



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 Fall General Meeting Notes

Fifty-three members and guests attended the fall general meeting in Woodville on September 17.

Dr. Frank Shockley, former SFA Forestry professor and Texas Forestry Museum Coordinator, presented a historical account of the Civilian Conservation Corp, with an emphasis on its activities in Tyler County.

The Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC), established by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on April 5, 1933, was a work relief program that gave millions of young men employment on environmental projects during the Great Depression. Among other construction projects, the men built water and observation towers on lands purchased by the federal government; then also participated in firefighting.

On June 17, 1933, Camp Leonard Wood (Company 891) was established on abandoned fair grounds near today's Nutrition Center in Woodville, Texas. Single men 17-25 years old were employed for \$30/month, of which they kept \$5 while the remaining \$25 was sent to their parents. In Tyler County, projects included construction of a roadside park named Kirkley Springs on Hwy 287 and nearby there is a road known locally as CC Road.

Per construction projects by Camp Leonard Wood, Eleanor Holderman added, *"In addition to the Dogwood Amphitheater, there was another rock building known as The Rec Hall. It faced N. Reid Street and was in the location now occupied by the Wheat Elementary Annex. It contained one large room with a fireplace, a small kitchen, restrooms, and a covered back porch. We held dances and parties of all kinds there. Civic groups met there to work on projects such as making paper flowers to decorate the Dogwood Festival stage."*

The CCC ended in June 1942, after the US entered WW II.

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Tyler County Forest Museum

Members of TCFLOA have created a Tyler County Forest Museum in the Hamm House at Heritage Village. Sarah Reinemeyer constructed an exhibit which shows the planting-and-harvesting cycle of trees and the exchange of oxygen and carbon dioxide between people and trees. Fred Turner created a platform for the vintage survey equipment displayed. Jonathan Sterling is constructing a saw exhibit. There is a section of a pine tree with a red-cockaded woodpecker cavity and a section of a tree with a beehive inside. If you have an artifact to contribute, please contact Betty Zimmerman at 409-200-1452.

Check with the Museum Store for access.

CALENDAR

January 28, 2023, Saturday—TCFLOA Fall Board of Directors Meeting, 10:30 AM, at the BBQ Pitt in Warren, TX. This is a planning meeting. Association members are welcome to attend. Some of the directors plan to stay for lunch to evaluate the fare for future general meetings.

March, 2023, Saturday—TCFLOA Spring General Meeting. Information on the program will be announced in the Spring Newsletter.

Quarterly—Newsletter, *The Dogwood Times*, published by TCFLOA.

Visit the Tyler County Forest Landowner Association website at tcforest.org for a summary of past presentations, interesting articles, upcoming events, contacts, and the latest news relating to effective forest and land management practices for Tyler County landowners.



(General Meeting Notes—continued from previous page)

Ryan Burns, Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Coordinator at the Texas A&M Forest Service, reported that the late summer wildland fires in Tyler County were caused by lightning strikes. Forest fuels were high during the drought which increased the chance of crown fires that reach the tops of trees.

For firefighters to save a home, accessibility and a defensible space around the structure are essential. Ideally, there should be little to no vegetation within five feet of the home. Beyond that, trees and shrubs should be sparse to deter the spread of a fire.

Understory plants provide fuel loading that increases fire hazard. Yaupon and privet are particularly problematic. Prescribed burning and herbicide treatments reduces the understory. For wildlife, some isolated brush spots should be left intact. It is recommended that a property owner employ an insured, certified prescribe burn specialist.

Fires should be reported to 911. The local fire responders will determine if they need additional resources from the Texas A&M Forest Service. To fight pine forest fires, the Texas A&M Forest Service uses dozers to clear around the fire. The US Forest Service will provide aircraft if needed. During the 2022 summer drought, aircraft were on standby.

Tyler County has a Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Individuals can assess the wildfire risk to their properties at the TEXAS WILDFIRE RISK ASSESSMENT PORTAL provided by the Texas A&M Forest Service. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) provides public education for residents to reduce wildfire risks.

Keith Hatten, Texas Farm Bureau Insurance representative, added that property insurance fire liability may be limited. Property owners should check their policy.

Prevent The Spread of Invasive Pests and Diseases by not Moving Firewood—Texas A&M Forest Service

November 14, 2022—Texas A&M Forest Service urges all Texans, and especially outdoor enthusiasts, to help reduce the spread of oak wilt and invasive insects by taking preventive measures and being knowledgeable when collecting and purchasing firewood.

Texans travel for hunting or camping trips, they may unknowingly be bringing deadly, invasive pests and diseases along through firewood.

“Many devastating, tree-killing pests present in Texas forests live and breed inside firewood,” said Demian Gomez, Texas A&M Forest Service Regional Forest Health Coordinator. “Some wood borers, such as the invasive emerald ash borer and redbay ambrosia beetle, have already caused devastating impacts, practically wiping out entire tree species from some regions of the country.”

The emerald ash borer, present in North Texas, has killed millions of ash trees across the eastern U.S. The redbay ambrosia beetle continues to spread west, killing redbay and sassafras trees along the way. Similarly, native pathogens such as oak wilt, have killed oak trees in Central Texas in epidemic proportions.

