



Northeast Texas Forest Landowners Association Newsletter

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Forest Certification—Is It For Me?

*John Norris, State Reforestation Coordinator, Texas Forest Service,
Longview, TX*

Forest certification began about 15 years ago and grew out of the environmental community's desire to control tropical deforestation. It was fairly low key until the radical environmental community in the US expanded the scope and began to boycott and otherwise coerce large retailers, homebuilding corporations, and other such businesses to buy only "certified" wood. By and large they were successful and wholesale purchasers are much more careful in knowing the source of their wood.

"Certified" means that the production, harvest, transportation, and processing of the particular product meets a set of criteria drawn up by the certifier who has inspected and would attest to the product meeting their criteria. As you can imagine, criteria vary widely among the certifiers, but generally the criteria address good stewardship, sustainability, low environmental impacts, and, in some cases, social aspects.

There are many certifiers world-wide, but the two biggest in the US are the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI). The FSC is comprised of social, environmental, and economic organizations such as the Sierra Club, World Wildlife Fund and Green Peace. SFI, on the other hand, was the US forest industry's response to the demand for certified wood, and is comprised mostly of timber companies. Both have the objective of encouraging good stewardship, sustainability, and low environmental impacts in the production of forest products. As you might guess, their approach and criteria are different. Both have many acres under certification and both are accepted in the marketplace.

In offering "certified" wood to the marketplace, producers attest to the fact that it meets the criteria of the certifier. If the producer also grew the wood, then they can certify with some certainty. The rub for an individual landowner comes from what's called "chain of custody." If the producer buys the wood from someone else, then it can be difficult to know if the grower (and logger) followed these same criteria, and until they do know, they can't sell the wood as "certified."

Hence the dilemma for small landowners—should they have their timberland inspected and certified so as to meet a mill's desire to establish chain of custody? What does it cost? Does the mill get better prices for certified wood than for non-certified wood and can they therefore pay back landowners for their certification costs in the form of better prices for their stumpage?

Having your forest certified doesn't have to be expensive—though it can be. Will you get a premium for your timber if you have a certified forest? Only "maybe." Stumpage prices are highly influenced by several outside factors. The bonus may come in the form of being able to sell your certified timber to a mill that will only buy certified timber, giving you an edge in the marketplace (more buyers, perhaps).

Certification by SFI or FSC is an involved process involving third-party contractors and can be costly. However, SFI will accept certification under the American Tree Farm system as their guidelines meet SFI criteria. There are many Tree Farmers in Texas and Tree Farm inspections are usually performed free of charge by state, company and private foresters operating under the umbrella of the Texas Forestry Association.

It really costs very little to have your lands certified under the American Tree Farm system and if you follow their guidelines, and accept their occasional audits, your forest should meet the certification criteria for SFI. You can also opt for the more expensive SFI or FSC third party certification, but, given market uncertainty, recouping your costs may be difficult.

More information on forest certification can be found on the web at: <http://www.aboutsfi.org/core.asp> and <http://www.fsc.org>. Or, contact Texas Forestry Association, (936) 632-8733 or P.O. Box 1488, Lufkin, TX 75902-1488.

Thinking Outside the Box – Ways to Enhance the Value of your Forest –

J. Mike Bird, CEO of Advanced Ecology, Inc.

In his presentation to the Texas Forestry Association general assembly in November 2005, J. Mike Bird suggested that when determining the value of forest land, it is important to consider not only the value of the soil and improvements, but other natural resources and environmental assets too. In managing a forest, some uses of a forest that may be "stacked" (used in combination) to enhance its value: (1) timber harvesting; (2) commercial or individual hunting leases; (3) wetland mitigation or restoration; (4) recreation; (5) education; (6) groundwater leases; (7) farming; (8) endangered species; (9) dog trials; (10) carbon sequestration; (11) horseback riding; (12) conservation easements; (13) bird watching.

In considering all potential alternatives, however, Mr. Bird states, "If you fail to plan, you plan to fail."

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FROM THE FOREST



Well, we're off again into a new year. As far back in history as you can read, human beings have always had a cut-off point at which they buried past mistakes and went on with renewed energy, hopes, and pledges for the future, invariably on an annual basis, and usually tied to the seasons.

