

Tyler County Forest Landowner Association Board Meeting Minutes

Saturday, August 22, 2009 9:30 AM
Tim & Keelin Parker's Tree Farm, Colmesneil, TX

Tim and Keelin Parker hosted the TCFLOA Board Meeting in their home near Colmesneil. In attendance were Charles Zimmerman (President); Jack Clark (VP), Bill Tetley (Treasurer), Betty Zimmerman (Secretary), Hugh Hales (Dir), Tim Parker (Dir), Sarah Reinemeyer (Dir), Rick Huffman (Dir), Fred Reinemeyer, V. G. Rollins, Jim Bob Rollins, Ken Turner, and Jeffrey Parker.



Tim & Keelin Parker (front left) lead TCFLOA Board Meeting attendees on tour

Prior to the Board Meeting, hosted in Tim and Keelin Parker's beautiful home, Tim and Keelin guided the attendees on a tour of their tree farm which includes hardwood as well as pine plantations. Because the pines were planted in what was previously a pasture, there is very little yaupon underbrush. The pines planted in 1989 will be thinned when they become 50 feet tall and 8 inches in diameter – which should be about 2015.

Sections of the Parker's farm are on what is locally known as 'black land' which is so alkaline that trees grow poorly, if at all. Beaver activity was evident along the creek.

Everyone appreciated the drinking water Jeffrey Parker delivered midway of the tour.

After a tour of The Parker's pine and hardwood forests, Charles Zimmerman called the meeting to order.

Betty Zimmerman distributed the minutes from the previous board meeting of Saturday, January 10, 2009. Jack Clark moved that the minutes be accepted as written; Tim Parker seconded the motion and it carried.

Bill Tetley presented the Treasurer's Report. As of August 22, 2009, TCFLOA has a balance of \$4697.77. The 107 members include 13 new members and 1 reinstated.

Calendar

September 12, 2009 – 9:30 AM – Regular Association Meeting
Quarterly, event driven – Publication of The Dogwood Times
January 9, 2009 – 9:00 AM – Board Meeting at site of field trip

Committee Reports:

Membership Committee: Bill Tetley will send names of delinquent members to Charles Zimmerman who will send them a letter soliciting their renewal. The statement "*Being a member of the TCFLOA can be useful in demonstrating to taxing authorities that one is actively engaged in tree farming*" will be included in The Dogwood Times.

Bill Tetley presented the Education & Communication Committee & Public Affairs Committee reports.

- TFA Annual Meeting and Forest Summit will be October 20-22 in Nacogdoches, Texas. The Summit will address the future of our forests and will be a valuable opportunity for forest landowners. Elected officials as well as industry leaders will participate.
- TFA Estate Planning for Forest Landowners in Troubled Times is scheduled for Tuesday, September 15, 2009 in Diboll.
- TFA Forestry Environmental Issues was Friday, August 14, 2009 in Nacogdoches. Bill Tetley and Charles & Betty Zimmerman attended.
 - There was a brief Texas Forest landowners Council Meeting.
 - John Stover, Zeleskey Law Office, presented Water Issues in Texas. For the Neches River to be designated as Federal Wild and Scenic River is remote.
 - Charlie Gee, Texas Logging Council, discussed the financial challenges loggers are facing.
 - Bill Russell, Camterra Resources/Tree Farmer, presented issues in dealing with Oil & Gas Leases. The landowner should have his water well quality

and flow tested as a baseline *before* oil drilling begins. Bill is available to speak to TCFLOA.

- Regan Beck, Texas Farm Bureau, presented Eminent Domain issues and encouraged everyone to vote for Constitutional Amendment #11 during the November elections. It will require an entity to return land to original owner at original price if the land is not used by the entity within 10 years.
- TFA lobbies for the forest industry. Its influence with the legislature is increased with increased membership. All forest landowners are encouraged to join the Texas Forestry Association.

Betty Zimmerman presented the Scholarship Subcommittee report.