Each of these forest pests cause severe ecological and economic impacts over time. While they can spread on their own, accidental transport by humans is one of the main ways they can move greater distances, sometimes quickly jumping state and county lines. Firewood is one of the main ways many of these pests are moved, regardless of how seasoned or old the firewood is. Even wood that looks clean and healthy may still have insect eggs or fungal spores that can start new infestations.

“We can limit the spread of invasive tree pests,” said Gomez. “The best rule of thumb is to burn the firewood close to where it’s bought or picked up.

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Moving firewood can easily introduce insects and diseases to new areas, particularly during hunting and camping seasons.”

For diseases like oak wilt, this is critical. Transporting and storing infected wood from red oaks can spread oak wilt fungal spores to previously uninfected neighborhoods and properties. Because live oaks tend to grow in large, dense groups, oak wilt spreads quickly, and one infected tree can lead to large patches of dead and dying trees.

While firewood is an important commodity in the fall and winter, Texans can help prevent the spread of these pests and diseases by purchasing, collecting and burning firewood locally.

What you need to know about mistletoe—Texas A&M Forest Service (editor note: article was condensed)

Mistletoe is a common parasitic plant to over 30 tree species in North America and 1,300 worldwide.

Mistletoe attaches itself to the tree by a sticky seed carried by a bird or mammal to the new host, but it does not derive all its food from the host tree. Once mistletoe germinates, it develops a root system that penetrates the tree bark, taking important water and nutrients while also producing energy through the photosynthetic process that takes place in the plant’s leaves. This is why mistletoe is specifically considered a hemiparasite – obtaining its food partly from its host and partly making its own. In Texas, tree species affected by mistletoe can include oak, sugarberry, elm, several species of pine in West Texas and more.

It’s unlikely that mistletoe kills trees directly, but tree branches may die as a result of mistletoe infection. Due to the damage it can cause, trees infested with mistletoe should be treated when possible. Pruning is usually the primary method of mistletoe control. When its presence is limited, pruning can be a safe and effective means of eliminating the parasite from the tree. Mistletoe plants mature in two to three years, so mechanically removing the visible portion of the plant before it matures and produces seeds is the most beneficial.

Mistletoe can be toxic if consumed by wildlife or livestock but is typically only an issue if the animal eats large amounts. To learn more about mistletoe, visit: <https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/Mistletoe/>.

President’s Corner “The Bridges of Tyler County” —Col Eddie Boxx, USAF (ret)

Do you have a water crossing (bridge, ford, culvert) on your property you would like to share with fellow private landowners? We would like to create a Tyler County-focused presentation on “do it yourself” water crossings for a future meeting (TBD). The intent is to highlight approximately five local examples and have the forest owner describe their water challenge, illustrate the solution (bridge, low water crossing, etc.), and briefly explain “lessons learned” (what they would do differently next time). For example, our property contains a branch that overflows seasonally, washing out the previously installed, dirt-covered concrete culverts. So using a timbered bridge (that could withstand the occasional nearby Hickory Creek overflow), we can now maintain a dependable crossing for vehicles. We buried recycled utility poles 3-4 feet into the ground (left 18 inches above ground) on each bank. A three-tiered span of 2X10’s twenty feet long was used to cross the waterway (the tops of the poles were notched with a chainsaw to create a cradle for the beams). To add additional load-bearing support, a “timbered star brace” was used in the center for weight distribution. Finally, old concrete and bricks were placed on the “upriver side” of the bridge to guard against future erosion. Some forest landowners have used old mobile home chassis and refurbished semi-truck trailers to span larger waterways, and we would like to capture those kinds of improvements and examples. Also, we are interested in any “low water crossings” property owners have built and maintained. Some landowners have created hard-surfaced “spillways” (Irish bridges or Irish Crossings) that can withstand flooding yet provide a stable ford if underwater. So if you have a crossing story or project you would like to share with your fellow landowners, please email me (eddieboxx@hotmail.com) and include a brief description.

Finally, as a reminder, Mr. Steve Lauff will take the President’s baton starting next year with Mrs. Tiffany Sterling as our new Vice President. With Charles Zimmerman staying on as Treasurer and Oliver Hensarling as Secretary, we are truly blessed with an outstanding leadership team.



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

	August	September	October	November
Chester	8.68	3.37	2.88	7.10
Colmesneil	4.82	0.89	2.35	5.00
Fred	8.09	1.43	3.51	5.23
Spurger	7.40	1.68	3.08	5.83
Warren	7.15	1.96	3.43	4.55
Woodville	7.20	1.14	2.50	8.80

**OFFICERS & DIRECTORS
2023-2024**

- Pres: Steve Lauff
- VP: Tiffany Sterling
- Sect: Oliver Hensarling
- Treas: Charles Zimmerman
- Dir: Andy Niemann
- Dir: Josh Lempert
- Dir: Dr. Jay Fish
- Dir: Col. Eddie Boxx (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 2023

Check your memberships status for 2023. Look at the address label on the envelope for your status—if the **year number** after your name is not **23** (for 2023) or greater, then consider renewing your membership. You may also send in your 2024 dues at this time.

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

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Tyler County Forest Landowner Association (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, 298 County Road 2152, Woodville, TX 75979