



The Dogwood Times

A Publication of the Tyler County Forest Landowner Association

<http://tcforest.org/>

Tyler County Forest
Landowner
Association
(TCFLOA)

Volume 27 Issue 1
Spring 2025

Spring General Meeting—March 15

The next general meeting of TCFLOA is scheduled for Saturday, March 15, 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:

Eric Wannlund, Texas A&M Forest Service—Eric will speak on the Texas Climate Smart Initiative.

Amanda Howard, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Woodville, TX—Amanda will discuss Texas leaf cutter ants.

Caleb Bryant, Texas A&M Forest Service, Kountze, TX—Caleb will discuss Forest Management Plans and Timber Tax Appraisals.

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

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TCFLOA Offering \$1,500 academic Scholarship

TCFLOA is now accepting applications for a college scholarship for TCFLOA members, their children, grandchildren, and Tyler County residents, who are majoring in Forestry or Forestry related curriculums (“Forestry related” is broadly defined for the purposes of the application). Applicants may be undergraduate or graduate students presently attending a college, or graduating high school/home
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USA BioEnergy Announces Land Purchase in Bon Wier, Texas

USA BioEnergy (USABE) announced in a press release, January 14, 2025, that it has closed on the purchase of 1,600 acres of land in east Texas for its new \$2.8 billion biorefinery, that will convert wood waste into sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) for a 20-year offtake agreement with Southwest Airlines. Other sustainable fuels and Naphtha will also be produced.

The biorefinery is currently in detailed design and engineering. The initial plant footprint will be 300 acres and construction will take about two years. The plant will annually convert one million tons of sustainably sourced forest thinning into 65 million gallons of fuel.

CALENDAR

March 15, 2025— TCFLOA Spring General Meeting, 9:30 AM. Tyler County Extension Office, 201 Veterans Way, Woodville, TX. See Spring General Meeting above for more information.

April 5, 2025, Saturday—Tyler County Dogwood Festival (Queen’s Weekend), 9 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 Queen’s Parade. Go to tylercountydogwoodfestival.org for more information.

April 30, 2025, Tuesday—Deadline for TCFLOA scholarship submission.

September 20, 2025— TCFLOA Fall General Meeting. Time and place to be announced in the fall 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

When completed, Tyler County will be in the supply area for providing forest thinning to the plant.



(Scholarship—continued from page 1)

schooled students that have been accepted in a college.

The deadline for submitting the application is April 30, 2025. The scholarship recipient will be selected by the TCFLOA Scholarship Committee.

An application and guidelines are enclosed for you with this newsletter. You may also find the forms on our website at tcfloa.org select **LIBRARY** and then scroll down to **TCFLOA Forms**.

Training the Trees: Planting Pines for Profit in East Texas—Riley O'Steen, Texas A&M Forest Service, January 2025

With Loblolly Pine planting season in full swing, I spoke with TAMFS District Forester Zachary Ovelgonne on the specifics of properly planning and implementing artificial regeneration (i.e. planting) for loblolly pine on private lands.

Riley: *From the perspective of a landowner, why should I plant seedlings on my tree farm?*

Zach: Artificial regeneration gives much more control than natural seeding- you can determine what the density and spacing will be, to better fit your management objectives. Artificial planting has a better survival rate, because you're using seedlings that are already a year old when you put them in the ground. Seedlings coming from nurseries will also have better genetics, so you get to take advantage of that. The trees will grow straighter, gain more volume more quickly, and be more resistant to disease.

Riley: *And you can compare it with natural seeding, where you're relying on seed-tree regeneration or blow-in from neighboring sites. And you'll get those odd cases where you might not get any natural regeneration at all, or the genetics from the stands around you are poor, right?*

Zach: Yeah, exactly. With blow-in, you might get trees with slower growth, bad form, or trees that aren't resistant to diseases like fusiform rust. You're more likely to have significant die-off, and then you'd have to reseed. Another thing is that with natural regeneration, you may end up having to do precommercial thinning, because otherwise the stand density is too high, and your trees' growth will stagnate a lot sooner than it would otherwise. You'd either have to wait and let natural mortality occur, or just come and artificially thin it- that's strictly 100% cost on your end.

Riley: *When it comes to artificial regeneration and planting densities, landowners may be confused about what initial planting density (seedlings per acre) should be used. What specific density do you recommend?*

Zach: Planting density will often be between 400 – 650 seedlings per acre, based on things like landowner objectives and current market conditions. The reason we often plant so densely is to help train the trees. I like to ask landowners to think of that pine tree that's grown out in a pasture. It's big and bushy and has branches all the way to the ground. Even though it has a larger diameter than most pine plantation trees that you see, it's very limby- not very good wood. We can choose to plant heavy to encourage our trees to grow straight upward and self-prune, which reduces knots in the wood from branches, and also because we anticipate some mortality. If you planted too few trees and then too many seedlings die, you'd have to interplant, or else they won't train each other properly.

