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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Fall 2024

TCFLOA Fall General Meeting—September 21

The next general meeting of TCFLOA is scheduled for Saturday, September 21, at 9:30 AM in the Tyler County Extension Office, 201 Veterans Way, Woodville, Texas. The Extension Office is located on the short side street across from the Brookshire's store on US 69 south. We have three speakers:

Caitlin Gallegos, Jasper County Extension Agent - Caitlin will be speaking about Texas wildflowers and pollinators.

Trent Ashby, Texas State District 9 Representative - Trent will be speaking on legislative concerns and initiatives impacting landowners.

Courtney McInnerney, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department - Courtney will talk about Chronic Wasting Disease and its impact on deer populations.

Lunch will be provided with a suggestion to donate toward the cost of lunch.

CALENDAR

September 21, 2024— TCFLOA Fall General Meeting, 9:30 AM. Tyler County Extension Office, 201 Veterans Way, Woodville, TX. See General Meeting above for more information.

October 13-14— Texas Forestry Association (TFA) seedling giveaway at the State Fair of Texas, ***bigtex.com***. If you plan to attend the State Fair at the Fair Park in Dallas, Texas, stop by the TFA booth and pick up some free assorted tree seedlings.

October 23-25, 2024— Texas Forestry Association **(**TFA) Annual Conference. Visit the Annual Conference page at ***texasforestry.org*** for information on speakers, sponsors and exhibitors. You do not have to be a TFA member to attend but you have to register.

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 25, 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.*

Inside this Issue:

TCFLOA Election of Board and Officers

Election of TCFLOA Board of Directors and Officers for the 2025-2027 term will be held during the September General Meeting. The candidates recommended by the Nominating Committee are listed below. Additional nominations by association members are welcome.

President: Steve Lauff

VP: Tiffany Sterling

Sect: Oliver Hensarling

Treas: Charles Zimmerman

Dir: Rossi Carruth

Dir: Byron Harris

Dir: Andy Niemann

Dir: Col Eddi Boxx (past president)

The Pine Bark Beetle and How to Tame it—Mario Villarino, Texas AgriLife Extension Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources, Hopkins County

Pine bark beetles attack and kill pine trees, and are relatively common pests of pine forests. The feeding and tunneling activities of adult and larval pine bark beetles eventually girdles an infested tree (e.g., disrupts the transport of water and nutrients up and down the stem) and quickly kills it.

Pine bark beetles live under the bark of pine trees. Adults infest new trees by chewing through the outer bark, leaving small round holes in the bark that may ooze pine resin (called "pitch tubes"). Adult pine bark beetles create tunnels or galleries under the bark where they mate and lay eggs. Larval beetles hatch from the egg galleries and create new tunnels, feeding on the inner bark of the tree. When the larvae finally develop into adults, they bore a hole out of the tree and fly to another. The life cycle for these beetles can be as short as 21 days in the summer. Pine bark beetle activity generally stops when temperatures drop lower than 50º F.

Pine trees that are stressed or weakened are most vulnerable to attack by pine bark beetles. Drought, flooding, disease, or damage from fire, lightening, hail, wind, human activity, and other sources can make a tree susceptible to infestation. In residential areas, construction activities can stress existing pine trees and create opportunities for infestation by pine bark beetles. Damage or stress can result from soil compaction, surface grade changes, or bark injury by vehicles or heavy equipment.

It is nearly impossible to save a tree that has been infested with pine bark beetles, so preventing attacks is extremely important. Keeping pine trees healthy and in good condition is the best way to help prevent infestations of pine bark beetles and other insects and diseases. Practice appropriate tree protection practices during home construction and landscape maintenance. Applying water and fertilizer to important trees in your landscape can also help them deal with the stress of construction activities and natural events, such as drought.

The Texas Forest Service recommends that landowners promptly cut down pine trees that are visibly infested with pine bark beetles (e.g., some life stage of the beetle is currently in the tree). However, care should be taken to make sure that felling an infested tree does not damage surrounding trees, since damaged trees are more susceptible to infestation. Once the larvae have matured and emerged from an infested tree, removing the tree will no longer provide any control benefits. Removal may still be warranted if the dead tree poses a safety risk (dead pine trees become quite brittle in 6 to 10 months)

Cut trees and limbs that are infested with pine bark beetles should be burned as soon as possible, since the beetles may continue to emerge from the cut wood. If burning is not an option due to burn bans or other factors, place cut wood in a sunny area and wrap it with a tarp. The tarp may help prevent adults from moving to new trees, and the heat generated by the sun may help kill remaining beetles and larvae under the tarp. There are a few pesticides currently registered for use to control pine bark beetles. However, chemical treatments are not recommended for controlling pine bark beetle infestations in residential settings.

