



The Dogwood Times

A Publication of the Tyler County Forest Landowner Association

<http://tcforest.org/>

Tyler County Forest
Landowner Association
(TCFLOA)

Volume 28 Issue 3
Fall 2026

Fall General Meeting—September 19

The next general meeting of TCFLOA is scheduled for Saturday, September 19, 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.

Three speakers have been lined up as follows:

Kati Krouse, Texas Black Bear Alliance, will be speaking on black bears in Texas.

Jeff Rogers, Rogers Lumber Company, will be speaking on the state of the timber industry and general industry trends.

Reagan Busby, Texas A&M Forest Service, will be speaking about how to work with your forester and developing a land management plan.

We will have a short business meeting to elect TCFLOA Officers and Board of Directors for the 2027-2028 term. The candidates recommended by the Nominating Committee are listed below. Additional nominations by association members are welcome.

President: Tiffany Sterling

Vice President: Carl Parker

Secretary: Oliver Hensarling

Treasurer: Charles Zimmerman

Director: Andy Niemann

Director: Rossi Carruth

Director: Byron Harris

Director: Steve Lauff (past president)

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

CALENDAR

September 19, 2026— TCFLOA Fall General Meeting. See details above.

January 16, 2027— TCFLOA Board Meeting, 10:30 AM, BAR-B-Q Pit, Warren, TX. This is a planning meeting - association members are welcome to attend and participate.

March 20, 2027— TCFLOA Spring General Meeting. Time and place to be announced in the spring TCFLOA 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. Follow us on Facebook: facebook.com/tc.forest.landowners

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May/June 2026 Timber price trends—Texas A&M Forest Service

Statewide pine sawtimber prices averaged \$26.38 per ton, below 7% from last period and below 14% from a year ago. In Northeast Texas, the average pine sawtimber price was \$28.21 per ton. It was \$25.73 per ton in Southeast Texas.

The statewide average pine pulpwood price was \$5.04 per ton. This was below 16% from last period and down 16% from the price a year ago. Average pine pulpwood price was \$5.93 per ton in Northeast Texas and \$4.70 per ton in Southeast Texas.

Chip-N-Saw averaged \$13.62 per ton statewide, down 9% from last period and below 10% from a year ago. In Northeast Texas, the average Chip-N-Saw price was \$14.05 per ton. It was \$13.55 per ton in Southeast Texas.



Turning analysis into action, A look into how Texas wildfires are investigated, and prevention and mitigation strategies are created—Texas A&M Forest Service

Over 5,549 wildfires ignited in Texas in Fiscal year 2025, with Texas A&M Forest Service responding to 690 fires for 95,086 acres.

Wildfire investigations

As wildfires are controlled by wildland firefighters, a different type of crew also arrives on scene—Texas A&M Forest Service investigators, who are tasked with finding the cause and origin of the wildfire. They can investigate wildfires that the agency or local fire departments respond to. In FY25, they investigated 149 Texas wildfires.

Texas A&M Forest Service investigators operate in the same tiered response approach as wildfire response, often being called to the scene when local authorities are unable to find a cause and origin, if the cause is unknown or if the cause is suspicious.

“Our priority is arriving on scene before it is disturbed by heavy equipment, mop-up operations and weather conditions like rain or snow,” said Connor Murnane, Texas A&M Forest Service Law Enforcement Chief. “These conditions can lead to an undetermined cause.”

Investigators begin their investigation at a point that is most disturbed by the fire and work inward, using key fire indicators to work toward the area that is least disturbed, leading to the general area of origin.

In East Texas forests, investigators use indicators like the angle of char on pine bark to indicate the direction that the fire came from and the direction it was moving. In grasslands and non-forested areas in other parts of the state, investigators predominately rely on grass stems, serving as backing and lateral fire indicators.

Once the origin and cause are determined, investigators share their findings with local officials and the Railroad Commission of Texas and Public Utilities Commission of Texas respectively if the fire involved oil, gas, railroad or utility infrastructure. In cases of arson, investigators may open a full arson investigation to identify a suspect and pursue criminal charges.

Collaboration to prevent future wildfires

Not only do wildfire origin investigations attempt to bring a sense of restitution to the affected community or justice in cases of arson, but they are also critical to the creation of statewide wildfire prevention and mitigation strategies.

Texas A&M Forest Service investigators work with wildfire prevention and mitigation specialists to share investigation data to be used in targeted messaging campaigns. These specialists look for trends in wildfire causes such as campfire, equipment operation or debris burning—the leading cause of wildfire across Texas.

