



# 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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## TCFLOA General Meeting Summary

The Tyler County Forest Landowners Association (TCFLOA) met for the Fall General Meeting on Saturday, September 15, 2018 in Woodville, with forty members and guests in attendance. Presentations were made by Kent Evans (Coordinator, Texas Longleaf Implementation Team), Tyler Wayland (Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute) and Sheila Jones (Owner, Trouble Shooters Tax Consultants).

**Longleaf Pine Initiative.** Kent Evans discussed industrial timberland owners' conversion of selected loblolly stands to longleaf stands, along with cost share and incentive programs available for landowners. Tyler County is in the historic longleaf pine range and is also in one of the highest lightning frequency areas in North America. The frequent lightning-initiated fires not only enabled the longleaf pines to thrive, they also retarded the growth of native yaupon. In 1882, the newly completed railroad from Rockland to Beaumont enabled timber companies to more easily harvest the forests, creating several short-lived boom towns. At that time yaupon shrubs among the longleaf pines were small and sparse. Today, most of the newly planted forests in Tyler County are loblolly pines – and the yaupon approach tree size (only a slight exaggeration). Kent listed several reasons to convert from loblolly back to native longleaf pines.

- Longleaf pines are more resistant to fire, as was observed during Texas' 2011 and 2015 wildland fires.
- Longleaf pines are more resistant to the Southern Pine Bark Beetle (SPB).
- Longleaf pines, depending on their age and diameter, are more resistant to damage by high winds, as observed during the destructive Rita and Ike hurricanes that targeted East Texas in 2005 and 2008. Sparse stands of all species are subject to wind damage; e.g., following a heavy thinning operation.
- Federal funds and coaching resources are available for planting longleaf pine seedlings.

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## CALENDAR

**January 12, 2019, Saturday**—TCFLOA Board of Directors meeting, 9:00AM, Neches Room at the Tyler County Extension Office, 201 Veterans Way, Woodville, Texas. The focus of the meeting is to plan for programs and finalize the 2019 calendar. Association members are encouraged to attend.

**March 23, 2019, Saturday**—TCFLOA Spring General Meeting, 9:30 AM, Tyler County Extension Office, 201 Veterans Way, Woodville, Texas. Tentative topics include: "Timber & Forestry Update", "Beekeeping for Forest Landowners", and "Pond Management". The spring newsletter will have more information.

**August 10, 2019, Saturday**—TCFLOA Board of Directors meeting, 9:00AM, Neches Room at the Tyler County Extension Office, 201 Veterans Way, Woodville, Texas. This is a planning meeting. Association members are welcome.

**September 21, 2019, Saturday**—TCFLOA Fall General Meeting, 9:30 AM, Tyler County Extension Office, 201 Veterans Way, Woodville, Texas. Tentative topics include: "Wildlife Management" and "Landowner Roads and Water Crossings". The fall newsletter will have more information.

## Inside this Issue:

**Old Beef Trail** 2

**Softwood Lumber Prices** 3

**Sept., Oct., Nov. Rainfall Totals** 4

• On average, a mature tree can absorb 36% of the rainfall it comes in contact with.

• More than half of U.S. drinking water originates in forests.

• One square kilometer of forest can house more than 1,000 species.

• In one year, an acre of forest can absorb twice the CO2 produced by the average car's annual mileage.

• Naturally occurring fires, as well as controlled burns, clear out underbrush and help prevent catastrophic fires.

• One mature tree absorbs carbon dioxide at a rate of 48 pounds/year.

*Source: Texas A&M Forest Service, 2018*



(TCFLOA General Meeting Summary—continued from page 1)

Yaupon, in addition to several other species, native and invasive, compete with pine trees for water and nutrients. To control the competition, use herbicides and/or controlled burning. Some use a shredder but that can cause intensive re-sprouting. Controlled burns executed in summer will kill the yaupon up to 90%, which is much more effective than other times of the year. Kent recommended that the first burn on new longleaf pines be conducted in the dormant season at 12 to 14 months. Be sure the root collar diameter (RCD) is at least 1/2 to 1” in diameter with good soil moisture. Follow-up burns could be at 18 to 36-month intervals. Fall burns in a longleaf stand can be problematic and are not recommended. Do not burn if the trees are less than a year old, the trees exhibit poor vigor, the root collar diameter is less than 1/2 inch, or the candles are exposed. Kent mentioned banded herbicide applications, in which herbicides are sprayed directly over the crop row for a specified width.