For many societies and faiths, going back to pre-Egyptian times, the new year began not in the middle of winter, shortly after the dark of the year, but in the spring, once new growth had begun. For further reading on this subject I recommend Sir James George Frazer's The Golden Bough, still the definitive work.

For my family, the spiritual new year really starts with the celebration of Jesus' resurrection in the Easter season and the promise of a new beginning. Christmas — to me, at least — is for rejoicing at Jesus' birth and a time to give thanks, remember friends, and gather together with them.

Western civilization marks the official New Year somewhat arbitrarily on January 1. In these latitudes, January is usually the coldest and cruelest month, and just in case January doesn't get you — hello, February, which, in my experience, has no real reason for being other than just to wear you out with winter and finish off your wood pile a bit too soon — especially if you short-hopped the prior year's wood cutting.

Leslie and I've been farmers of sorts for the last 26 years, and more if you count organic gardens. With routine chores at their minimum, we've grown used to using January and early February for planning and regrouping, whether it be at the wholesale nursery where we started or our present forest home .

This past year has been an unpleasant surprise for almost all Texas farmers because of the drought. Things like this ain't supposed to happen in East Texas, and haven't for decades. Some of us, including myself, have lost our second year seedling trees. Probably all postponed their plantings until this coming fall.

But as we look forward into the new year, some good things have happened — one being the recent drought-busting rain at our place (2.6"! — with promises of more on the way.. Might be getting back into a more normal spring cycle. And while we have leaf-off and this very mild winter, it's a good time to mark timber for harvest and remark property boundaries. One nice thing about established timber is that a delayed harvest doesn't kill the farm.

For our Association in the coming year, there are four things I'd like to see:

- Grow membership, especially in Titus County. (Glen Weiss has made this county a special project.)
- Get more NETFLA folks to attend the TFA Landowners Council meetings
- Increase member attendance at our meetings and participation in TFA events
- Have more fun!

Still looking at the glass as half full, rather than half empty —

Bill Tucker

Program and Meeting Notes

Eric Taylor will present our program for the Feb. 11 meeting. He will introduce the concepts of bioenergy and biobased products as related to forest ecosystems. Eric will discuss how these new opportunities might benefit non-industrial private forest land-owners by opening new markets for our timber and promoting forest health. He'll also talk about several components critical to sustainable production of forest bio-energy and bio-based production systems.

The program for the May Field Day is a work in progress at this point but is coming together. There is the possibility of eating our TFA free lunch on the grounds.

Mike Murphrey was honored by the Texas Forestry Museum as their "2005 Volunteer of the Year" for all his work in leading tours, assisting at the TREEmendous celebration, and helping with the Museum's landscaping. I ran across this fact while browsing the internet looking for articles for this newsletter. Mike, being the shy fellow he is, never bothered to mention this honor, but we found out anyway. Congratulations, Mike!

We hope to have the new brochures and contact cards for the TCI (Teachers Conservation Institute) program at the meeting. As you will remember, our association has been sponsoring teachers for this summer workshop in forestry for the past several years. We usually do two per year, and hope to do so again this summer. This exposure of teachers to sustainable forestry and best management practices as used in today's silviculture — along with programs educators can use in classroom situations — goes a long way toward getting our message across to our urban neighbors.

The Woodland Clinic Scholarship Foundation is now a reality, thanks again to Mike Murphrey's campaign and to all of you folks who helped fund it. The fund total in December was about \$4000, with an eventual target of \$25,000+. This scholarship program is tax deductible for those who contribute. This is a new year and a new tax season, so bring your check books if you want to donate!

Finally, it's time to renew memberships for the coming year and a great chance to get caught up if you missed 2005 dues. Tear off the coupon on the back if you can't make the meeting and need to mail your check.

Thanks — *Bill*

2006 PROGRAM CALENDAR

Saturday, Feb. 11, 10:30 AM

**New Timber Uses
For Power Generation and
Other Alternative Technologies
Dr. Eric Taylor
Pilgrim Community Room
Pittsburg, Texas**

