



# The Dogwood Times

A Publication of the Tyler County Forest Landowner Association

<http://tcforest.org/>

Tyler County Forest  
Landowner Association

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## Tyler CFLOA Members Tour Woodville Hardwood Mill

On Saturday, January 14, 2012, a haughty group of seventeen Tyler County Forest Landowners and guests braved the cold of a January morning to tour the Woodville Hardwood Mill on Highway 69, five miles south of downtown Woodville.

Clint Anthony, owner and operator of the mill, explained that the mill receives up to eighty truckloads of hardwood daily. While the primary product of the mill is railroad ties, the full length and width of each log is converted into usable, marketable products.

Mr. Anthony rebuilt the mill to his own design after it was destroyed by fire in May 2010. The second carriage of the new design was being completed as we toured the facilities and will increase the capacity of the mill to a maximum of 10,000 railroad ties per week. Each carriage has its own head rig saw. Railroad ties are cut to a standard seven inches by nine inches and from eight to nine feet long. After the railroad ties are cut from a log, the remainder of the log is cut into pallet lumber. The residue from the tie and lumber production is moved to the chip and fuel production line. This process incorporates Clint's innovative design of chains used for supports.

Everyone enjoyed Mr. Anthony's thorough explanation of the working parts and processes of the mill and the statistics of production. As the mill was down for installation of an additional feed and process line, Clint invited us to come again during the week to see the mill operating.

At the conclusion of the tour, most participants adjourned to a local Mexican Restaurant for a business meeting of the TCFLOA Board of Directors, followed by a delicious lunch.

The TCFLOA program committee plans several programs of various types in different locations each year to offer a perspective to landowners of the many facets connected with the timber industry and to educate landowners in methods to better manage their lands for their own personal goals.



**Top**— Tour participants on Cat Walk above waste chips.

**Bottom**—Tour Participants at end of crosstie process line. Note stacks of finished ties to right.

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## March 10 TCFLOA MEETS

**Dr. Jimmy Yeiser**, Forest Silviculture Professor with SFASU's School of Forestry will speak to "Forest Vegetative Management" at the **Tyler Co Extension Office, 201 Veterans Way, Woodville, at 9:30 AM.**

Lunch will be provided after the Presentation and Business Meeting. As always a container will be available for those who wish to help defray the cost of the meal.

Dr. Yeiser has conducted forest vegetative management research since 1984, and has tested most of the herbicides used in vegetation control in timber stands.

He is both an entertaining and informative speaker.

## SYMPOSIUM OFFERS DROUGHT INFORMATION

A recent day long educational forum gave participants an insight into just how severe the drought of 2011 was, as well as offer an outlook as to what might be the "norm" this year.

The day began with a look at climate trends and impacts, presented by Jeff Linder, a meteorologist from Houston, with the rainfall history since 1960. After the six year drought in the mid 1950s, Texas has experienced as many wet years as dry, and no dry year as severe as 2011. In fact 2011 set a record as the severest one year drought since 1896, as far back as the scientific records go.

*(Continued on page 2)*



*Field Notes*

personal reflections about our forests and trees

**A Tale of My Forest**—*Michael Murphrey, Staff Forester II, Texas Forest Service, Lufkin, TX*

“Yes, your mother and I bought the forty acres in Camp County in 1994 but it’s our forest,” I thought; though the kids don’t understand. About eight months ago I brought the understanding to my daughter, Melanie, of how this forty acres is “our” forest.

A beautiful blue bird day in February, 2011 the entire Murphrey Clan took a day trip up to Pittsburg to visit our neighbors Bill & Leslie Tucker and to check on the logging job that was taking place. The loggers had thinned about 80% of the forty acre tract located up near Lake Bob Sandlin in Camp County, Texas. I wanted to see the progress they had been making and demonstrate to the kids (Nicholaus and Melanie) why we (Tree Farmers) do what we do with our forests. We walked the tract checking out all the down rows and logging roads scattered through the tract and looking at the trees that were left. In forestry

terms we call these trees residual timber; in Tree Farmer terms we call them future logs now that the poorer quality pulpwood had been removed. The tract was thinned very well. Every fifth row was removed and they thinned within the remaining four rows. It was thinned back to about a 75-80 sq. ft. basal area leaving nothing but the best trees to grow. The spacing was excellent in the remaining four rows which were thinned using a logging method called “Crown Friction.” While walking through the unthinned part of the stand we discussed the density of the plantation and what was going on with all the trees that were having to compete for moisture, nutrients and sunlight.

The discussion was fabulous (in my mind) as I explained growth rates and what competition does to a tree by using the unthinned stand as example; while looking at the rings on a stump in a down row. We talked about the logging roads, water bars, erosion and why you keep water clean and how good logging and good management are beneficial to the environment and to our property. I thought (again, in my mind) I was doing a bang up job of teaching my children stewardship of the land and management of forest to improve the health of the residual trees. Until my “Baby”, who was 25, said “Daddy, why did you bring me up here?”

