



# The Dogwood Times

A Publication of the Tyler County Forest Landowner Association

<http://tcforest.org/>

Tyler County Forest  
Landowner Association  
(TCFLOA)

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## Colmesneil Graduate receives TCFLOA Scholarship

Blaine Turner was awarded the Tyler County Forest Landowner Association's \$1,000 scholarship for 2017. Blaine is a graduate from Colmesneil High School this year and will be attending Stephen F. Austin State University majoring in Forestry. His plans are to work for a forestry consulting firm after graduating from SFA and eventually own his own firm.

The scholarship committee wishes success to all the students who applied and looks forward to offering another scholarship in the future. Scholarships are offered to Tyler County high school graduates, TCFLOA members, their children and grandchildren, who are majoring in Forestry or Forestry related degrees.

## TCFLOA General Meeting Summary

The Tyler County Forest Landowner Association met at 9:30 AM, Saturday, April 29, 2017, in Woodville.

Tyler County Chief Appraiser, David Luther, explained the 2017 timberland tax valuations for which you probably received your appraisal this month. Timberland valuations are calculated each year by the State Comptroller's Office using a formula defined by the 1978 State Legislature. One of the factors in the formula is the five-year average stumpage price for sawtimber and pulpwood. While the stumpage prices for 2017 were lower than the prices for 2016, the five-year average price for 2017 is higher than the five-year average price for 2016. This is because the unusually low prices recorded in 2011 are now outside the five-year formula range. This "increase" in stumpage prices along with other  
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## CALENDAR

**June 16, 2017, Friday**—Outstanding tree farm walking tour. Texas Forestry Association awarded the 2017 Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year to Dr. Jay and Sally Fish of Tyler County. REGISTRATION IS CLOSED (FULL).

**August 19, 2017 Saturday**—TCFLOA Board of Directors Meeting, 9:30AM in Woodville, Texas. See [tcforest.org](http://tcforest.org) for location. Members are encouraged to attend.

**September 9, 2017, Saturday**—TCFLOA Fall General Meeting, 9:30AM, Tyler County Extension Office, 201 Veterans Way, Woodville, Texas. Information on the program will be announced in our next newsletter. You may also refer to our website [tcforest.org](http://tcforest.org) for the latest information.

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## THANK YOU!

As of June 1 we have 149 members that are in good standing for 2017 by paying their dues. Year-end 2016 totaled 166 members in good standing. Our all time high was 2015 with 171 members.

Your active membership covers the expense of mailing the quarterly newsletter to you, supports our website, programs for two general meetings, and awards scholarships when funds are available.



(TCFLOA General Meeting Summary—continued from previous page)

factors in the formula effect higher timberland valuations for most landowners. Estimated 2017 taxes per acre in Tyler County are as follows.

	2016	2017	Change	% Change
Pine, Soil Type 1	\$10.44	\$11.20	\$.76	7.3%
Pine, Soil Type 2	6.54	7.09	.55	8.4%
Pine, Soil Type 3	5.16	5.60	.44	8.6%
Pine, Soil Type 4	4.87	5.03	.16	3.2%
Mixed, Soil Type 1	6.94	7.12	.18	2.6%
Mixed, Soil Type 2	4.42	4.48	.05	1.2%
Mixed, Soil Type 3	2.64	2.64	-	0%
Mixed, Soil Type 4	1.78	1.68	(.10)	-5.9%
Hardwood, Soil Type 1	2.72	3.19	.47	17.3%
Hardwood, Soil Type 2	1.15	1.26	.10	9.1%
Hardwood, Soil Type 3	.65	.73	.08	12.0%
Hardwood, Soil Type 4	.13	.13	-	0%

Brady Riche, Woodflow Manager for Roy O Martin Lumber Company, described the new Oriented Strand Board (OSB) facility near Corrigan which will begin operation this fall, providing 165 new jobs for the area and consume 140 truck loads of wood a day — 7 days a week. The plant will also be buying wood from Tyler county. Mr. Riche showed a video of how the wood would flow through the new plant.