Saturday, May 6, 10:00 AM

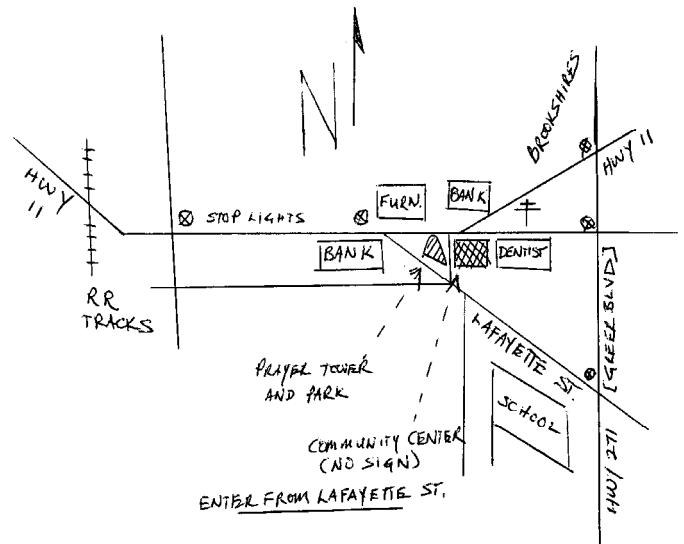
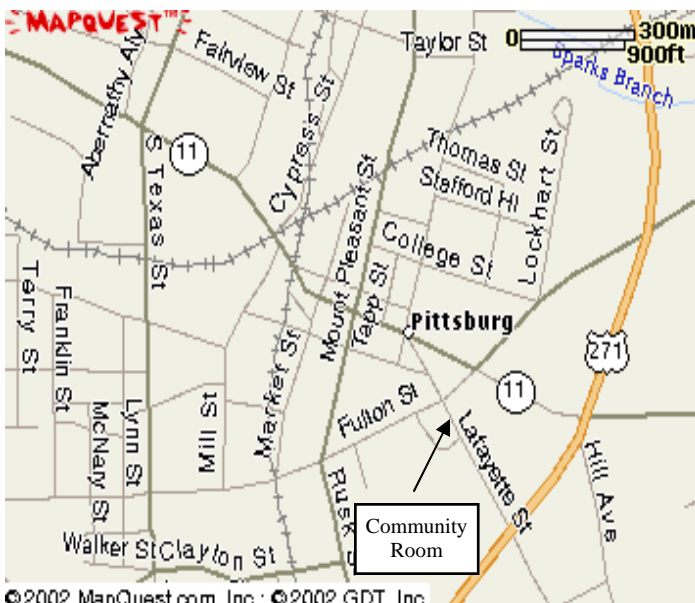
**Tour Research Farm at Overton
(exact program tentative)
Dr. Eric Taylor
Depart from Pittsburg, Texas
Approximately 8:30 AM
Conclude with free lunch there**

The red dot program continues. If you have a red dot on your newsletter, you owe 2005 dues of \$15. This is tax deductible for most.

Please make checks payable to and remit to:

NETFLA
PO Box 642
Mt. Vernon, TX 75457

If you have questions, contact Harry Earl — contact info is on the facing page.



The Effects of Wild Hog Damage to Texas Range and Timberlands

Brian Pope, Texas Forest Service, District Forester, Pittsburg, Tx

Though wild hogs (*Sus scrofa*) have inhabited Texas lands for hundreds of years, their destructive presence has recently drawn a lot of attention. They are present in virtually every county in Texas, excluding some in the western Panhandle and the Trans-Pecos regions. The costs associated with ecological and environmental damage caused by them runs into the millions of dollars.

History of Wild Hogs - The first hogs to enter the United States entered with the expeditions of Coronado and Desoto in the 1500's. As the expeditions moved north, some domesticated hogs escaped or were stolen by Native Americans and released to establish free-ranging populations. Later settlers allowed domesticated hogs to free range, to be gathered later for slaughter or sale. Usually a number of the animals would be missed or lost during the gathering process and eventually became wild or feral.

In more recent times, wild hogs were introduced onto game ranches for the purpose of hunting them. New populations were established or already existing populations were improved.

Benefits of Wild Hogs - Most people feel that there is no true benefit associated with these destructive animals. However, one of their most favorable attributes is that they are an excellent source of meat and can readily be found in a number of very accessible locations. People can use the meat to supplement their dietary needs for a relatively small amount of money.

Another positive aspect associated with these animals is that many hunters find the hunting of wild hogs very exhilarating. The thought of hunting an animal that usually does not show much reluctance in attacking the hunter draws many people to the sport. Because wild hogs are not considered game animals, they can be hunted with crossbows and at night with the aid of a spotlight - methods usually not permitted when hunting native game animals.

