



# \*DRAFT\*

A Publication of the Tyler County Forest Landowner Association

<http://tcforest.org/>

Tyler County Forest  
Landowner  
Association  
(TCFLOA)

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Winter 2025-2026

## Fall General Meeting Notes

Thirty-one members and visitors attended the Tyler County Forest Landowner Association Fall General Meeting on Saturday, September 20, 2025, at the Nutrition Center in Woodville, Texas.

**Mark Bartlett**, Senior Regional Director with WoodWorks, showed samples of three mass timber products -- Cross-laminated timber (CLT), glued laminated timber (glulam), and mass plywood panels (MPP). He explained how each product is manufactured.

Manufacturing of mass timber products began in the northwest and many of the available products are made from trees that grow in that area. Sterling in Lufkin, the only mass timber manufacturer in Texas, uses southern yellow pine to manufacture cross-laminated timber (CLT) for ground mats. The company is exploring expansion of its product line.

Mark showed slides of numerous buildings, many multi-story, that are constructed exclusively or with significant use of mass timber products. Stephen F. Austin State University's cafeteria in Nacogdoches is constructed with mass timber made from southern yellow pine. To see photos of buildings constructed with mass timber products, click on <https://www.woodworksinnovationnetwork.org/>.

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## CALENDAR

**January 17, 2026**— TCFLOA Board Meeting, 10:30 AM, BAR-B-Q Pit, Warren, TX. This is a planning meeting - association members are welcome to attend and participate.

**March 21, 2026**— TCFLOA Spring General Meeting. Time and place to be announced in an upcoming TCFLOA newsletter.

**August 15, 2026**— TCFLOA Board Meeting, 10:30 AM, BAR-B-Q Pit, Warren, TX. This is a planning meeting - association members are welcome to attend and participate.

**September 19, 2026**— TCFLOA Fall General Meeting. Time and place to be announced in the summer TCFLOA newsletter.

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

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. Follow us on Facebook: [facebook.com/tc.forest.landowners](https://facebook.com/tc.forest.landowners)

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### *July/August 2025 Timber price trends—Texas A&M Forest Service*

Statewide pine sawtimber prices averaged \$28.96 per ton, below 6% from last period and above 3% from a year ago. In Northeast Texas, the average pine sawtimber price was \$29.74 per ton. It was \$28.65 per ton in Southeast Texas.

The statewide average pine pulpwood price was \$6.29 per ton. This was above 4% from last period and up 12% from the price a year ago. Average pine pulpwood price was \$6.24 per ton in Northeast Texas and \$5.32 per ton in Southeast Texas.

Chip-N-Saw averaged \$13.21 per ton statewide, below 12% from last period and down 5% from a year ago. In Northeast Texas, the average Chip-N-Saw price was \$14.47 per ton. It was \$12.26 per ton in Southeast Texas.

The statewide average hardwood pulpwood price was \$6.98 per ton, below 5% from last period.



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**Hunter Scroggins**, Texas Parks and Wildlife Biologist, informed the Tyler County Forest Landowner Association (TCFLOA) that we have wild turkeys along the Neches River in the northern part of the county. Hunter encouraged landowners to establish daylight open roads through their tree farms to provide travel corridors for the wild turkeys.

Having Hunter as speaker at the September 20<sup>th</sup> meetings was doubly rewarding to the attendees. In 2014, TCFLOA awarded Hunter its first college scholarship for students pursuing forestry or forestry-related degrees. On his scholarship application, Hunter stated that his dream was to “become a successful biologist.” As District Biologist for TPWD, Hunter has clearly achieved that dream.

**Justin Penick**, Acorn Forestry owner, stated that the biggest threat to tree farmers is the changing market for logs. He said, “We are outgrowing what the mills will accept.” He further explained that many mills are going to a restricted butt size, which means that they are only buying smaller logs. Tree farmers can no longer assume that there will be a profitable market for their large 30-year-old trees. Some tree farmers are resorting to a 15–18-year cycle with no thinning between planting and clear-cutting. The farmers may remove flawed trees, e.g. trees with forked tops, with a weed-eater three years after planting.

Truckers’ demands are limiting the distances they will haul logs which shrinks the radius in which loads will be hauled. Additionally, truckers are requiring a larger percentage of the gross from each truck load which reduces the percentage of the gross available to landowners.

Justin discussed the threats of weather events. Flooding during the pine growing season can lead to tree mortality. Hurricane Harvey, with its 60 inches of rain in some areas in 2017, flooded approximately 3.6 million acres of rural property.

During the 2021 Uri ice storm, it was probably the *abrupt drop* in temperature, rather than freezing temperatures themselves, that caused tree mortality. In general, East Texas forests get the brunt of freezing rain events as they progress from west to east. The severity tends to diminish as the storm travels east.

Tyler County experiences 50 – 60 days with thunderstorms each year. A tree struck by lightning may die within days - or it may continue to live in a weakened state. Weakened trees are susceptible to ips beetles. The ips beetles can cause stress to the tree and create an opportunity for turpentine beetles to attack the stressed or dying tree.

There is a new blight affecting loblolly pine trees in Louisiana, especially in areas that are wet and highly productive. Tree blights are typically bacterial and can lead to tree mortality. Sparse, weakly-colored needles on loblolly trees are symptoms of this blight, for which there is not yet a treatment. Foresters have detected the blight in Texas.