Jeff Cravey, Genetic Investment Advisor for International Forest Company, explained the advantages of container seedlings and improved tree genetics. Choice of seedling genetic level can increase per acre revenue from 32% to 55%. The high survival potential of container seedlings permits lowering of the number of seedlings planted per acre. Mr. Cravey emphasized the advantages of planting container grown seedlings vs bare root seedlings. Capitalizing on all opportunities by making the right seedling choice can increase revenues by 68%. Late summer or early fall planting could result in an additional 8-10% increase in yields.

Master Bee Keeper, Scott Martin, highlighted opportunities for landowners. He requested that if you have a problem with bees, call a bee keeper rather than an exterminator to handle the problem. If the bees in your home or building are killed, the remaining cone will deteriorate and the honey will over time flow and damage your walls – and other unwelcome bees will find the honey. A bee keepers’ process removes both the bees and the cone to a new location and the bees typically do not return to your home or building.

Bee keepers are always looking for new locations to place their bee boxes. The location should be in an open area, away from neighbors, and accessible in wet weather conditions. Right of ways, pastures, and tree lines are ideal. Since bees do their work around a short distance from their cone, the ideal location should provide a variety of vegetation and a water source within ¼ mile.

### Websites of Interest



**Texas A&M Forest Service Information Portal**

<http://www.texasforestinfo.com>

**National Timber Tax Website**

<http://www.timbertax.org/>

**Southern Forest Health – Southern Regional Extension Forestry**

[www.southernforesthealth.net](http://www.southernforesthealth.net)

### Feral Cats—[usherp.org](http://usherp.org)~[facebook.com/herpalliance](https://www.facebook.com/herpalliance)

Feral cats are the No. 1 invasive species predator today that threatens US wildlife.

- In 2010 alone, Feral cats killed over 480 million birds in the US.
- At that time, feral cats had already caused the extinction of 33 species of birds in this country.
- By 2020 it is estimated that feral cats will have caused 70 species of birds in the US to be extinct.



### ***The Importance of Forests to Water Resources – Part 3 of 4***

***Hughes Simpson, Texas A&M Forest Service*** (This series is continued from the Winter 2016 issue of *The Dogwood Times*)

Forests are vitally important in providing clean and abundant drinking water for millions of people. While approximately 70 percent of the Earth's surface is covered in water, less than 1 percent of it is considered to be available fresh water. In the United States, two-thirds of our freshwater resources originate on forestlands, producing the cleanest water of any land use. Gifford Pinchot, the first Chief of the U.S. Forest Service, clearly understood this relationship, saying "The connection between forests and rivers is like that between father and son. No forests, no rivers."

In much the same way that forests regulate water supply and stream flow, they also help ensure water quality protection. Tree canopies intercept precipitation, reducing the amount and impact of erosion causing rain. The forest floor, made up decomposing vegetation, along with shrubs, forbs, and grasses, hold the soil in place, preventing it from becoming detached and washing into nearby streams, rivers, and lakes during intense storms. Forest soils absorb large amounts of water through a process known as infiltration, preventing floods which can deliver pollutants and harmful debris to our waterways.

Perhaps the most important place to maintain forests is adjacent to water resources. Riparian forests function as "nature's kidneys," slowing down stormwater runoff long enough for sediment, nutrients, and other pollutants to be deposited or absorbed before reaching our waterways. Just like with a coffee filter or kitchen colander, clean water is allowed to flow freely through these areas. Research has shown that maintaining a forest buffer as small as fifty feet along streams and rivers can reduce sediment delivery by 75 – 90% percent. These buffers are just as important in agricultural and urban settings.

Water filtration provided by forests can significantly lower water treatment costs. Monitoring has shown that in-stream total suspended solids (TSS), total dissolved solids (TDS), and turbidity increase as forest cover decreases. Researchers, studying 27 different U.S. water supply systems, found that protecting forestlands within public drinking water supply watersheds can reduce capital, operational, and maintenance costs for drinking water treatment. Reducing forest cover by half, compared to a watershed with 60 percent forest cover, can increase drinking water treatment costs by 97 percent. Forest wetlands can also reduce the cost to treat wastewater. One study found that wetlands were 85 percent less expensive than conventional wastewater systems for every 1,000 gallons treated.

