



The Dogwood Times

A Publication of the Tyler County Forest Landowner Association

<http://tcforest.org/>

Tyler County Forest
Landowner
Association
(TCFLOA)

Volume 26 Issue 1
Spring 2024

TCFLOA Spring General Meeting—March 16

The next general meeting of TCFLOA is scheduled for Saturday, March 16, at 9:30 AM in the Tyler County Extension Office, 201 Veterans Way, Woodville, Texas. The Extension Office is located on the short side street across from the Brookshire’s store on US 69 south. We have three speakers:

Chris Schenck, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department - Chris will be speaking on behalf of the East Texas Prescribed Burn Association, sharing some information about the organization and how it might benefit Tyler County landowners.

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

Joshua Mizrany, Criminal Investigator with TFS - Josh will be speaking about recent changes to the Texas Natural Resources Code and the potential impact to landowners.

Lunch will be provided with a suggestion to donate toward the cost of lunch.

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Thank You!

At year-end 2023 we had 169 members that were in good standing for paying their dues. For this year we have 102 members that have paid, year-to-date at time of publication. Our all time high was 2022 with 181 members.

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

Kid Tips—tiestotheland.org

The idea of letting kids disappear on their own for hours at a time can raise all kinds of fears for parents. Sure, there are risks. And you certainly want children to be aware of, and prepared for, dangerous situations. But letting kids play and explore in the natural world has proven psychological and cognitive benefits.

CALENDAR

March 16, 2024— TCFLOA Spring General Meeting, 9:30 AM. Tyler County Extension Office, 201 Veterans Way, Woodville, TX. See General Membership Meeting above for more information.

April 6, 2024, Saturday—Tyler County Dogwood Festival, 9 AM–5 PM, Woodville, Texas. This is a great time for out-of-county landowners to check on their property, see the spring blossoms and enjoy the downtown festivities and Queen’s Parade. Go to tylercountydogwoodfestival.org for more information.

April 30, 2024, Tuesday—Deadline for TCFLOA scholarship submission.

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 welcome to attend.

September 21, 2024, Saturday—TCFLOA Fall General Meeting. Time and place to be announced.

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.



TCFLOA Offering \$1,500 academic Scholarship

TCFLOA is now accepting applications for a college scholarship for TCFLOA members, their children, grandchildren, and Tyler County residents, who are majoring in Forestry or Forestry related curriculums (“Forestry related” is broadly defined for the purposes of the application). Applicants may be undergraduate or graduate students presently attending a college, or graduating high school/home schooled students that have been accepted in a college.

The deadline for submitting the application is April 30, 2024. The scholarship recipient will be selected by the TCFLOA Scholarship Committee.

An application and guidelines are enclosed for you with this newsletter. You may also find the forms on our website at tcforest.org select **LIBRARY** and then scroll down to **TCFLOA Forms**.

Extreme environmental conditions make Texas trees susceptible to secondary stressors— Texas A&M Forest Service

February 5, 2024

COLLEGE STATION, Texas—With three consecutive years of severe weather conditions throughout Texas, including extended hard freezes and droughts, East Texas trees have become vulnerable to secondary threats. These threats include cedar bark beetles, *Ips* engraver beetles, hypoxylon canker and cedar rust fungi.

Trees experience threats like insects and diseases regularly, and when a healthy tree encounters these stressors under positive conditions, they can show little to no reaction to the threat. However, environmental conditions such as droughts, extreme winter weather and new construction development can add primary stress to the trees. As the trees encounter prolonged stress under these factors, they become more susceptible to secondary threats.

Ben Plunkett, Texas A&M Forest Service District Forester, explained that many secondary factors, like insects and fungi, can almost always be found in forests throughout the state, but healthy trees are not as threatened by them and do not indicate an infection.

“We can relate these secondary factors of trees to human bacteria,” said Plunkett. “If we cultured every tissue on our body, we would probably find bacteria, but it will only turn ‘toxic’ under certain conditions. Trees respond similarly in that weakened trees will see an increase in reaction to the fungi and insects.”

Environmental conditions can affect trees for years and decades to come. For instance, Plunkett noted that the droughts of 2011 and 2015 are still oppressing the surviving trees today.

Allen Smith, Texas A&M Forest Service Regional Forest Health Coordinator, reiterated this sentiment. “The trees are under such severe stress that it takes one little additional factor like a cedar bark beetle to push the tree into mortality,” said Smith.

Common fungi spread among cedars in Texas are cedar rust fungi. Most commonly seen as cedar-apple rust or cedar-hawthorn rust, these fungi are not deadly but can cause irreversible damage. These fungi can cause leaf discoloration and “bleeding” cankers. Cedar-apple rust is recognized by its distinct reddish-brown galls around young branches and twigs that resemble the size of a golf ball.

Among the current most threatening fungi to weakened hardwood trees in East Texas is hypoxylon canker. Symptoms of hypoxylon canker can include browning of the leaves and sloughing of bark, which exposes a gray or black fungus on the sapwood of the stem or major limbs.