As trends emerge, specialists deploy digital and physical messaging, including billboards, gas station pump videos and radio and TV public service announcements. Since these specialists are located statewide, they also use on-the-ground presence and messaging to connect with communities.

“Our teams work cohesively to understand why wildfires are starting across the state so we can accurately direct our messaging to target those topics specifically,” said Erin O’Connor, Texas A&M Forest Service Mitigation and Prevention Department Head.

Post-fire assessment

A Third team that plays a role in the wildfire review process is the postfire assessment team, comprised of agency fire experts. Following wildfires, this team visits properties affected by fire to analyze how homes and
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properties affected by fire to analyze how homes and properties were damaged or lost, the conditions of the surrounding environment, the building materials used and any signs of previous mitigation efforts by home and property owners that slowed the progression of the fire.

This analysis is used in prevention and mitigation messaging and in some cases, is also turned into case studies to be shared with local and state officials and home and property owners. Some communities utilize these case studies to work with Texas A&M Forest Service to create a community wildfire protection plan, apply for the community wildfire defense grant program or earn the Firewise USA®'s Firewise Community status.

"All of the processes we deploy for wildfire response, investigation and analysis aim to ensure that we are helping mitigate against preventable wildfire starts, spread and loss," said O'Connor.

Real Christmas trees generate \$429 million in direct contributions to the Texas economy—Texas A&M Forest service

More than four million real Christmas trees are purchased annually in Texas, an important contributor to the Texas economy.

Texas A&M Forest Service recently conducted an economic study which revealed the Texas Christmas tree industry generated total economic contribution of \$812.7 million, including direct, indirect and induced effects, while supporting 6,217 jobs in 2024.

"Real Christmas trees hold cultural, environmental and economic significance, but the scope of this study was focused specifically on the economic contribution of the real Christmas tree industry," said Xufang Zhang, Ph.D., Texas A&M Forest Service Forest Resource Analyst.

Of the \$812.7 million in total contributions, the Texas Christmas tree industry had a direct economic contribution of \$430.0 million, employing 4,228 people with a payroll of \$278.6 million.

The industry also contributed \$2.2 million in county taxes, \$13.4 million in state taxes and \$82.8 million in federal taxes, totaling a tax revenue of \$98.4 million.

Texas Christmas tree farms

Since the 2023 report, direct contributions to the economy have increased by over \$32.8 million, an increase not possible without sustainable practices and a continued increase in land use for Christmas trees.

According to the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, Christmas tree production acreage in Texas has increased substantially from 945 acres in 2017 to 3,565 acres in 2022.

"The increase in land area used for Christmas tree production and the increasing number of choose-and-cut farms highlights the industry's potential for continued economic contribution," said Zhang. "These findings underscore the importance of sustainable industry practices, investment in local production and policies that strengthen rural economies."

According to the National Christmas Tree Association, the most popular Christmas tree species include Fraser fir, Noble fir, Douglas fir, Balsam fir, Scots pine, Virginia pine and White pine. For every Christmas tree harvested, one to three seedlings are planted the next year. The average Christmas tree takes about seven years to reach maturity.

Benefits of real Christmas trees

Artificial Christmas trees are a petroleum-based product, containing plastics that are not biodegradable and may contain metal toxins such as lead which create a long-term environmental burden upon their disposal.

Like any other tree though, Christmas trees growing on tree farms reduce soil erosion, improve water quality, provide habitat for wildlife, create scenic beauty and recreational opportunities, sequester carbon, emit oxygen and are renewable and compostable.

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

	June	July	August
Chester	*	*	*
Colmesneil	7.26	5.13	0.12
Fred	9.66	4.42	1.91
Spurger	8.00	3.96	1.08
Warren	3.50	4.25	0.25
Woodville	6.19	3.73	0.52

* Not reported

** Not available at time of publication

*U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook—NOAA/NWS/NCEP Climate
Prediction Center: Outlook for SE Texas through
November 31, 2026, is **Drought persists**.*

**OFFICERS & DIRECTORS
2025-2026**

Pres: Steve Lauff
VP: Tiffany Sterling
Sect: Oliver Hensarling
Treas: Charles Zimmerman
Dir: Andy Niemann
Dir: Rossi Carruth
Dir: Byron Harris
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 2026

Check your memberships status for 2026. Look at the address label on the envelope for your status—if the **year number** after your name is not **26** (for 2026) or greater, then consider renewing your association dues. You may also send in your 2027 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** share your address to any 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