



The Dogwood Times

A Publication of the Tyler County Forest Landowner Association

<http://tcforest.org/>

Tyler County Forest
Landowner Association

Volume 18 Issue 1

Spring 2016

Tyler County Dogwood Festival and TCFLOA Dogwood Reception—April 2

The Dogwood Festival is a celebration of springtime when the dogwood trees are in full blossom in the area. Starting at 9AM in the downtown district, there will be many booths displaying arts and crafts, an exhibition of motorcycles and antique cars, and a variety of food vendors. Your TCFLOA will be distributing dogwood seedlings for planting. At 2PM The Dogwood Queen's Parade starts featuring entries from all over the county as well as the near by Alabama Coushatta Tribe of Texas. This is a great event for the entire family but you may want to bring additional folding chairs for the parade.

Starting at 5PM you and your guests are invited to attend our first TCFLOA members Dogwood Reception at the public library reading room located two blocks from town center. We will be serving wine, beer, coffee, and appetizers. See the insert in this newsletter for more information.

General Membership Meeting—May 14

The next General Meeting of TCFLOA is scheduled for **SATURDAY, May 14th, 9:30AM in the Tyler County Extension Office, 201 Veterans Way, Woodville.** The Extension Office is located on the short side street across from the Brookshire's Store on US 69 South. There is plenty of parking available.

The Program Committee is working on several topics that may include making earth swimming ponds, conservation programs and family trusts, timber tax exemptions, and other possible topics.

CALENDAR

April 2, 2016, Saturday—Tyler County Dogwood Festival in Woodville, Texas. TCFLOA will be giving out dogwood tree seedlings at our booth next to the courthouse. A TCFLOA membership reception follows from 5-7PM.

May 14, 2016—TCFLOA Spring General Membership Meeting, 9:30AM, at the Tyler County Extension Office, 201 Veterans Way, Woodville, Texas.

August 2016—TCFLOA Board of Directors Meeting and tour. Date, time, and tour arrangements to be announced. Association members are welcome to attend.

September 2016—TCFLOA General Membership Meeting. Agenda to be announced later. We will have election of officers for the 2017-2018 term.

October 2016—Texas Forestry Association Annual Conference, Nacogdoches, TX, www.texasforestry.org.

Inside this issue:

<i>Websites of Interest</i>	2
<i>TCFLOA Scholarship</i>	2
<i>German Pellets Mill</i>	2
<i>Longleaf Assistance Program</i>	2
<i>Wild Hogs</i>	3
<i>Rainfall Totals</i>	4

THANK YOU!

For 2015 our paid membership totaled 175 for the year—a record high! As of March 1 we stand at 99 members so far for 2016. This same time last year we stood at 131—we are presently down 32 members compared to last year at this time.

Your active membership covers the expense of mailing the quarterly newsletter, supports our website, covers operating expenses of our general association meetings, and funds scholarships when the funds are available.



Websites of Interest



Texas A&M Forest Service Information Portal
<http://www.texasforestinfo.com>

National Timber Tax Website
<http://www.timbertax.org/>

Become a TFA Member Today!!!
<http://texasforestry.org>

TCFLOA Offering \$1,500 Scholarship

TCFLOA is accepting applications for university scholarships for Tyler County high school graduates, TCFLOA members, members children and grandchildren, who are majoring in Forestry or Forestry related degrees.

The recipient will be an honorary member of TCFLOA for the year that the scholarship is awarded.

See the **enclosed application** for more details.

Woodville German Pellets Mill

Jason Claborn, Safety & Environmental Manager at German Pellets, presented an overview of the German Pellets plant's safety program to the Tyler County Local Emergency Planning Committee on Thursday, January 21, 2016.

Jason described the high risk areas at the German Pellet Plant in Woodville and what is being done to mitigate those risks and suppress incidents. He recognized that the plant's startup plan was inadequate and the facility has learned a lot in the past three years of operation.

To reduce the excess buildup of dry materials that are susceptible to ignition, German Pellets has increased the clean-out schedule from 2 to 4 times a

year. The volume of high-pressure water available on-site has been increased and there is now a fire truck on-site. Additional fire mitigation equipment, procedures and response capabilities are in various stages of implementation.

The wood pellets produced at the Woodville mill will hold a flame for 6 hours and are considered a green energy product in Germany. The pellets are produced almost exclusively from pine chips. The bark is removed from logs and used for heat and energy in the manufacturing process. The mill is currently throttled to 50% capacity to match the flow of wood into the facility (*In January 2016 the woodlands were very wet—editor*).

Jason explained that the small volume of particles emitted from burning bark is filtered by a wet electrostatic precipitator that removes the dust and smoke. The vapor we see from the smoke stack is steam – not smoke.

The pellets are transported by truck to silos in Port Arthur where they are then loaded by telescopic booms onto barges and shipped to Europe where they are used the way we use propane.

German Pellets at the time of the meeting was constructing a new facility at Urania, a town in northern Louisiana near Ruston. Safety features learned at the Woodville Plant are being incorporated into the initial construction plans and the wood pellets from that mill will also be transported by truck to Port Arthur, Texas.

Since the January meeting we have been informed that the Woodville plant is now the only German Pellet facility in operation. We learned that the parent company in Germany is in financial reorganization.