It dawned on me that I was not communicating on a subject that she was interested in learning about. I looked into her face to see a beautiful young lady looking so confused back at me. It was then that I realized how to help her understand. All the education in the world is worthless unless you want to learn. And she didn’t. Don’t get me wrong she was grateful we went up there and she paid attention and listened well and was generally pleased with our walk in the woods but she just didn’t understand why? Why did we drive 140 miles, one way, to walk in these woods?

So I had to think, what could I use to drive my point home on the benefits to what was taking place on “our” property; and help her understand that this land, this 40 acres, is ours?

Finally it came to me. I said, “Melanie you see that row of stumps, we call it a down row. It is created by harvesting the trees to allow access into the stand of timber for the equipment and provide access to thin the rows of residual timber on each side.” I asked her, “What do you think they did with trees they removed?” She replied, “Took them to the mill to make paper.” “Excellent answer,” I replied. “And what did I get in return?” I asked her. She said, “Money.” “That is right!” I replied. “So you see that down row - that paid for your wedding dress; that one paid for the wedding cake; that one was the catered dinner” and so on and so forth through the freshly thinned plantation we went. Now I had her attention and we could begin discussing the benefits and reasons for thinning a forest. She now knows that the forty acres in Camp County is ours and that you manage timber to pay for a wedding and for all the science and reasoning behind it. We had a wonderful walk on the property and fantastic day of education.

We teach our children to walk and talk. We teach them the difference between right and wrong. If we want them to be “Stewards” of OUR land, then we will have to help them understand that the land belongs to all of us. And to keep it healthy we’ll need to manage it.

This doesn’t happen overnight. So good luck and have fun with the many trips you will be taking to “y’all’s forest”.

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He stated that the next two months are of critical importance. If we continue to have rainfall, we will go into the summer a bit better than last year. But we are not “out of the woods” yet, as climatologists predict that this drought could continue till 2020.

According to Dr. Tom Byram of Texas A&M, about 85% of the forests in the southeast USA are owned by timber companies, family owned, or held by investment businesses. The forests in the SE USA, supply 16% of the world wood production.

At the same time the emphasis is on producing more timber with less water and increased carbon sequestration.

Dr. Chris Edgar with the Texas Forest Service (TFS) stated the 2011 drought began about Sept 27, 2010, although a few think it could have been as early as August 2010. There are 63 million acres of forestland in Texas, containing about 4.9 billion trees with a diameter of 5” or greater. Of the 4.9 billion trees, 100 to 500 million died, which represents from 2 to 10%. The TFS is currently conducting a survey and analysis to obtain a more accurate figure of the trees lost.

A panel of a mill superintendent, consulting forester and a wood utilization & marketing specialist agreed a logger needs to harvest 30+ loads to break even if he is going to come into a tract. Also salvage of damaged timber should be done quickly and completely.

In the afternoon, Mickey Merritt, TFS, stated that Houston recorded only 24.57” of rainfall in 2011, 25” below normal. Houston experienced 45 days of 100° F, 24 of those days in one span. He shared other significant facts and figures to show how devastating the effect was on Houston alone.

*(Continued on page 3)*



From the Southern Fire Exchange Fire Lines Newsletter  
September 2011, Vol, 1—Issue 8, pg 2

## Partner Spotlight:

### American Forest Foundation

The American Forest Foundation (AFF) works on-the-ground with families, teachers, and elected officials to promote stewardship and protect our nation's forest heritage. Project Learning Tree®, AFF's environmental education program, works with tens of thousands of teachers each year. In an era where more and more children are disconnected from nature, the program works to grow the next generation of leaders ready to inherit America's natural legacy. The American Tree Farm System®, AFF's sustainable woodland system, helps nearly 88,000 family forest owners meet stringent third-party standards for managing nearly 26 million acres of forestland. The program's work with landowners is particularly important in the South, where approximately 87 percent of forested lands are privately owned by companies, individuals, and families (see Southern Forests for the Future for more information). In addition, AFF advocates for policy supporting conservation activities—including support for increased opportunities to use prescribed fire on privately owned forests. Specifically, AFF recommends policies that ensure landowners have a prescribed burn plan that addresses potential risks and escape fires; enable controlled burning to be safely used as a management tool on family owned forests, and address public sentiments, smoke management, and air quality concerns; and encourage the use of science based standards for insurance and liability coverage to allow fire application in a safe and cost-effective manner.

Learn more about AFF's policy priorities at [www.forestfoundation.org/currentissues](http://www.forestfoundation.org/currentissues).

Learn more about AFF and their programs at [www.forestfoundation.org](http://www.forestfoundation.org)

## New Best Management Practices Implementation Report Published

Texas Forest Service, Water Resources Program, Lufkin, TX.