Hog hunting has also become an excellent source of income for many landowners. Hunters are now beginning to show interest in leasing land that has an active feral hog population. A recent survey indicated that hog hunters paid in the range of \$25-\$1000 for a hog hunt, with the average price paid being \$169.

Damage Associated with Wild Hogs - Wild hogs are omnivores and their selection of food varies greatly. They will eat carrion, grains, hard mast (nuts) and soft mast, as well as insects and grasses. As hogs search for food they use their rigid noses and keen sense of smell to overturn soil ("rooting"), seeking insects, roots or tubers. Their manner of feeding can cause areas as small as a few feet, to as large as several acres to become denuded of vegetation. The "rooted" areas can also be as much as three feet deep, when rooting takes place under wet conditions. When that type feeding is done by a large group of hogs, the destruction can be enormous, and can affect rangeland in a number of ways.

The first and most obvious result of the destruction is to make land inaccessible. When hogs "root", they create large mounds and deep holes. When entering these areas, truck and tractor operators face potentially dangerous situations. After these hogs have searched for food and moved on, the residual grasses camouflage the large holes which may then be invisible to the operator. These areas are hazardous when livestock producers have to feed hay in winter and make routine cattle checks. Secondly, when the areas are reclaimed, usually with slow, tedious disking or tilling, those operations encourage the return of the hogs. Freshly loosened soil makes searching for food easier and enables the hogs to dig even deeper.

Soil erosion should also be considered when bare mineral soil is exposed by hogs. The removal of the soil's organic layer exposes it to the elements, especially wind and rain, causing the loss of vital topsoil and increasing stream sedimentation when associated with overland flow.

Damage to natural plant communities is another effect of hog activity. When native perennial species are removed, annual plants begin to take their place. Research has also shown that wild hogs are changing the ecosystem by enhancing the introduction and development of exotic species. Rooting and wallowing not only degrade populations of fragile native species but also create an environment favorable for the establishment and development of exotic or non-native grasses.

Hogs will often uproot newly planted trees that have been planted by machine. They will place their snout in the planting furrow, and begin rooting for food. The end result is usually uprooted seedlings or, at best, severely damaged seedlings in these affected areas. Damage to existing timber can also occur when the hogs scratch or rub on trees. If hogs repeatedly scratch on the same trees, the bark from the trees can be removed, exposing the sensitive cambium layer to the elements and promoting infestations of insects and disease.

Hog predation on rangeland animals is another serious factor to consider. Wild hogs will kill and sometimes completely consume kid goats and lambs, especially during lambing and kidding season. This can cause a substantial economic loss to livestock producers. Landowners have to spend valuable time with their animals trying to ward off the predators.

Competition with wildlife should also be considered when deciding whether to control wild hogs. Hogs consume the same foods that most other native Texas wildlife species consume. Hogs are a major competitor of white-tailed deer, eating acorns, wild berries, persimmons, and other wild foods which are a large part of the deer's diet. Hogs are also grazers during the spring, feeding on fresh shoots and roots of grasses, as well as forbs (herbs and weeds) that other wildlife might depend on. Hogs will also destroy nesting cover needed by ground-nesting birds, and will often kill the birds or their young while doing so.

Methods of Control - Though there is a large effort to completely eradicate wild hogs from rangelands, it is not economically practical. There are, however, several productive methods to help control wild hogs.

The most effective technique at this time is to catch and remove

or euthanize them. One of the more popular ways to do this is to use dogs to pick up the scent of the hogs, track them and herd them into a group where they can be caught and removed for slaughter or euthanized. When pursued often enough the remaining hogs will be forced to relocate elsewhere. The problem with this tactic is that the hogs will return, only to be more wary of the dogs.

Another effective way to control hogs is to shoot them at night. Wild hogs, especially when pressured, will become nocturnal. Night hunting is most effective when done in areas where hog activity is highest. This is very time consuming and may work best in conjunction with other removal techniques.

A third method of control is trapping. Trapping works best where hog densities are high, and may be the most effective method. Bait and a decoy hog are placed in a steel trap to lure other hogs into it. The trap is built with rigid materials and a spring-loaded door through which they can enter but not exit. Once the hogs have been trapped they can be euthanized or removed for slaughter. The negatives associated with this method are that it works best when the hogs' natural foods are in short supply and that the decoy hog also has to be regularly fed and watered.