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Threatening insects to weakened trees currently include *Ips* engraver beetles and cedar bark beetles. Symptoms of *Ips* engraver beetles occur in pine trees and include discolored crowns, dying branches and numerous white to reddish brown pitch tubes on the bark. Adult *Ips* beetles are cylindrical, measuring approximately 3/32” in length with a black to reddish brown color.

Symptoms of cedar bark beetles occur in cypress and juniper trees and include the discoloration and dropping of leaves; twig and branch decline; and small exit holes present on the bark of trunk or limbs which are sometimes accompanied by “sawdust” around the boring or tree. Adult cedar bark beetles are approximately the size of a grain of rice with cylindrical bodies and a reddish colored back.

In closing, Smith noted that many of the trees that appear to be dying may experience significant recovery this spring. The warmer, wetter and more stable weather conditions of the spring will take environmental stress off the trees, allowing them more strength and immunity toward secondary factors.

If Texas residents notice repeated or widespread tree abnormalities in their community, Texas A&M Forest Service local foresters are able to inspect and address specific concerns. Find your local forester here: <https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/contactus/location-search/>

An Overview of the Treated Lumber Quality Mark—By Voitier, McCown, Ring, Curole, LSU AG Center

An effective way to protect wooden structures from attack by insects and decay fungi is to use treated wood for building projects. To ensure you are using the lumber that best suits your building needs, it is important to understand the information provided by the grade stamp or treated-lumber quality mark. Wood that has been treated for use in an above-ground application, for instance, will not contain as much preservative as wood that has been treated for use in contact with the ground, or may use a different preservative altogether.

The quality mark (often found on a plastic tag stapled to the end of a piece of treated lumber) provides all of the information necessary for the consumer to choose the proper material for the job.

Figure 1 shows the information provided by a treated-lumber quality mark. While not all of the information on the tag is important to the average consumer, such as which particular preservative chemical is used or which AWPAs standard was followed, some is. Probably the most important bit of information is the exposure conditions section. According to this example, this lumber may be used where it is constantly touching the ground, such as in a deck or fence.

Figure 2 shows an actual tag taken from borate-treated lumber. As with figure 1, the tag tells the consumer when the lumber was treated, which preservative is used, which agency provides accreditation, which AWPAs standards were met, and most importantly that this lumber may be used in areas with Formosan subterranean termites, but only where it is above ground and protected from contact with water.

Figure 1

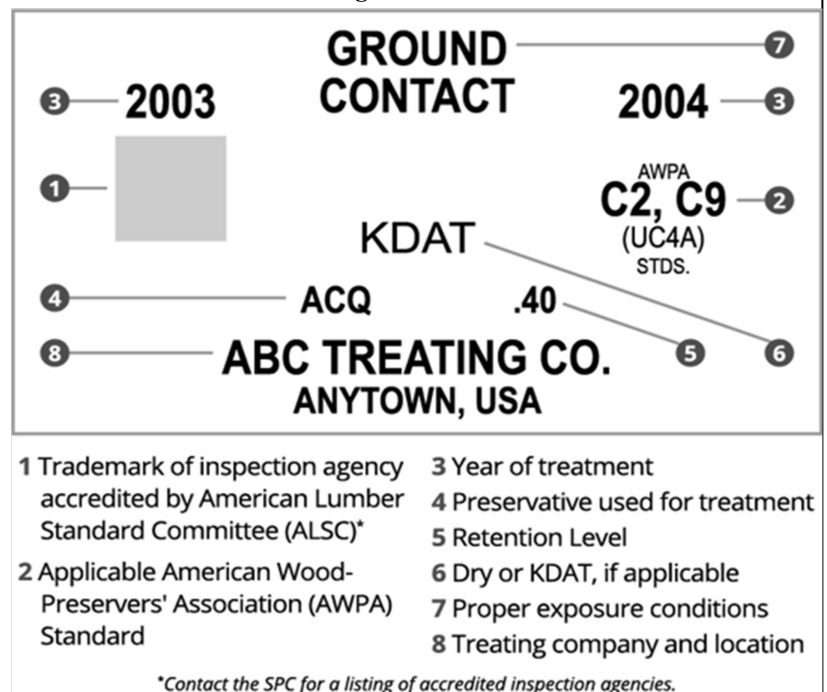


Figure 2





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

	December	2023	January	February *
Chester	2.13	36.97	10.30	
Colmesneil	2.47	38.85	12.07	
Fred	2.70	36.51	8.83	
Spurger	4.38	40.76	8.32	
Warren	2.06	38.43	7.13	
Woodville	3.83	40.50	11.31	

** Not available at time of publication*

*U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook—NOAA/NWS/NCEP Climate Prediction Center: Outlook for SE Texas through April 30, 2024, is **Drought remains, but improves.***

**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 2024

Check your memberships status for 2024. Look at the address label on the envelope for your status—if the **year number** after your name is not **24** (for 2024) or greater, then consider renewing your membership. You may also send in your 2025 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