In addition to filtering stormwater runoff, riparian forests also stabilize stream banks and provide thermal protection to streams. Shade from tree canopies help lower water temperatures, increasing the dissolved oxygen content in waterbodies and allowing fish to flourish. Many organisms have small tolerances for large variations in water temperature. Increasing the amount of sunlight that reaches the water, and thereby raising water temperature, can lead to substantial changes in the aquatic ecosystem.

As our population continues to grow, increased urbanization will likely lead to significant changes in land use, resulting in impacts to water quality. In the absence of mitigating actions, the conversion of forest lands can have substantial impacts on water quality.

Urbanization results in increases in impervious cover (buildings and associated roads, sidewalks, parking lots, driveways, and rooftops). Development that removes forest vegetation converts permeable forest soils to impermeable surfaces. As rain falls on these areas, runoff water mixes with pollutants, such as oil, gas, and other automobile fluids, and is delivered to streams through the storm drain network. Homeowners, wanting to live near waterbodies, continue to maintain manicured lawns right up to the waterfront. Landscape chemicals, including fertilizers and pesticides, are able to flow directly into streams, lakes, and rivers when forested buffers are not maintained.

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*(the Importance of Forests to Water Resources—continued from previous page)*

Auburn University has documented these water quality impacts, referred to as the “urban stream syndrome.” For years, researchers have studied the hydrologic changes that result when forested watersheds transitioned to urban areas near Columbus, Georgia. In addition to the traditional pollutants mentioned above, emerging concerns are developing with the increasing prevalence of bacteria and personal care products (deodorants, perfumes, pharmaceuticals, and medical waste) being found in urban streams. While more research is needed, these pollutants can potentially be a threat to human health.

Forest conversion, regardless of the type of new land use, results in substantial changes in the quality of adjacent and downstream waters. The importance of conservation and integrated management of our forestlands cannot be understated, and will be critical to meeting our future water demands.

\* \* \*

### ***New Reports Reinforce the Value of Sustainably Managed Private Working Forests National Alliance of Forest Owners, Washington D.C.***

The National Alliance of Forest Owners (NAFO) released two reports, June 29, 2016, confirming the ongoing relationship between strong markets for wood products and sustainable forestry in the U.S.

“The reports reveal that the more wood we use, the more trees forest owners grow, and that has a positive impact on everyone, especially in communities where working forests are the cultural and economic foundation. These forests support 2.4 million jobs nationwide and thousands of wood-derived products that improve the quality of our lives,” said Dave Tenny, NAFO President and CEO.

The reports study the 32 most forested states, representing 91.3% of all working forests in the contiguous U.S., 74% of which are privately-owned. *United States Forest Inventory and Harvest Trends on Privately-Owned Timberlands* is a first-of-its-kind national report detailing annual forest growth and removal data by product, species and region and summarizes this data at a national level. The report reveals that private forest owners:

- Grow 40% more wood than they remove.
- In the South, they are growing 41% more.
- In the North, they are growing 32% more.
- In the Pacific Coast/Northwest, they are growing 42% more.
- Remove a small percentage of the total inventory of growing trees.
- In the South, removals were equivalent to 2.9% of growing trees
- In the North, removals were equivalent to 1.2% of growing trees.
- In the Pacific Coast/Northwest, removals were equivalent to 2.0% of growing trees.

“The report makes clear that forest owners are harvesting only a small portion of the trees they grow to maintain an abundance of trees,” Tenny said. “Strong markets for wood products—including energy here and abroad—help keep these forests healthy, productive and able to provide numerous environmental benefits such as clean air and water, and habitat for wildlife. Public policy has long recognized this positive relationship. As a result, forest owners are growing 40 percent more wood than they are harvesting.”

NAFO also released *The Economic Impact of Privately-Owned Forests in the United States*, the second update to NAFO’s inaugural report published in 2009. The report revealed on a national level that private working forests support:

- 2.4 million jobs
- \$99 billion in payroll
- \$281 billion in sales

Both reports were produced by Forest2Market, a company providing market data and analytics to participants in the wood supply chain.