- The Tyler County Scholarship Sub-Committee is comprised of Rick Huffman, Sarah Reinemeyer and Betty Zimmerman.
- The board had previously approved up to five \$125 scholarships to Tyler County Educators upon their completion of one of Texas Forestry Association's Teachers Conservation Institute (TCI) sessions.
- The sub-committee distributed TFA Teachers Conservation Institute brochures and TCFLOA Scholarship Applications to all 15 public schools in Tyler County.
- Three Warren ISD teachers submitted scholarship applications prior to the TCI sessions and were informed that they would be receiving a check for \$125 upon completion of their session. Per approval of the board via email and verbal communications, a scholarship was awarded to a fourth Warren ISD teacher who submitted his application after the TCI session was completed.
- Recipients of TCFLOA's 2009 TCI Scholarships are as follows:
 - Vicki Miller, 6th – 8th Grade at Warren ISD
 - Zachary Cain, 6th-8th Grade at Warren ISD
 - Beverly Hatch, 8th Grade at Warren ISD
 - Tex Blackshear, 6th Grade Science at Warren ISD

Betty distributed the Program Committee's brochure for the September 19th meeting.

- **Ron Hufford**, Executive Vice President of Texas Forestry Association will present Legislative Issues and Opportunities.
- **Lonnie Grissom**, North American Procurement Company, will present an overview of His Company's Operations and Plans.
- **Eddie Chalmers**, Chief Appraiser of Tyler County, will present a Local Tax Perspective.

Sarah Reinemeyer presented the tcforest.org website report.

Maintenance:

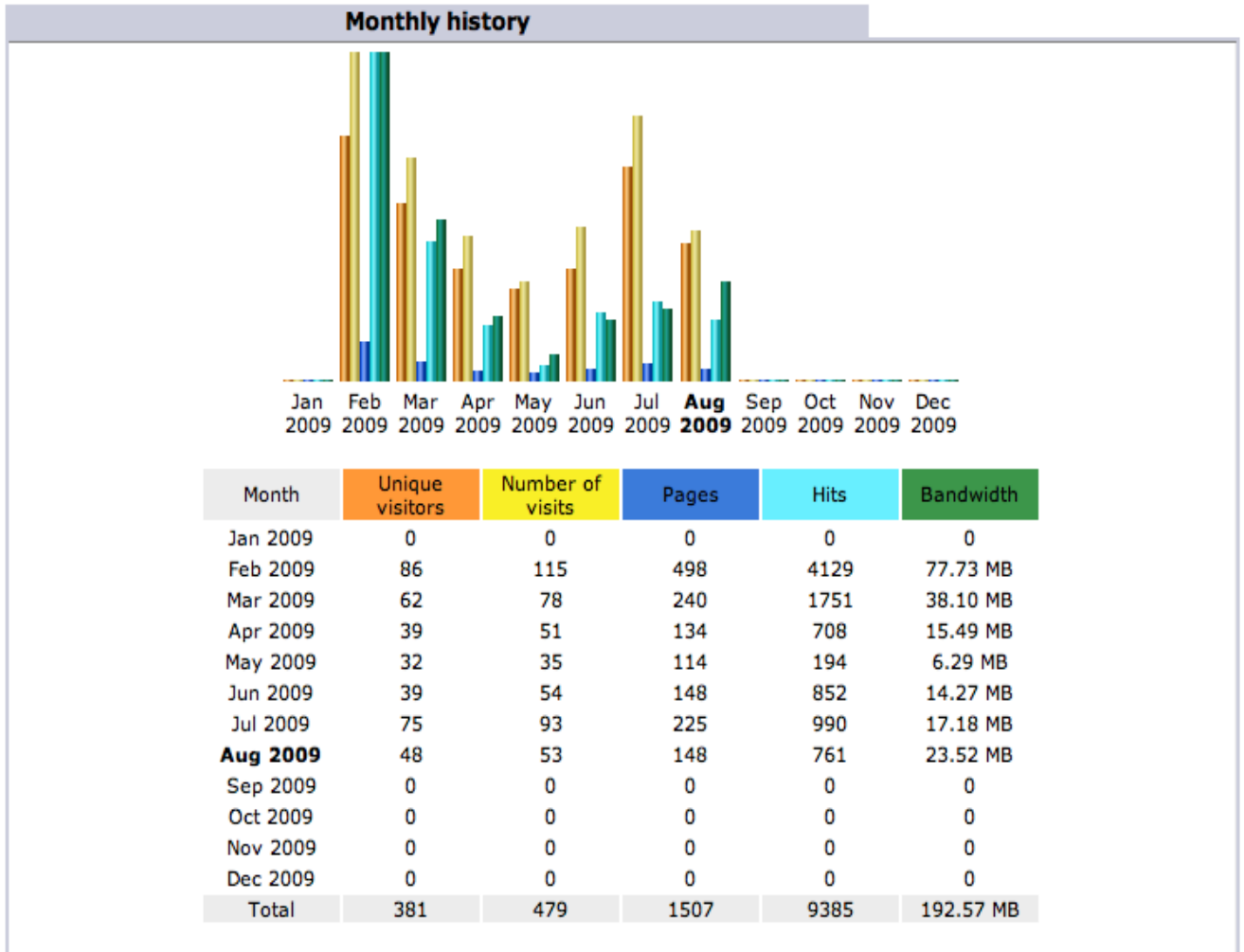
- **Blue Host Maintenance** – Our Internet service provider updated some of their software and requested that we check our websites and email associated with our website. Betty and I did this and found all to be satisfactory.
- **TCFOREST.ORG Maintenance** – New events were added and old events removed. New links were added. Fire ban notice was added to the front page of the website when the ban is in effect.