Eminent domain for pipelines, powerlines and other development projects is a threat to tree farmers. Justin encouraged individuals to push and resist eminent domain, but to avoid Condemnation Court. One tree farmer built an airport, with one flight a year, on his property to prevent a public utility easement from crossing his property. If a public utility easement is going to cross your property, be sure you secure the right to drive across it. This could be critical during logging operations.

Justin encouraged tree farmers to protect boundaries and limit liabilities by marking property lines with purple paint and/or three-strand barbwire and/or posted signs, and by securing lease agreements with anyone who uses your property -- even with neighbors who are encroaching.

### ***Texas A&M News Room: Mass timber takes root in Texas architecture, October 15, 2025***

Coolidge Station, Texas—In the evolving landscape of sustainable architecture, a quiet revolution is underway, one built not on steel and concrete, but on engineered wood. At the heart of this movement is cross-laminated timber (CLT), a material that’s gaining traction among architects, foresters and developers.

CLT is a type of mass timber created by bonding together several layers of kiln-dried lumber, each oriented at right angles to the one below. This crosswise arrangement gives the panels exceptional strength and stability in both directions. CLT panels are manufactured off-site in controlled factory settings and then transported to construction locations, where they can be assembled

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*(Mass Timber—continued from previous page)*

quickly, significantly reducing build times. The panels can be used for all the major structural elements of a building — floors, walls and roofs.

The implications of CLT extend far beyond its strength and beauty. According to Dr. Aaron Stottlemeyer, department head of Forest Analytics at Texas A&M Forest Service and adjunct professor in the Department of Ecology and Conservation Biology, CLT is also a strategic opportunity for Texas' forest economy.

“Across East Texas, we’re growing nearly double the amount of timber we’re harvesting,” Stottlemeyer explained. “That surplus creates a need for new markets. Mass timber — including CLT — is one of the most promising avenues for utilizing that excess in a sustainable way.”

Stottlemeyer’s team monitors forest growth and harvest rates across the state, providing critical data for land management and economic development. He sees CLT as a key component in building a “circular economy,” one that supports private landowners, forest industry, conserves working forests, and reduces carbon-intensive construction.

“Texas is 95% privately owned, and when markets slump, you often start to see forests converted to non-forest uses: shopping malls, subdivisions, things made with concrete,” he said. “Strong timber markets encourage landowners to keep their land forested and invest in stewardship. That’s good for the environment and the economy.”

“When universities adopt new technologies, society often follows,” Stottlemeyer said. “Texas A&M is putting its money where its mouth is and leading in this realm.”

The implications for Texas are significant. As mass timber gains acceptance among developers and designers, in building codes and construction practices, the state is poised to become not just a consumer but a manufacturer of CLT products. That shift could bolster rural economies, reduce carbon emissions, and position Texas as a national leader in sustainable building.

“There’s always going to be a place for steel and concrete,” Stottlemeyer said. “But timber — especially when it’s renewable and locally sourced — deserves to be part of the conversation.”

*Editors note: The article was condensed to fit the newsletter. To review the full length article go to the Texas A&M News Service link at <https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/mass-timber-takes-root-in-texas-architecture/>*

### ***Presidents Corner***

As I finished off the leftovers from my family’s Thanksgiving feast, I thought again of the many things to be thankful for. At the top of my list are the other TCFLOA officers, board members, and volunteers who actually put in the effort to make the association a success. Many thanks to each of them for the great work they have done this year.

I also thought of the wonderful opportunities all association members have as forest landowners. Although we may struggle to see a divine plan in the current affairs of humans, we should readily appreciate the divine plan evident in the natural order of our forests. That appreciation can be a real blessing. For example, we can draw satisfaction from being good stewards of our lands and forests, and from fostering the welfare of the flora and fauna there.

An even better example, though, may be the benefits to our own health of simply being in the forest. Hopefully, we all take time from our busy schedules to simply get out into the forest and enjoy being there. Researchers have found that time spent in forests and other green spaces can lower blood pressure, calm the heart, and reduce stress hormones in the body. Studies of forest walks and other nature-based activities show improvements in mood, reduced anxiety, and better overall mental health. And some studies even suggest that people who spend a couple of hours a week in natural settings are more likely to report good health and a greater sense of well-being. Getting out into our forests is not only enjoyable, it is genuinely good for us. So I’m going to stop here and go for a walk in the woods!

I extend to all of you my best wishes for a great holiday season, and look forward to seeing you again in 2026.

Best Regards,

Steve Lauff  
512-913-4732



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

	August	September	October	November
Chester	*	*	*	*
Colmesneil	8.70	0.94	2.59	3.02
Fred	3.85	0.97	3.13	3.77
Spurger	3.34	0.65	3.39	3.12
Warren	3.84	0.19	2.25	2.50
Woodville	6.16	0.96	2.16	2.96

\* Not reported

*U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook—NOAA/NWS/NCEP Climate Prediction Center: Outlook for SE Texas through Feb. 28, 2026, is **Drought removal likely.***

**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 2026**

Check your memberships status for 2026. Look at the address label on the envelope for your status—if the **year number** after your name is not **26** (for 2026) or greater, then consider renewing your membership. You may also send in your 2027 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