For more information you visit The National Alliance of Forest Owners website: [www.nafoalliance.org](http://www.nafoalliance.org)

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## ***Prescribed Burning Fact Sheet—Texas A&M Forest Service***

Fire has shaped the environment of Texas for thousands of years, and in many cases, wildlife have adapted to habitat conditions created by fire. With the help of Native American Texas Indians, it is estimated that some of the East Texas pine forests used to burn every two to three years. However, it is now often the case that land in East Texas has gone without such fire for decades. Careful introduction and management of fire by way of prescribed burning can benefit the land. It is likely that prescribed burning can help landowners accomplish many of the objectives they have set for their land.

Prescribed burning has the ability to encourage pine and reduce hardwoods and shrubs in East Texas uplands bringing both an individual stand and ecosystem back to historic and pre-historic conditions. This has been shown to benefit many game, non-game and rare animal species. However, the benefit to landowners can be better long-term economic return, increased opportunities for recreation, better aesthetics, and reduced risk from uncontrolled wildfire.

### **Benefits:**

- Controls low quality hardwoods and shrubs that compete with pines.
- Prepares sites for future tree planting or natural regeneration.
- Increases sunlight to forest floor, producing more grass, flowering annuals plants and seeds for wildlife.
- Improves visibility and access for marking and harvesting timber.
- Most nutrients are returned to the soil in a more readily available form for plants
- Increases edge effects many species use when seeking travel routes, feeding spots or shelter.
- Improves visibility and access for forest recreation.
- May be used in combination with chemical or mechanical treatments to often enhance the results.

In understory burning, fire intensity must be carefully controlled. It must be adequate to consume unwanted dead brush and litter, and to either kill or to only renew the understory vegetation, depending upon the objective, while not intense enough to kill or damage the overstory pines. Although southern yellow pines have thick bark with good insulating qualities, the roots and the growing tips of the pines are always vulnerable to hot fire. Low to moderate flame heights and a steady wind within the stand are often desired to keep heat from rising into the crowns. Cooler temperatures also allow more heat to be generated at flame level before killing temperatures are reached in the tree canopy. Generally, needle scorch up to one-third of the crown will cause little damage or loss of growth. Adequate moisture in the uppermost layer of soil is also needed to prevent fire from roasting the fine roots, which feed and support the trees. This moisture is critical in previously unburned stands as the fine roots may have grown up into the above-ground pine litter. In controlling fire intensity, fuel loading, fuel moisture, temperature, relative humidity, wind, and burning technique must all be considered.

Various burning techniques are used to get the fire intensity needed in a particular stand with the weather conditions existing that day.

Prescribed burning should always be done by a certified burn vendor. An acceptable burning plan should first be formulated with appropriate documentation prior to conducting the burn. This plan should detail all information regarding the planned prescribed fire and should be followed as closely as possible. Fuel dryness, wind speed and direction, humidity, topography, fuels, and smoke management all play a part in conducting a safe and successful burn. Tree mortality and wildfire escape can occur in cases of high fire intensity. Before a prescribed burn is conducted, neighbors, the local fire department and the Texas A&M Forest Service should be informed.

For more information go to: [tfsweb.tamu.edu](http://tfsweb.tamu.edu)



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***Rainfall Totals (inches)—Tyler Co. Emergency  
Management Weather Division***

	March	April	May
Chester	1.82	4.83	7.77
Colmesneil (4E)	5.33	3.23	10.63
Fred	1.69	9.94	11.16
Spurger	4.08	6.07	12.46
Warren (5SSE)	3.11	2.89	14.96
Woodville	1.13	3.75	10.48

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

**OFFICERS & DIRECTORS  
2017-2018**

- Pres: Elizabeth Parker
- VP: Josh Lempert
- Sect: Jeffrey Parker
- Treas: Charles Zimmerman
- Dir: Betty Zimmerman
- Dir: Jack Clark
- Dir: Dr. Jay Fish
- Dir: Sarah Reinemeyer (past President)

**Membership 2017**

Check your memberships status for 2017. Look at the address label on the envelope for your status—if the year number after your name is not **17** or greater, then consider renewing your membership.

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**.

At the January board of directors meeting, a discussion about funds for program expenses led to a decision to raise TCFLOA annual dues from \$10 to \$15 starting in year 2018. This is the first dues increase since the organization was chartered in 1991.

*Charles Zimmerman—editor*

**MEMBERSHIP FORM**  
**For Calendar Year 2017 - 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