DON'T MOVE FIREWOOD, PREVENT THE SPREAD OF INVASIVE PESTS AND DISEASES

COLLEGE STATION, Texas – Texas A&M Forest Service urges all Texans, and especially outdoor enthusiasts, to help reduce the spread of oak wilt and invasive insects by taking preventive measures and being cautious when collecting, transporting and purchasing firewood.

As Texans travel for hunting or camping trips, they may unknowingly be bringing deadly, invasive pests and diseases along for the ride if they bring firewood with them.

The emerald ash borer, present in North Texas, has killed millions of ash trees across the eastern U.S. The redbay ambrosia beetle continues to spread west from the southeast, killing redbay and sassafras trees along the way. Similarly, native pathogens such as oak wilt, have killed oak trees in Central Texas in epidemic proportions.

Firewood is the common way many of these pests are moved, regardless of how seasoned or old the firewood is. Even wood that looks clean and healthy may still have insect eggs or fungal spores that can start new infestations.

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from page 2—Firewood)
Transporting and storing infected wood from red oaks can spread oak wilt fungal spores to previously uninfected neighborhoods and properties. Because live oaks tend to grow in large, dense groups, oak wilt spreads quickly, and one infected tree can lead to large patches of dead and dying trees.

Even after letting firewood season for one to two years, firewood users should refrain from transporting the wood as it is still capable of spreading these diseases and insects.

While firewood is an important commodity in the fall and winter, Texans can help prevent the spread of these pests and diseases by purchasing, collecting and burning firewood locally.

A shift in how we build commercial buildings could be a boon for East Texas—P. Salhorta, Texas Tribune

Globally, mass timber construction projects are expected to reach more than 24,000 by 2034. So far, at least 134 mass timber projects are in progress or completed in Texas. The first such project was a six-story office building in downtown San Antonio.

HUDSON — Three miles west of Lufkin, off of state Highway 94, sits a new 10,000 square foot building that appears starkly different from other offices — instead of steel or concrete, the structure is made entirely of wood.

The construction in Hudson, an East Texas town of about 5,000 residents, is one of a growing number of commercial projects in Texas using mass timber, a category of engineered wood products that uses glue or nails to bind layers of lumber together, making it strong and stable enough for commercial construction.

The recent growth in mass timber comes as East Texas foresters face a glut of wood and limited markets to sell it. East Texas is home to 12 million acres of timberland, which accounts for more than half of the region's land, and most is privately owned. Demand and prices for lumber have swung wildly over the years, with a huge drop in prices during the 2008 housing crisis that East Texas foresters never fully recovered from. Although wood prices rebounded during the pandemic, an oversupply of trees has meant that growers are still paid less than they have been before.

Now, foresters are looking to mass timber as a possible new market. The concept originally developed in Europe during the 1990s and is now taking off in the U.S. Globally, the number of mass timber construction projects is expected to reach more than 24,000 by 2034, according to the international mass timber report. Texas' first mass timber project was completed in 2019 in San Antonio. Now, there are at least 134 mass timber projects in progress or completed, including in Sherman, Houston and Frisco. Projects range from university buildings to retail and office space.

The global mass timber market was valued at $857 million in 2021 and is expected to exceed $1.5 billion by 2031. *If Texas can capture part of the growing mass timber market, East Texas' regional economy could experience rapid growth.* Texas grows about 30 to 40 percent more timber than is harvested each year, according to the Texas A&M Forest Service. Already, the forest sector contributes more than $41 billion to the state's economy and supports about 170,000 jobs in the state, according to 2021 data.

"The fear is that if we don't find new markets for the wood, forest landowners will change the use of their land," said Rob Hughes executive director of the Texas Forestry Association.
And because wood stores carbon and is renewable, the material is inherently more environmentally sustainable than concrete or steel. A University of Washington study found that a cross laminated timber building would reduce global warming potential by 26.5 percent compared with a concrete building.

"In the face of new growth in Texas, if we are interested in achieving greater sustainability, we need to be looking to the forest for this new construction," said Aaron Stottlemyer, Forest Analytics Department Head at the Texas A&M Forest Service.

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OFFICERS & DIRECTORS 2023-2024

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

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

	June	July	August
Chester	3.03	16.55	*
Colmesneil	4.86	15.39	2.25
Fred	3.22	13.51	*
Spurger	3.02	15.53	2.00
Warren	*	*	*
Woodville	1.26	13.73	0.52

* *Not reported*

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook—NOAA/NWS/NCEP Climate Prediction Center: Outlook for SE Texas through October 31, 2024, is ***No Drought.***

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 2024

Check your memberships status for 2024. Look at the address label on the envelope for your status—if the **year number** after your name is not **24** (for 2024) or greater, then consider renewing your membership. You may also send in your 2025 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