



# The Dogwood Times

A Publication of the Tyler County Forest Landowner Association

<http://tcforest.org/>

Tyler County Forest  
Landowner Association

Volume 16 Issue 2

May 2014

## Tyler County Forest Landowner Meeting

We would like to extend to you an invitation to attend an informative workshop on **Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup>**, covering topics of interest to landowners such as yourself. This is an opportunity to meet other Tyler County landowners. You'll learn about tree seedling genetics, taxation of timberland, deer management, legislation affecting the forest landowner, forest certification programs, protection of water and soil, and more.

There is no charge or obligation for attending this meeting. Lunch is provided free of charge thanks to the SFISM Implementation Committee.

All we ask is that you RSVP by Wednesday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, by calling the Texas A&M Forest Service office in Kountze: (409) 246-2484.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m., with refreshments provided. Speakers will start at 9:00 a.m. The location is the Tyler County Extension Office, 201 Veterans Way, Woodville, TX.

CEUs will be offered for Pro Loggers and SAF Certified Foresters.

Sincerely,  
Texas A&M Forest Service  
Texas Forestry Association  
Tyler County Forest Landowners Association

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### ELECTIONS 2014

At the September Meeting, the TCFLOA will hold their biennial elections for Officers and Directors of the Association's Board.

The By-Laws state that a person may only serve two terms (4 years) as President. All other Officers and Directors may serve continuously until retirement or replaced.

A Nominating Committee presented a slate of officers and directors at the last general meeting. When elected they serve for a two year period.

If an officer or director asks for help on a committee; please consider assisting.

## CALENDAR—2014

June 14—Forest Landowner meeting (see above) at the Tyler County Extension Office, 201 Veterans Way, Woodville, Texas.

August 16—TCFLOA Board of Directors meeting and field trip (TBA) starting at 9:30AM at the Tyler County Extension Office, 201 Veterans Way, Woodville, Texas. Association members are welcome to attend.

September 20—Tyler County Forest Landowner General Meeting, 9:30 AM, at the Tyler County Extension Office, 201 Veterans Way, Woodville, Texas.

October 21-23—Texas Forestry Association Annual Conference in Lufkin, Texas.



## ***Genome Sequencing of the Loblolly Pine Completed*** – *UC Davis News and Information*

Thanks to researchers, we can expect improved varieties of the loblolly pine and a better understanding of the evolution and diversity of plants. Their findings will also help scientists understand more about disease resistance in pines. For example, scientists from the Forest Service Southern Institute for Forest Genetics, using molecular understanding of genetic resistance, identified a potential gene for resistance to fusiform rust.

Genome sequencing (the way researchers figure out the order of DNA bases in the genetic material of an organism) for the loblolly pine has been completed. This genome is about seven times larger than the human genome and is the biggest and most complete conifer sequenced and then published so far.

The loblolly pine is considered to be the most commercially important tree species in the United States and the source of most American paper products. Sonny Ramaswamy, Director of USDA’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture, which funded the research, said that these findings about the loblolly pine will take on greater importance in the search for new sources of biomass and ways to sequester carbon and mitigate climate change.

Those involved in this research effort included scientists from University of California at Davis, Johns Hopkins University, University of Maryland, Indiana University at Bloomington, Texas A&M University, Children’s Hospital Oakland Research Institute, and Washington State University. The work was supported in part by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Institute of food and Agriculture through the Agriculture and food Research Initiative.

\* \* \*

## ***Planting Texas with Native Species to Save Time, Money & Water*** – *TCEQ (Texas Commission on Environmental Quality)*

Plants that are native to Texas aren't only beautiful; they typically require less water and maintenance, and fewer pesticides and fertilizers, saving you time and money. The deep root systems of many native plants increase the soil's capacity to store water and reduce runoff. Native plants also attract a variety of birds and butterflies, by providing diverse habitats and food sources.

Texas native plants form the backbone of yards and gardens that support wildlife because native plants attract more insects, which are a food source for birds and other wildlife. And unlike many non-native plants, native plants are hardy, less susceptible to pests and diseases and unlikely to become invasive. The great variety of plants native to any Texas region gives gardeners options that work well in any type of garden design.

Whether you’re creating a hummingbird habitat, a colorful flower garden, or just want to save money on your water bill, plan to use Texas native plants when designing and planting your spring yard and garden. Check the following websites to find out how you can help “Take Care of Texas” by planting with natives. See more information at: <http://takecareoftexas.org/do-your-part/yard>.

Other websites on this subject that may interest you:

- Wildscapes Backyard Habitat Program – Texas Parks & Wildlife – [http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/wild/wildlife\\_diversity/wildscapes/](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/wild/wildlife_diversity/wildscapes/)
- Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center – <http://wildflower.org/whynatives/>
- Texas Native Trees – <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/ornamentals/natives/>
- Texas A&M Urban Landscape Guide – <http://urbanlandscapeguide.tamu.edu>
- Texas Tree Planting Guide – Texas A&M Forest Service – Question 4, check “Is a Texas native” - <http://texastreeplanting.tamu.edu/CustomSelector.aspx>.