There are other methods of wild hog control that have been attempted, such as exclusion by fencing and aerial hunting, but both of these methods are extremely expensive and not very effective. Researchers are in the early stages of developing repellents and toxicants.

Conclusion - The damage associated with wild hogs is very costly, both economically and biologically. Their population continues to expand and it is most likely that they cannot (and perhaps should not) be completely exterminated. It is generally accepted that wild hogs on rangelands are here to stay, and a single simple form of control is completely unattainable. Hopefully in the future more effective solutions to control these destructive animals will be developed.

The Road Show — Groundwater Conservation Districts and Other Water Issues

Bill Tucker

We've been talking about water, surface and ground, for several years now in East Texas and in our six counties. Update time.

A little background on ground water conservation districts. In Texas, what's called the "rule of capture" pertains to subsurface water. That means that anyone owning surface rights to land — even one acre or less — is by law allowed to pump as much water from the underlying aquifer as they physically can. Many of you probably remember the Ozarka experience in Wood County. Because of this law, Austin and other cities, with permission of the Legislature, created what is known as ground water conservation districts some years back. In Austin's case, it was the Edwards Aquifer protected and regulated. The Legislature has decided not to regulate ground water statewide, but rather left regulation up to individual areas, which may be cities, counties, or some combination thereof. This means that the rule of capture applies to our six counties, and others, in NE Texas.

Region C and D of the Texas Water Planning Boards have concluded their 5-year plans and have no plans to meet for at least six months. Region D (ours) has tabled construction of Marvin Nichols Lake in all phases, while Region C (Dallas) includes all phases in its plan. Given the votes, Dallas could override us in the legislature. **They are also very interested in our ground water.**

Walt Sears, of the Northeast Texas Municipal Water District, will be presenting a program that lasts about an hour and a half in Upshur, Cass, Morris, and perhaps Wood Counties. He's already been to Camp. **I strongly urge you to make one of these meetings and become informed!** Pros and cons later.

Fire Ant Foe -Phorid Flies Found in North Texas -

Janet Gregg, Texas Cooperative Extension

Entomologists have achieved another milestone in the war against the red imported fire ant. This month phorid flies (*P. curvatis*), a natural enemy of fire ants, were found on the county line between Denton and Wise counties.

In the fall of 2004, Texas Cooperative Extension entomologists Kim Engler and Dr. Bart Drees, with help from local Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists, spent three weeks collecting fire ants. The ants were then shipped to Gainesville, Fla., for one week. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service deposited the ants into chambers that also contained phorid flies. Over the course of that week, the female flies laid their eggs inside the thoracic region of the fire ants.

The ants were then flown back to North Texas and re-released into the colonies from which they were originally collected. "This parasitic fly lays its eggs inside a fire ant worker," Engler said. "The larva eats its way into the head capsule and eventually decapitates the ant. It then completes its development in the fire ant's head and emerges from there fully grown. If it's a female, it will mate then start the whole process over again. The entire process takes about one month." Other phorid fly populations in Texas have been established near Vidor, Caldwell, Austin, and in Polk County. But the population discovered in North Texas means the fire ant's enemy may spread to a whole new area.

It also means a new opportunity for researchers to study how cold temperatures and drought affect the phorid fly's life and reproductive cycles.

"A lot of sweat, stings and tears went into collecting the ants; so finally getting some payoff from that was fantastic!" Another release of phorid flies will probably happen next year, Engler said. "This will not only decrease the fire ant populations, but it will also keep many of the worker ants from foraging for food," she said. "The phorid fly basically stalks the worker ants to lay their eggs, which prompts the ants to hide. If they're hiding, they're far less aggressive and harmful. So there's a positive domino effect."

Engler hopes the phorid fly population will spread in a 1- to 2-mile radius from its original population by next year. Contact: Kim Engler, (972) 952-9221, k-engler@tamu.edu.

The prices in this table do not represent market price for a specific tract of timber.

Market price for any specific tract of timber may vary considerably due to variation in tract size, timber quality, species, total volume and volume per acre, logging conditions, distance to the mill, utilization, current demand and local competition for timber, and rapidly changing timber market.

For timber prices used for timberland property taxation, please see page 3.