Issues:

- **TCFOREST.ORG** – Our front page was compromised. It is not known for how long before I noticed it. Somehow some of our pages were renamed and redirected. A hacker? ...not sure. I corrected the pages and discussed it with Bill T. and Betty Z. I was not able to discover how this happened. It appears no damage was done. It might have been something Blue Host did and that is why we saw the update of the software. It has not reoccurred.
- **Domain name renewal notice** – I received a notice from a company (not Blue Host) saying that our Domain name would expire this fall. It was my understanding that we had purchased the name for two years. I contacted Blue Host. They told me that they only purchase the names for one year and if we had paid for two years of service, they would automatically renew the name for us. He told me that companies try to get us to switch by sending out such notice. I should just throw it away.
- **Blue Host Domain Name renewal notice** – I just received a notice from Blue Host that it was time to renew. They requested any changes to our accounting information. I am the current contact for the website. If there are no changes, I do not have to respond. **So decision needed, do you want me to remain as the main contact for TCFORREST.ORG?** I need to let them know if there will be a change to the contact information.

Web Statistics:

- **404 Errors** – I noticed that we had a lot of 404 errors listed. This means that one of our links is bad. It does not go to the intended page anymore. I searched the website for the bad link. I found it on the TIPS page, dealing with BioFuels of the Jatrophe tree. The original article had been deleted by the owning website. I fixed this link to point to a different site with information about BioFuels.
- **Pages Accessed** – The top pages accessed in August are in this order: Home page, Tips page, Events page, contacts page. This varies each month. But these pages are usually near the top of the list along with About Us pages.
- **Topics Accessed** – The information about the black bears, purple paint, meeting minutes are the most popular items accessed.
- **Audience** – In July we had a big hit by the US Military. We seem to attract people from Germany, Ukraine, Seychelles, the Netherlands, and Russia. The USA is by far the biggest requestor. It does amaze me that Seychelles is there every month. They are islands off the East coast of Africa.
- **Activity** – We average about 40 hits a day. I can tell from the list of sites accessing us that a lot of the activity is from search engines. This could be them gathering information about us or sending viewers information on our site based upon their searches. Most people stay on the website from 0 to 2 minutes.
- **References** – Viewers have accessed us from Google, AOL, Windows Live, www.texasforestry.org, and www.bing.com,



- Sarah Reinemeyer will continue to be the contact for the website.

Old Business

- none

New Business

- Hugh Hales made a motion to allocate \$50 for an item for the TFA Forest Summit October 20-22 in Nacogdoches. Jack seconded the motion. It passed. Betty volunteered to purchase the item.
- Betty made a motion that the four scholarship recipients be granted a year's associate membership in TCFLOA. The motion was amended to apply to all scholarship recipients – both this year and in future years. Jack seconded the motion and it carried.
- Betty made a motion that we allocate up to \$50 to place an advertisement in the Booster for the September 19th General Meeting. Tim Parker seconded the motion and it carried.

ACTION ITEMS:

- The program committee will arrange for a location for the January 9, 2010, Board Meeting. Suggestions included:
 - Local mill
 - Seedling farm in Jasper
 - Logging equipment in Hillister
- Betty will purchase an item for TFA Summit's Silent Auction, not to exceed \$50.
- Betty will place an ad in the Booster announcing the September 19th meeting.
- Betty will post the meeting announcement brochure on the website and send a copy to Bill Tetley.
- Charles will send letter to the TCI Scholarship recipients informing them of their associate membership. Considering how late it is in 2009, the membership will extend through 2010.

Bill Tetley moved we adjourn; Jack Clark seconded the motion and it passed.