## President's Corner

On April 24<sup>th</sup>, TCFLOA President Betty Zimmerman, TFA Executive Director Ron Hufford, and TFA members Dr. and Mrs. Jerry Marcontell and Bob Harper met with Representative Kevin Brady to express concerns about Representative Dave Camp's draft tax reform legislation. The legislation proposes changing the way timber operating costs are deducted, changing the timber revenue from capital gains to income, and removing the deduction for reforestation costs. It also eliminates the ability for Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) to categorize timber as real estate rather than inventory. I am so strong a supporter of tax simplification that, quite frankly, I was not initially comfortable defending what some might call tax breaks for the timber industry – even though they benefit me personally. However, studying the issues and learning how existing tax regulations have shaped our current timber industry's financial structure created a conundrum for me.

The current federal tax impact on forestry is so complex that unraveling it could have serious negative impacts on the entire timber industry. While most timberland is owned by individuals, the industry's financial model is dependent on the economies of scale provided by the multi-thousand acre REIT holdings. We private tree farm owners piggy-back that model.

Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) are allowed to categorize timber as real estate rather than inventory, which reduces their taxes significantly. However, the tax code is specifically written such that private tree farmers and companies like Temple Inland (now owned by Georgia-Pacific) are not allowed to categorize timber as real estate. The discrepancy in the tax structure contributed to Temple Inland's decision to sell its timberland. There is no going backwards. If the REIT's tax incentive is eliminated, it is unclear to me how the REIT's would react and how the subsequent events would impact the US timber industry. It could be devastating.

Kevin Brady understands all of the above and stated that to simplify the federal tax code, every industry would have to contribute something. He then asked us to prioritize all our issues – independent of those

of the REITs. We listed having timber sales categorized as capital gains as the most important issue with deductions for reforestation costs and reporting operating costs in the year occurred as second and third.

No one expects Camp's proposed tax changes to be adopted any time soon, but it is important that the timber industry's issues and concerns be noted early in the process. We will keep you informed as we continue to monitor tax reform legislation.

*Betty Zimmerman*

## TCFLOA Awards \$1,000 Scholarship

Hunter Scoggins was awarded the Tyler County Landowner Association's first \$1,000 student scholarship. Hunter graduated from Woodville High School this year and will be attending Texas A&M University, majoring in Biology. He hopes to "become a successful biologist with my own hunting ranch and outfitter service." The Scholarship Committee wishes success to all the students who applied and looks forward to offering another scholarship next year—which is available to students enrolled in college as well as to students graduating from high school.

## Websites of Interest



*Dozer & Tracker – K9 Arson Investigators* - <http://tfsarsondogs.tamu.edu/index.html>

*An Old Tree Doesn't Get Taller, But Bulks Up Like a Bodybuilder* - <http://www.npr.org/2014/01/16/262479807/old-trees-grow-faster-with-every-year>

*Homestead Exemptions Take a Bite out of Taxes* - <http://recenter.tamu.edu/pdf/2054.pdf>

*Forest Management Information Sheets* - <http://texasforests.tamu.edu/main/article.aspx?id=16879>



**Tyler County Forest  
Landowner Association**

C/O Bill Tetley, Treasurer  
3607 Gary Ave  
Nederland, TX 77627-7145  
Phone: 409-722-8974

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Forest Landowner Association  
<http://tcforest.org/>

**DO NOT FORWARD**

**OFFICERS & DIRECTORS**

Pres: Betty Zimmerman 409-200-1452  
<Betty.zimmerman@hughes.net>  
VP: Sarah Reinemeyer 409-837-9751  
<sreinemeyer@yahoo.com>  
Sect: Jeffrey Parker 409-466-1001  
<betty.zimmerman@hughes.net>  
Treas: Bill Tetley 409-722-8974  
<tetley.wr@juno.com>  
Dir: Jack Clark 409-283-5852  
Dir: Deanna Turner 409-781-2766  
<deannaturm@netzero.net>  
Dir: Ken Turner 832-381-0392  
<ken.turner1957@gmail.com>  
Dir: Charles Zimmerman 409-200-1451  
<charles.zimmerman@hughes.net>

Check your membership date above. '14 or greater = OK.

**LANDOWNER MEETING—Sat, June 14, 2014 - 9:00 AM, Woodville, TX**

**Membership 2014**

Spring is here, the flower are blooming, birds are chirping and we have an extra hour of daylight.

So have you thought to pay your 2014 dues? Remember we have some terrific meetings, like the one coming in a couple of weeks. And this issue of the NL offers all sorts of interesting and useful information, too.

**Be sure to check the mailing label above.** If the 2 digit code is **'14 or greater**, then you are up to date. If you are behind, we only ask that you pay for 2014.

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

So look at the mailing label above for the 2 digit number. **If it isn't a '14 or greater**, then take care of that matter now while it is on your mind.

And attend the meeting, **Saturday, June 14, Tyler County Extension Office, 9:30 AM.**

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

**For Calendar Year 2014 - 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:

TCFLOA, 298 County Road 2152; Woodville, TX 75979-9001