While there are no financial growth and yield models for longleaf pine in Texas, Kent projected good yield based only on interviews with knowledgeable foresters that include harvesting 30-40 year old longleaf pines for poles. He encourages tree farmers to work with their professional forestry consultant to obtain federal cost shares through the Texas A&M Forest Service and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Access [www.txlongleaf.org](http://www.txlongleaf.org) for more information.

**East Texas Native Grass Seeds.** Tyler Wayland followed with a longleaf-related topic of natural grasses for East Texas and gave an update on local seed production and the importance of ground cover for industry and for private tree farmers. He is an Assistant Director with the Texas Native Seeds program and is helping lead the East Texas Natives project. Tyler is working to locate and collect seeds from important native plant species in the region for evaluation. Selected seeds will be increased for commercial production and then made available for restoration efforts.

Tyler discussed valuable native grass species including Pinehill bluestem, an important species of the Southeastern Gulf Coastal Plains that is native to Tyler County’s historic longleaf pine ecosystem. Pinehill bluestem grass likes well drained soils, is 60% shade tolerant and provides good fuel for controlled burns. Pinehill bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium* var. *divergens*) is also known as Little bluestem but is different from the commercially available Little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium* var. *scoparium*) that grows in prairies. In addition to Pinehill bluestem grass, other plants of interests include pineywoods dropseed, swamp sunflowers, prairie blazingstar, purpletop tridents, longleaf woodoats, silver bluestem, Virginia wildrye, Canada wildrye, and inland sea oats.

Tyler encourages landowners to purchase seeds on a high Pure Life Seed (PLS) basis, which indicates the percentage of seed that is pure, viable and capable of germination. Seed companies currently producing certified seeds released by the Texas Native Seeds program are Douglass King Seeds in San Antonio and Bambert Seed Company in Muleshoe, Texas. Roundstone Native Seeds Company in Kentucky is projected to have seeds available next year. Per Tyler’s request for landowners to participate by providing native seed sources, TCFLOA member Christine Sanders invited Tyler to visit her tree farm which hosts numerous native plants.

**Taxes.** Shelia Jones, a former IRS employee, defined forest-related tax terminology, went over tax schedules and highlighted commonly overlooked expense deductions for landowners.

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***Do you have property on the Old Beef Trail?—Col. Eddie Boxx, USAF (ret)***

As many of you know already, Tyler County is home to significant trails, traces and roads and our TCFLOA Vice President, Col Eddie Boxx, is researching and writing about an east-west route known as the “Old Beef Trail” used by General George A. Custer. Much is known about this flamboyant, controversial and mythical leader. His graduation from West Point as the “goat” – a term of affection by his classmates for having the lowest academic grades (yet still able to graduate), his meteoric rise to general during the Civil War and the defeat at the Battle of Little Bighorn are well documented. Additionally, his fearlessness as a cavalry commander during epic battles such as Bull Run, Antietam and Gettysburg and later as an Indian fighter made him a household name. Custer graced the cover of the most influential publication of his day, *Harper’s* magazine, and even now most Americans are familiar with his signature golden curls, dashing uniforms and tragic death. However, a little known aspect of Custer’s military career included a challenging

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march from Alexandria, Louisiana to Hempstead, Texas after the Civil War ended in 1865 – a journey that took him and his 3,000 troopers through Tyler County. Fortunately, one of Custer’s staff officers maintained a record of the journey, Lt Col Thomas M. Browne, of the Seventh Indiana Volunteer Calvary. His daily entries allow us with plausible certainty to determine the daily marches of Custer and his men. Based on his log, we know General Custer and his men must have spent two days and two nights in northern Tyler County south of the Neches River. We also know the Piney Woods presented a daunting challenge to Custer and his battle-hardened troops. A poorly equipped expedition along with snakes, chiggers, scorpions, centipedes, mosquitos and the August heat presented a trial as equal to their former foe– the Confederate army.

Tyler County’s newspaper “The Booster” will be publishing a 6-part series on Custer’s march and if you know of any swales, crossings or information about the “Old Beef Trail” trail, please let Eddie know.

