



# 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 Awards two Academic Scholarships for 2024

Andrew Craig and Carl Parker were each awarded a \$1,500 college scholarship from TCFLOA. Andrew graduates from Warren High School this year and will be majoring in Forestry at Stephen F. Austin State University this fall. Carl graduated from Colmesneil High School in 2013 and earned a degree in Animal Production and Wildlife Management from Tarleton State University in 2018 and will also be pursuing a degree in Forestry from Stephen F. Austin State University this fall.

The Scholarship Committee wishes success to all the students who applied for the TCFLOA scholarships this year.

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## Spring General Meeting Notes

Fifty-two members and guests attended the Tyler County Forest Landowner Association Spring Meeting on Saturday, March 16, 2024, at the Nutrition Center in Woodville, Texas.

**Chris Schenck, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and Kyle Carrington, East Texas Prescribed Fire Outreach Coordinator for Tall Timbers,** shared information about the East Texas Prescribed Burn Association (PBA) and how it might benefit Tyler County landowners.

Historically, Native Americans used fire to effectively manage the longleaf forests in what is now Tyler County. Today, fear of fire creates resistance to using fire as a forest management tool. The East Texas Prescribed Burn Association (PBA) is a volunteer landowners cooperative that strives to overcome fear with education, training and on-site support.

*(continued on next page)*

## Important Contacts that have recently Changed

Texas A&M Forest Service  
District Forester for Tyler  
County:

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Texas A&M Forest Service  
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Kountze, TX 77625  
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Texas A&M Agrilife  
Extension Agent for Tyler  
County:

Amanda Howard  
Texas A&M Agrilife  
Extension  
201 Veterans Way, Suite  
102  
Woodville, Texas 75979  
Office: 409-283-8284  
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Tyler County Office of  
Emergency Management:

John Settlocker, Jr.  
Emergency Management  
Coordinator  
201 Veterans Way  
Woodville, Texas 75979  
Office: 409-331-0874

## CALENDAR

**August 17, 2024, Saturday**—TCFLOA Board Meeting, 10:30 AM, BAR-B-Q Pit, Warren, TX. This is a planning meeting and association members are encouraged to attend.

**September 21, 2024, Saturday**—TCFLOA Fall General Meeting, 9:30 AM. Tyler County Extension Office, 201 Veterans Way, Woodville, TX. More information available in the fall newsletter.

**August 8, 2024, Thursday**—Texas Forestry Association’s Branching Out Seminar for Forest Landowners. TCFLOA will email you the brochure when available.

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

*Visit the Tyler County Forest Landowner Association website at [tcforest.org](http://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)*

Prescribed fires reduce the risk of wildfires, improve the habitat for wildlife and grazing, and provide nutrients for the soil. During the 2024 gigafire in the Texas Panhandle, one community in the path of the flames was spared because it had conducted prescribed burns.

When considering a prescribed burn, a landowner should

- Have a goal in mind.
- Consult a specialist.
- Develop a manageable and achievable plan.
- Implement the plan in small sections.
- Monitor the progress and make changes.

The East Texas Prescribed Burn Association (PBA) is a non-profit organization of volunteers working collaboratively to help each other safely use prescribed fire. The PBA does not conduct burns as a service for the landowner; its role is to support the landowner. The landowner is the burn boss responsible for the burn and all consequences of the burn. The PBA provides training, guidance, and resources. In return, the landowner is asked to become an active member of the PBA and assist other landowners with their prescribed burns.

The inaugural meeting of the East Texas Prescribed Burn Association, held on January 5, 2024, in Nacogdoches, was attended by 40 individuals. Just 2 ½ months later, the organization has 70 landowner members in 16 counties. The PBA has already conducted six burns in four counties. Texas Parks and Wildlife provided equipment for the burns, further reducing the cost to the landowner. The organization is actively seeking additional members, i.e., landowners who wish to use prescribed burns on their land.

For more information, access <https://www.pbatesexas.org/> and [https://tpwd.texas.gov/landwater/land/technical\\_guidance/burn/](https://tpwd.texas.gov/landwater/land/technical_guidance/burn/).

**Delvin Johnson, Alabama-Coushatta Historical Preservation Office**, spoke about the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe's current forestry initiatives, historical stewardship (e.g. burning), and some of the traditional uses of native resources.

In the 1780s, the Alabama and Coushatta Tribes crossed the Sabine River into the Spanish controlled territory of modern-day Texas. The Alabama tribe's first settlement in Tyler County was at Fort Tehran where they established a trading community. Their second settlement was at Peach Tree Village, near the current town of Chester. The Coushatta settled east of the Trinity River. Today the two tribes are united on over 4500 acres in Polk and Tyler Counties.

Historically, the Alabama and Coushatta tribes practiced burning to provide habitat for animals and to promote the growth of medicinal plants. Since longleaf pines are dependent on fire to seed and grow, fire was necessary for the health of the forests which were prevalent in Tyler and surrounding counties.

By 1900, 95% of longleaf pines had been removed by logging. The Alabama-Coushatta Tribe is actively working with the Nature Conservancy to restore longleaf pine forests. They currently manage over 200 acres they planted in 2012 and an additional 200 acres of older growth trees. The tribe's new Wildland Director has reintroduced burning recently and medicinal plants were observed emerging after the fire.

Longleaf pines were important to the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe, who used the logs to build cabins and the needles to weave baskets. Delvin now possesses the last pine needle basket his grandmother wove. He treasures it as a memory of his heritage.



## Crosscut Saws

In the early United States, trees were felled by axe and then the crosscut saw was used to cut up the logs. It wasn't until the 1880's, the same timeframe of the mass harvest of Tyler County's virgin forests, that the crosscut saw was used to fell trees in the United States.




There are two basic saw patterns for a 2-person saw: felling & bucking.

**Felling** saws (curved backline) are for cutting down trees,






while **Bucking** saws (flat backline) are used for cutting up trees once they are on the ground.



During the 1880's, the **Great American**  tooth blades replaced earlier **Plain**  and **M**  tooth designs.

As manufacturing capabilities and skills increased, more exotic patterns and designs were developed, improving cutting capability and blade longevity.

One such improvement was the creation of a **raker or drag**, a chisel-like tooth that would remove scored wood at the bottom of the cut. Saw patterns that utilized these specialized teeth were the **Champion** , **Lance** , and **Perforated-Lance** . The Perforated-Lance has a small bridge between some of the teeth, improving the strength of the cutter blades.

The different saws leave a telltale mark in the wood. A good logger can identify the type of saw used by the markings left in the wood. Also, certain tooth patterns are better suited for different types of trees.

*The above information is from the Tyler County Forest Museum's Crosscut Saw Display, created by TCFLOA member, Jonathan Sterling. You can view the full display in the Hamm House at Heritage Village in Woodville.*