Riley: *Alright, so I was wondering if you could go into a little detail on the different kinds of artificial regeneration.*

Zach: Hand planting is the most common method, mostly because it's the cheapest, and sites don't need to be as clean of debris. Hand planting is done by a crew of 10-20 guys with specialty harnesses that can hold hundreds of seedlings, and a dibble bar that they use to plant each tree. Some species, like longleaf pine, are best planted by hand.

When you get into open land like pasture or field conversion, I recommend machine planting. There's almost always soil compaction, whether that's from hay operations or cattle grazing. With machine planting, it may

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reduce the compaction enough to get by without having to rip the land. Also, open-land planting is extremely quick. A rubber tire tractor with one person driving and another guiding the seedlings into the planter can plant a 50-acre tract in half a day. It's basically just plowing a field.

Wildland machine planting is also good for helping break up hardpan to encourage root growth, and a dozer with a V-blade can push debris out of the way of the planting row as the seedlings are planted. The results can be more consistent than handplanting, but it can cost a lot more too. And it works only with lower planting densities that have at least 12 feet between the planting rows.

Riley: *Okay. So why do we prefer to have our loblolly plantings done in the late fall or early winter, when many new landowners might think of spring as the growing season?*

Zach: The reason why we plant in the late fall and winter in southeast Texas is because we have relatively mild winters and extreme summers. Our planting season that we recommend runs from October 15 to March 1 because as we start getting closer to summer, we see decreased rainfall and soil moisture, and rising temperatures. None of those things are good for a seedling, so we typically tell people to plant before Christmas break or shortly after. The trees don't put on vertical growth during that winter, but they're still building a good root system that will help them in our intense summers, where we can go 30-60 days without rainfall.

Riley: *What's the timeline for a person who's looking to plant their property, then? At what point do landowners need to start looking at procuring seedlings, what should they do when it comes to performing pre-establishment treatment, and so on?*

Zach: I would say that if you have a stand that's been clearcut, you need to give yourself at least a year to get everything in line to be ready for planting. Say, you purchase a property in April, and it's been clearcut, and you have full intentions of planting in November or December. It's going to be a rush to get things ready in time.

You need to order your seedlings at the very end of the previous planting season- calling up nurseries and letting them know how many seedlings you need- because if you're planting 600 trees per acre (tpa) on a property, you might need tens of THOUSANDS of seedlings. And then after a clearcut, all the woody debris will bring pests like the Pale's weevil, so it's important to give six to nine months for them to live their life cycle and leave the property. If you plant too soon and don't use insecticide, seedlings will likely have their roots infested.

If you wait until late summer to apply your herbicide, it'll be less effective, because herbicides work best when they're applied to plants that are actively growing. Then we follow the herbicide with a site prep burn six to eight weeks after the herbicide treatment, when the brush is most susceptible to burning. Two to four weeks after that is when we plant, so the soil moisture can come back up. It can be a really tight schedule to get it all done before the planting window closes.

Prescribed Burn Grant Funds are Available for 2025

Texas A&M Forest Service has allocated over \$951,000 for reimbursement of prescribed burns on private property. The allocation of these funds prioritizes wildfire hazard mitigation and emphasizes the protection of homes, communities and natural ecosystems.

Eligible landowners may receive reimbursement of up to \$30 per acre for prescribed fire treatment conducted by certified and insured prescribed burn managers. Applications are accepted online from September 1st through 31st for the East Texas Prescribed Fire Grant.

Fire plays a crucial role in the life cycle of many species native to east Texas and serves as an invaluable tool for landowners in fighting woody brush and reducing wildfire risk.

Visit texasforests.tamu.edu/cppgrant to determine eligibility and learn more about Texas A&M Forest Service' prescribed fire grant opportunities. You may also call our local Texas A&M District Forester, Caleb Bryant, located at the Olive Branch office north of Kountze, TX, office#: 409-246-2484.



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

	December	2024	January
Chester	*	*	*
Colmesneil	7.65	91.68	4.41
Fred	*	*	*
Spurger	9.27	91.79	6.14
Warren	*	*	*
Woodville	6.94	91.09	5.44

* Not reported

*U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook—NOAA/NWS/NCEP Climate Prediction Center: Outlook for SE Texas through May 31, 2025, is **No Drought**.*

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS 2025-2026

- Pres: Steve Lauff
- VP: Tiffany Sterling
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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