a planning meeting and association members are welcome to attend.

March 22, 2025— TCFLOA Spring General Meeting. Time and place to be announced in the spring TCFLOA newsletter.

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

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. Follow us on Facebook: facebook.com/tc.forest.landowners



(General meeting notes—continued from previous page)

Sources of native Texas seeds are Bamert Seed Company at <https://bamertseed.com/> and Roundstone Native Seed Company <https://roundstoneseed.com/>.

Legislative Concerns and Initiatives Impacting Landowners. Tyler County's Texas Representative Trent Ashby is a tree farmer. He shared information regarding several Texas Bills that impact landowners, particularly tree farmers which tend to be in rural areas. Rep. Ashby stated that the best bills are those that originate from constituents. Both the Texas Forestry Association and the Texas A&M Forest service have provided ideas for several bills.

A recently passed Timber Theft law addresses chain-of-custody of loads delivered to mills, making it more difficult for theft to be successful. Additionally, effective September 2023, timber theft is a felony.

A law was passed to prevent frivolous lawsuits associated with minimal, incidental smoke from prescribed burns. Currently there are few Certified and Insured Prescribed Burn Managers (CIPBMs) and Rep. Ashby would like to see the number increase. With only one prescribed burn insurance underwriter in Texas, Rep. Ashby is planning to create an insurance risk pool for CIPBMs.

One of the issues to be addressed during the next Texas legislative session is the acquisition of aircraft to fight wildland fires. Currently, Texas is subject to the availability of such aircraft from other sources.

The Right-to-Farm, which protects farmers from nuisance lawsuits by neighbors, is now a part of Texas' constitution. Being a part of the constitution protects this right from being changed by the legislature without first going back to voters.

Rep. Ashby wants to craft a program that will provide funds to rural counties for road repairs after a declared natural disaster.

Rep. Ashby is looking to work with the Texas Forestry Association and the Texas A&M Forest Service to craft a bill that will encourage Mass Timber mills in Texas.

Chronic Wasting Disease and Its Impact on Deer Populations. Bobby Allcorn, Wildlife Health Specialist with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), stated that instances of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in Texas's deer have been found almost exclusively in deer breeding facilities. Only one instance has been confirmed in the wild – so far.

CWD, once contracted by a deer, is 100% fatal and *all* white tail deer are susceptible. The disease is transmitted by an infected deer making direct contact with a healthy deer via body fluids such as saliva, urine, and feces. There is concern that CWD can also be transmitted indirectly by deposits on the landscape.

Precautions that hunters should take are as follows:

- De-bone all meat.
- Do not eat the brain, spinal cord, eyes, or other neurological tissues.
- Harvest only deer that appear healthy.
- *If a carcass is transported off the property from which it is harvested*, then the carcass must be either returned to the property, buried, or included in bagged trash for normal public trash handling.
- If you suspect that a deer you have harvested might have CWD, contact your local TPWD biologist. The head with a few inches of the neck attached is used for testing.

Tyler County's Texas Parks and Wildlife Department biologist is Courtney McInnerney, who can be reached at 409 789-2053 or courtney.mcinnerney@tpwd.texas.gov.

* * *



Texas A&M Newsroom: Cost-share program available to help prevent Southern Pine Beetle threats
November 7, 2024

COLLEGE STATION, Texas—Texas A&M Forest Service is offering landowners financial and technical assistance through the Southern Pine Beetle cost-share program. Applications for this program are open now and will close on Jan. 31, 2025, at midnight.

Eligible landowners can receive technical and financial assistance to reduce the threat of future Southern Pine Beetle infestations and outbreaks.

Landowners may receive up to \$50 per acre with a 100-acre maximum to assist with their first forest thinning. They may also receive up to \$5 per acre to offset the cost of using a professional consulting forester.

“The Southern Pine Beetle Prevention Program aims to reduce the risk that Southern Pine Beetle poses to our Texas forests by assisting landowners with stand thinning,” said Allen Smith, Texas A&M Forest Service Forest Health Coordinator. “This not only reduces the potential for Southern Pine Beetle infestations, it also promotes residual tree vigor and growth and overall stand health.”

Eligible applicants must own a minimum of 10 contiguous acres of pine species; tree stands must be comprised of at least 70% pine trees; tree stands must start with a minimum of 120 square-feet per acre basal area; tree stands must be thinned to 80 square-feet per acre basal area or less; and thinning of stands must be completed within 14 months.

Landowners may receive no more than \$5,000 in total for assistance for thinning and/or consulting. Applications should be submitted through local Texas A&M Forest Service offices.

Notification of application approval status will be completed by March 1, 2025. Applications will be approved based on ranking metrics.

Texas A&M Forest Service Contacts:

Allen Smith, Forest Health Coordinator, lasmith@tfs.tamu.edu, 903-297-5094

Communications Office, newsmedia@tfs.tamu.edu, 979-458-6606

President's Corner

I hope everyone had a fulfilling Thanksgiving holiday. Regardless of circumstances, it seems that something in life always justifies giving thanks. As the president of TCFLOA, I am grateful for the association's wonderful group of officers, directors, and volunteers who donate their time and effort in support of the association. Thank you all, and well done!

As the year draws to a close, I also hope that everyone appreciates the value of TCFLOA. Each of our biannual general membership meetings provides interesting and useful information for timber landowners, as well as enjoyable fellowship. This last year, for example, our officers, directors, and volunteers put on programs about timber theft, a regional prescribed burning association, the Alabama-Coushatta forestry practices, chronic wasting disease in Texas deer populations, Texas wildflowers and pollinators, and state legislative initiatives. To make this all happen, thank you for your continued support.

I extend to all of you my best wishes for a great holiday season, and look forward to seeing you again in 2025,

Steve Lauff, President
TCFLOA



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

	September	October	November
Chester	*	*	*
Colmesneil	5.16	0.04	4.40
Fred	*	*	*
Spurger	5.25	0.18	3.94
Warren	*	*	*
Woodville	4.17	0.12	3.11

* Not reported

*U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook—NOAA/NWS/NCEP Climate Prediction Center: Outlook for SE Texas through February 28, 2025, is **No Drought**.*

**OFFICERS & DIRECTORS
2025-2026**

- Pres: Steve Lauff
- VP: Tiffany Sterling
- Sect: Oliver Hensarling
- Treas: Charles Zimmerman
- Dir: Andy Niemann
- Dir: Rossi Carruth
- Dir: Byron Harris
- Dir: Col. Eddie Boxx (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 2025

Check your memberships status for 2025. Look at the address label on the envelope for your status—if the **year number** after your name is not **25** (for 2025) or greater, then consider renewing your membership. You may also send in your 2026 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