Texas Forest Service recently completed the eighth round of Best Management Practices (BMP) Implementation Monitoring. This was done to measure the degree of implementation of BMP guidelines by the forestry community; in other words, how well BMPs are being used in the field. Forestry BMPs are common-sense practices that help reduce soil erosion and protect water quality.

Sites on which forestry operations had occurred were randomly selected and evaluated for the presence, where applicable, and functionality of BMPs. Sites that are monitored are only done with landowner consent.

Overall BMP implementation on sites monitored was 94.1%. This is an all time high since the program began in 1992. National Forest sites had an overall implementation of 98.3%, while industrial sites had a 97.7% implementation rating. Corporate lands (commercial landowners that do not have wood processing facilities) scored 96.7% overall, while family forest owners scored 88.0%.

Implementation of BMPs was statistically higher when:  
the landowner was familiar with BMPs  
the logging contractor had attended formal BMP training  
a forester was involved in the sale or activity  
BMPs were included in the timber sale contract  
the landowner had a forest management plan.

The use of BMPs in Texas is voluntary. Continued use of forestry BMPs is important to protect water, soil, and other natural resources of Texas.

**More Information:** <http://texasforests.tamu.edu/BMP>  
Look under "Publications" for the latest implementation report and earlier reports.

## Websites of Interest



**Nests Under Fire: Does it Matter? Growing-season**

**Burns and Ground-nesting Birds:** [http://www.ncsu.edu/project/cnr/sfe/SFE\\_test/factsheets/2011-5.pdf](http://www.ncsu.edu/project/cnr/sfe/SFE_test/factsheets/2011-5.pdf)

**Southern Forests Future Project** – explore data, maps and other information to highlight key features and trends for southern forests - <http://www.seesouthernforests.org/>

**iTree** – Urban forestry analysis and benefits assessments tool - <http://itreetools.org/>

**Texas Water Resources Institute, Fall, 2011, Tx H20** - <http://twri.tamu.edu/publications/txh20/> - - "Texas Drought: Now and Then". A timeline of drought in Texas, re-water (reclaimed water), drought detective, etc.

**List of public water systems limiting water usage to avoid shortages** -

<http://www.tceq.texas.gov/drinkingwater/trot/droughtw.html>

**Compass** (quarterly science magazine) – Inside the Science, USDA FS, Southern Research Station - <http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/compass/issue16/index.htm>

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Joe Pase, TFS, shared a most striking fact in that tree ring data stretching back over 461 years indicates the 2011 drought was the worst in Texas since 1789.

Justice Jones, TFS, stated that Texas is 171 million acres in size with 25 million residents. There are 63 million acres of forestland in Texas, 95% is owned by companies, privately held or held by businesses. He also mentioned the drastic fire season Texas experienced in 2011. Some 200 TFS employees were called to fire duty, answering 21% of the wildland fire calls. That 21% equals 3,436 of the 30,547 wildland fires or almost 3 million acres of the 3.99 million acres burned and responded to by all fire departments; volunteer, paid city firemen and TFS personnel.

It is sessions such as this that help private citizens appreciate the value of their timber resource and that of the volunteers and profession staff who work so hard for the private landowner.

Information gained from gatherings like this assist the private landowner in better management of their lands. .

## Native American Proverb

**Tell me the facts** and I'll learn.

**Tell me the truth** and I'll believe.

**But tell me a story** and it will live in my heart forever."

*See the article on page 2 for an example*



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Landowner Association**

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**DO NOT FORWARD**

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Check your membership date above. '12 or greater = OK.

**MEETING - SATURDAY - MARCH 10 - 9:30 AM - (See Pg 1)**

**Membership 2012**

The first General Meeting of 2012 is fast approaching which means we will be almost a quarter of the way thru calendar year 2012.

**Have you paid your dues yet?**

**Be sure to check the mailing label above.** If the 2 digit code is **'12 or greater**, then you are up to date. If you are behind, we only ask that you pay for 2012.

Remember you also are fulfilling one of the requirements for earning the timber tax exemption from the Tyler County Appraisal District.

And you are associated with many others when it comes time to represent you with elected leaders: County, State and Federal.

So look at the mailing label above for the 2 digit number. **If is isn't a '12 or greater**, then consider renewing your membership ASAP.

And attend the meetings. This next one, Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, promises to be another terrific program such as the one in September of 2011. Come join us.

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

**For Calendar Year 2012 - TCFLOA**

**Regular Membership:** Private non-industrial owners of five (5) or more acres of land in Tyler Co.  
**Dues:** \$10 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:** \$10 per calendar year per individual or organization.  
Associate Members are non-voting.

**PLEASE BE SURE TO INFORM THE TREASURER OF ADDRESS CHANGES**

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP

PHONE

E-Mail or FAX

Please make checks payable to TCFLOA, and mail to:

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