STUMPAGE PRICE TRENDS IN TEXAS

September/October 2005

2-Jan-06
Volume 23, No. 5

| Product/Region | Average Price | | Average Price Last Period | | Average Price Same Period A Year Ago | | # of Sales Reported | Total Volume | |
|----------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------|--------------|-------------|
| | \$/Ton | \$/MBF | \$/Ton | \$/MBF | \$/Ton | \$/MBF | | Ton | MBF |
| PINE | | | | | | | | | |
| Sawlogs | <u>\$/Ton</u> | <u>\$/MBF</u> | <u>\$/Ton</u> | <u>\$/MBF</u> | <u>\$/Ton</u> | <u>\$/MBF</u> | | <u>Ton</u> | <u>MBF</u> |
| Northeast TX | 37.90 | 308.64 | 46.05 | 329.96 | 39.27 | 286.98 | 38 | 46,792.43 | 5,745.53 |
| Southeast TX | 39.20 | 302.20 | 40.62 | 304.82 | 43.15 | 314.42 | 80 | 101,487.00 | 13,164.16 |
| Statewide* | 38.79 | 304.16 | 41.17 | 307.50 | 41.74 | 304.45 | 118 | 148,279.43 | 18,909.69 |
| USFS | ** | ** | ** | ** | 27.45 | 219.61 | ** | ** | ** |
| Pulpwood | <u>\$/Ton</u> | <u>\$/Cord</u> | <u>\$/Ton</u> | <u>\$/Cord</u> | <u>\$/Ton</u> | <u>\$/Cord</u> | | <u>Ton</u> | <u>Cord</u> |
| Northeast TX | 8.14 | 21.99 | 8.14 | 21.90 | 8.50 | 22.84 | 35 | 64,360.68 | 23,837.29 |
| Southeast TX | 6.34 | 17.13 | 4.01 | 10.52 | 5.18 | 13.97 | 27 | 91,049.54 | 33,722.05 |
| Statewide* | 7.09 | 19.14 | 4.19 | 11.02 | 6.94 | 18.67 | 62 | 155,410.22 | 57,559.34 |
| USFS | ** | ** | ** | ** | 2.88 | 7.56 | ** | ** | ** |
| Chip-N-Saw | <u>\$/Ton</u> | <u>\$/Cord</u> | <u>\$/Ton</u> | <u>\$/Cord</u> | <u>\$/Ton</u> | <u>\$/Cord</u> | | <u>Ton</u> | <u>Cord</u> |
| Northeast TX | 18.05 | 48.72 | 24.48 | 65.48 | 16.13 | 43.51 | 13 | 4,775.33 | 1,768.64 |
| Southeast TX | ** | ** | 14.40 | 38.02 | 15.76 | 42.56 | 0 | ** | ** |
| Statewide* | 18.05 | 48.72 | 14.63 | 38.63 | 15.87 | 42.83 | 13 | 4,775.33 | 1,768.64 |
| HARDWOOD | | | | | | | | | |
| Mixed Sawlogs | <u>\$/Ton</u> | <u>\$/MBF</u> | <u>\$/Ton</u> | <u>\$/MBF</u> | <u>\$/Ton</u> | <u>\$/MBF</u> | | <u>Ton</u> | <u>MBF</u> |
| Northeast TX | 18.83 | 169.99 | 18.34 | 161.30 | 18.28 | 163.89 | 39 | 13,305.12 | 1,474.10 |
| Southeast TX | ** | ** | ** | ** | ** | ** | 1 | 750.00 | 83.33 |
| Statewide* | 19.16 | 172.93 | 19.12 | 168.81 | 18.20 | 163.05 | 40 | 14,055.12 | 1,557.43 |
| USFS | ** | ** | ** | ** | 8.28 | 74.51 | ** | ** | ** |
| Pulpwood | <u>\$/Ton</u> | <u>\$/Cord</u> | <u>\$/Ton</u> | <u>\$/Cord</u> | <u>\$/Ton</u> | <u>\$/Cord</u> | | <u>Ton</u> | <u>Cord</u> |
| Northeast TX | 6.22 | 17.41 | 6.84 | 19.12 | 5.55 | 15.55 | 17 | 18,432.17 | 6,585.53 |
| Southeast TX | ** | ** | 5.50 | 15.40 | ** | ** | 1 | ** | ** |
| Statewide* | 6.21 | 17.39 | 5.57 | 15.59 | 5.52 | 15.44 | 18 | 18,982.17 | 6,781.95 |
| USFS | ** | ** | ** | ** | 1.74 | 4.86 | ** | ** | ** |

1. Stumpage price statistics included gatewood sales. Stumpage prices from the gatewood sales were estimated by subtracting cut and haul costs, other expenses and profits if any provided by the reporters.