Texas Longleaf Conservation Assistance Program

Texas A&M Forest Service
www.tfsweb.tamu.edu/longleaf

Private landowners in Hardin, Jasper, Newton, Polk and Tyler counties may now apply for funding to help sustain, enhance and restore longleaf pine on their property.

(continued on page 3)



Wild Hogs

Have you noticed mature trees, especially along your stream-sides, which have been aggressively rubbed or even debarked about one to two feet from the ground? The damage may have been done by wild hogs using the trees as scratching and scent marking posts. The intense rubbing can damage bark layers, leaving the tree susceptible to harmful insects and pathogens.

Dr. Billy Higginbotham, Texas A & M AgriLife Extension Professor, spoke at the Feral Hog Workshop in Woodville on January 28, 2016. Because our feral hogs are inbred with wild Eurasian Hogs imported for hunting, Dr. Higginbotham refers to the population here as wild hogs.

Deer and wild hogs share the same habitat in Tyler County and a significant amount of deer food supplement is consumed by wild hogs helping to increase the population. To exclude hogs from your deer feeders, you may install an electric fence that stops hogs while low enough for deer to step over it. Or, construct a net wire fence 28 - 34 inches high, which will stop the hogs while allowing the deer to leap over it. For strength, the fence T-posts should be no more than 5 feet apart.

Wild hogs may be shot year-round in Texas -- even at night or from an aircraft. About the only restrictions are that you cannot shoot from boats, motorized vessels, public roads or public right-of-ways. A hunting license is required unless you own the land or are an agent for the landowner of the land on which you are hunting. If you do hunt at night, Brandon Mosley, one of Tyler County's two game wardens, requests that you give him a courtesy call ahead of time to let him know your plans. This will assist him if your neighbors become alarmed by your activities and call him during the night.

While no toxins are currently approved for controlling wild hogs in the United States, sodium nitrite (not sodium nitrate) is being investigated by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in Kerrville, Texas. Sodium nitrite (NaNO_2) is an inorganic compound that is commonly used in medicine, the food industry, and industrial chemistry. It is already being used to reduce the hog population in Australia and has the potential for being a safe and effective control of wild hogs here. The investigation in Kerrville is focused on a delivery system that will be effective against wild hogs without having negative impacts on other resources.

The best approach to reducing the wild hog population at this time is trapping. Once captured, hogs may be killed, slaughtered, moved to a slaughter facility, moved to a permitted hunting facility, or moved to an approved holding facility. Live hogs may be transported within 7 days of capture and sold to one of the 100 Texas Approved Feral Swine Holding Facilities listed at http://www.tahc.state.tx.us/animal_health/swine/FeralSwineFacilities.pdf. The list includes facilities in Polk, Angelina and Hardin Counties. Applications to operate a feral swine holding facility may be obtained by contacting the nearest Texas Animal Health Commission, TAHC, office listed at http://www.tahc.state.tx.us/agency/TAHC_RegionalOfficeMap.pdf.

* * *

(Texas Longleaf—continued from page 2)

Funding is available through the Forestland Stewards Initiative to assist landowners with costs associated with site preparation, tree planting, prescribed burning and forest stand improvement activities (e.g. mid rotation herbicide application, mulching, etc.). As part of this initiative, the Texas Longleaf Pine Implementation Team plans to restore 1,000 acres of longleaf while enhancing almost 5,000 acres of existing longleaf in the Big Thicket area of Southeast Texas. Landowners interested in restoring and/or enhancing longleaf pine on their property can apply for financial assistance at www.tfsweb.tamu.edu/longleaf or by contacting their local Texas A&M Forest Service office or by calling (979) 458-6650. The Forestland Stewards Initiative is a partnership between the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, International Paper and United States Department of Agriculture.



C/O Charles Zimmerman
298 County Road 2152
Phone: 409-200-1451
charles.zimmerman@hughes.net

A Publication of the Tyler County Forest Landowner
Association
<http://tcforest.org/>

**OFFICERS & DIRECTORS
2015-2016**

Pres: Sarah Reinemeyer
VP: Jeffrey Parker
Sect: Brianne Parker
Treas: Charles Zimmerman
Dir: Betty Zimmerman (past President)
Dir: Jack Clark
Dir: DeAnna Turner
Dir: Dr. Jay Fish

Rainfall Totals - Tyler Co. Emergency Management Weather Division

	December (inches)	January (inches)	February (inches)
Chester	2.84	4.82	0.81
Colmesneil (4E)	6.86	1.93	2.01
Fred	6.73	5.21	0.96
Spurger	4.92	4.60	1.03
Warren (5SSE)	6.57	3.31	1.17
Woodville	6.45	2.11	2.29

Note: When the official rain gauge is located outside the town, i.e., "(4E)" after Colmesneil, see above, means 4 miles east of town.

Membership 2016

Be sure to check the two digit code on the mailing label.

Send your renewal check to the treasurer at the address on the membership form. Use the form to join TCFLOA or update your information.

Note that we are asking for your e-mail address. This will allow us to get time sensitive information on programs, conferences, workshops, weather, or fire situations. We will **NOT** give your address to any other group, people, advertisers, etc. This information is for your board members and newsletter editor **only**.

Look at the address label on the envelope to check your membership status—if the year number after your name is not **16** or greater, then consider renewing your membership.

Charles Zimmerman—editor

MEMBERSHIP FORM
For Calendar Year 2016 - 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.

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 TCFLOA, 298 County Road 2152, Woodville, TX 75979