

Tyler County Forest Landowner Association

Regular Meeting Minutes

Saturday, March 14, 2009 - 9:30am

In Attendance: Thirty-five members, new members and visitors -- including Charles Zimmerman (President), Jack Clark (Vice President), Tim Parker (Dir.), Hugh Hales (Dir.), Rick Huffman (Dir), Sarah Reinemeyer (Dir), and Betty Zimmerman (Sec). The meeting was held at the Tyler County Extension Office, 201 Willow Street, Woodville.

Charles Zimmerman welcomed the attendees, recognized the officers present and introduced the speakers.

- **Gary Calkins**, Texas Parks and Wildlife, District Leader from Jasper, presented a history of black bears in East Texas. Historically native to the area, the Louisiana Black Bear was virtually eliminated by 1940. Louisiana Black Bears are migrating back into East Texas from Louisiana, Arkansas and Oklahoma. Hunters should be careful to not mistake black bears for hogs, as bears are protected and it is illegal to kill bears in Texas.
- **Shannon Chambers**, Tyler County Extension Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources, presented steps for managing vegetation in ponds – including chemicals and temporary use of vegetation-eating fish. She encouraged contacting Phillip Stewart of National Resource Soil Conservation (NRSC) for core tests prior to digging a pond. Aerating a pond will help keep fish alive in the summer when the water level is low.
- **Billy Tolar**, Tolar's Feed, Woodville, Texas displayed several products for clearing vegetation from ponds. He emphasized that a pond with visibility more than 4-6" deep is allowing too much sunlight to penetrate which will encourage vegetation. Turtles, which eat their weight in fish each day, can be removed from ponds by trapping.

Charles Zimmerman called the business meeting to order. The minutes from the March meeting were distributed. Fred Reinemeyer moved that the March Regular Meeting minutes be approved as published; Tim Parker seconded the motion and the motion carried. Bill Tetley presented the treasurer's report which lists 84 members, including 7 new members and 1 who rejoined. There is a balance of \$5,036.03 in the treasury.

Bill Tetley, Chairman of the Public Affairs Committee, encouraged members to attend the TFA Tailgate Rally near Mt. Enterprise on May 2, 2009. He also reported that on Thursday, March 12, 2009, a panel of the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled against Dallas' effort to build the massive Lake Fastrill reservoir along the Upper Neches River in East Texas.

Betty Zimmerman, Co-Chairman of the Education Committee, polled the directors for approval to again offer five scholarships to Tyler County Teachers for TFA's Teacher Conservation Institute. All approved.

The next TCFLOA meeting will be a board meeting on Saturday, August 22, 2009 at Tim & Keelin Parker's tree farm or office. There was no new business. Bonnie Timaeus moved that the meeting adjourn; Fred Reinemeyer seconded the motion and it carried.

Jack Clark blessed the meal. Attendees enjoyed the bar-b-q lunch and personal networking.