2. Price is calculated from a *specific* conversion factor reported for each sale if available; otherwise, the average conversion factors listed on page 8 are used. MBF = Thousand Board Feet. The DOYLE LOG SCALE is used for board foot measurements.

* Statewide data excludes U.S. Forest Service sales.

** Insufficient sales to report price statistics (less than three reported sales).

TEXAS TIMBER PRICES FOR 2005 PROPERTY TAX APPRAISAL

| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |
|----------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Large Pine Sawtimber | \$ 39.29 | \$ 38.33 | \$ 39.23 | \$ 36.21 | \$ 34.77 |
| Small Pine Sawtimber | \$ 19.96 | \$ 15.39 | \$ 17.92 | \$ 16.81 | \$ 18.04 |
| Pine Pulpwood | \$ 11.26 | \$ 6.15 | \$ 4.65 | \$ 5.89 | \$ 6.99 |
| Hardwood Sawtimber | \$ 15.07 | \$ 13.28 | \$ 16.10 | \$ 16.49 | \$ 19.77 |
| Hardwood Pulpwood | \$ 9.05 | \$ 9.70 | \$ 4.83 | \$ 5.30 | \$ 5.87 |

Starting from January 1, 2004, the new legislation (Senate Bill 1646 of 2003) requires stumpage prices to be in tons in the tax appraisal formula. Also, statewide average stumpage prices (vs. northeast and southeast) will also be required for the tax appraisal. Another important new change from this law is that small pine sawtimber (chip-n-saw) is recognized as a timber product.

STEPS IN PASSING THE BATON

Clint Bentz, "Tree Farmer", July/August, 2005.

Clint Bentz, CPA and 2002 National Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year from Scio, Oregon, offers the following suggestions to help ensure a successful transition when passing forest land on to the next generation:

1. Discuss and write down with your spouse your goals and vision for the property.
2. Discuss these goals with your children, and get their feedback.
3. Create a "family business" entity – such as a Family Limited Partnership or Limited Liability Company – to own the property. Work with professionals who have experience in creating multigenerational entities.
4. Gift or sell ownership interests in the entity to your children. Discuss and decide with your spouse who will be owners, and how ownership will be shared among your children and grandchildren.
5. Have annual family meetings to discuss your Tree Farm business and share your passion for why you own the property.
6. Separate operational activities from ownership. Make sure people are being compensated appropriately for the work they do.
7. Create non-financial reasons for the family to continue to own the property. Develop the recreational potential of your land and make it easy for your children and grandchildren to come and enjoy the property. Is the property a financial asset or an heirloom? Spend time polishing up the heirloom.
8. Encourage your family to come and spend time on the land. Get them involved in the plan and design of your recreational assets. Use the property to teach life skills to your grandchildren.
9. Select and groom a person or persons to succeed you. Do this early enough so that you are around to help them succeed in their new role.
10. Take time to step back and smell the roses. Only 1 in 100 of your fellow citizens share the wonderful opportunity you have to work with your land over time and leave it better than you found it. Stay in touch with why you own the property and share this passion with your family every chance you have.

TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

2006 membership dues are payable now. Please cut or tear off the coupon below and send it with your \$15 check to:

NETFLA
PO Box 642
Mt. Vernon, TX 75457

You can save your organization postage by letting your check serve as your receipt. We will mail a receipt only if you specifically request one by checking the box on the form below. Those paying at the meeting will receive a receipt.

We urge those of you that still owe \$15 dues from 2005 to get current for both 2005 and 2006 at this time. Those in arrears for both 2004 and 2005 have been dropped from the mailing list.

2005-2006 NETFLA MEMBERSHIP STATEMENT

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

2005 DUES \$15
2006 DUES \$15

(A RED DOT ON THIS NEWSLETTER MEANS YOU OWE FOR 2005.)

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

Please mail me a receipt.