### ***Softwood Lumber Prices Hit Record Levels—Nana Tian and Aaron Stottlemyer, Texas A&M Forest Service***

You may have heard that softwood lumber prices were at record levels in the first half of 2018. Much like other commodities, lumber prices are determined by supply and demand. In general, when the demand for wood rises, such as when residential construction increases, prices go up. In contrast, if supply increases, such as when timber resources are abundant, price decreases. However, there are several other factors that influence lumber prices, including geographic region, international policy, and inventory, which are explored in this article.

Southern forest industries associated with home construction were substantially affected by the 2008 recession.

The collapse of U.S. housing construction resulted in significant losses for wood product prices and production. More recently, framing lumber composite prices reached \$582 per thousand board feet in June 2018, the highest it has been in the last 10 years. One of the biggest reasons is that lumber demand increased due to home building. Residential construction is the primary driver of demand for wood products in the U.S. and has been steadily recovering since the 2008 recession. Privately-owned housing starts in April were 10.5 percent higher than the previous year, and on track for 1.3 million starts annually, the highest level in 11 years. Likewise, the gross domestic product grew 4.1 percent and wages increased by 2.5 percent during the last quarter, foretelling a continued increase in demand for houses. Moreover, structural damages caused by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma last year have led to rising lumber demand for home rebuilding and repairs.

In addition to the increased demand for softwood lumber, tighter supplies are also playing an important role in rising prices. One key factor is the 20.83 percent tariff levied on Canadian lumber imports by the U.S. Department of Commerce in December 2017. Historically, lumber imports from Canada have accounted for one-third of wood supplies in the U.S. As expected, Canada responded by reducing exports to the U.S. Insect/disease outbreaks (e.g. southern pine beetle) and natural disasters (e.g. hurricanes, drought, wildfire, etc.) can also tighten wood supply. While hurricanes can increase lumber demand, they can also devastate standing timber resources. Hurricane Irma caused losses to Florida’s forest resources valued at \$261 million. In Texas, Hurricane Ike (2008) impacted 612 million cubic feet of commercial timber across 473,000 acres.

Robust lumber markets also contribute to higher prices. The international lumber trade has increased since the 2008 recession due in large part to the strong wood demand in the major markets of Northern Europe, China, and Japan. A recent publication reported 126 million cubic meters of softwood lumber were shipped from Canada, Russia, and Finland to China and the United Kingdom, marking a 50 percent increase since 2008. Responding to these higher prices, total U.S. lumber production reached 8.56 billion board feet in March, the highest level in 10 years.

Landowners may wonder why it appears that stumpage (price for standing timber) is not keeping pace with surging lumber prices. In fact, log prices in East Texas and across the South have been much slower to respond to improved economic conditions. Since 2008, softwood lumber prices have increased by 8 percent, while pine stumpage prices have only increased by 3 percent. In reality, there is only a loose association between lumber and log prices, which will be explored in more detail in a future article.

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

	September	October	November
Chester	7.52	3.90	4.73
Colmesneil (2.3 SE)	12.84	2.99	3.75
Fred	9.70	3.40	8.33
Spurger	9.26	3.22	5.79
Warren (5SSE)	9.14	4.36	2.87
Woodville	7.94	1.94	1.50

*Note: When the official rain gauge is located outside the town, i.e., "(2.3 SE)" after Colmesneil, see above, means 2.3 miles southeast of town.*

**OFFICERS & DIRECTORS  
2019-2020**

- Pres: Josh Lempert
- VP: Col Eddie Boxx
- Sect: Oliver Hensarling
- Treas: Charles Zimmerman
- Dir: Betty Zimmerman
- Dir: Jack Clark
- Dir: Dr. Jay Fish
- Dir: Elizabeth Parker (past President)

**Tyler County Forest Landowner Association (TCFLOA)**

The Tyler County Forest Landowner Association is a non profit organization whose objectives include educating landowners about good forest management and harvesting practices, and keeping landowners up to date on matters affecting timberland operations, taxes and legislative actions.

**MEMBERSHIP FORM**  
**For Calendar Year 2019 - TCFLOA**

**Regular Membership:** Private non-industrial owners of five (5) or more acres of land in Tyler Co. **Dues:** \$15 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:** \$15 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

**Membership 2019**

Check your memberships status for 2019. Look at the address label on the envelope for your status—if the year number after your name is not **19** or greater, then consider renewing your membership.

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**.