



Northeast Texas Forest Landowners Association Newsletter

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Texas Legislature Endorses Fall Forest Summit

During the recent Texas Legislature., the House and Senate each passed resolutions encouraging Texas Forestry Association (TFA) to conduct a Forest Summit to look at current markets and the future of the forest resource in East Texas. Stated to be a "valuable opportunity for elected officials, community leaders, forestland owners and industry professionals," both State Representative Jim McReynolds and Senator Robert Nichols filed resolutions in full support of the Texas Forest Summit.

TFA has assembled a joint Annual Meeting Committee and ad hoc Forest Summit Committee who are working diligently to produce the summit, which will be held October 20, 21 and 22, 2009 in Nacogdoches, with an emphasis on the Forest Summit on October 21. A number of excellent speakers are lined up to address the future of the overall economy, timber markets, bio fuels, U.S. and Texas housing/building economy, risk management and much more.

In addition, Representative McReynolds and Senator Nichols and other East Texas legislators will be on hand to provide support for the summit, as will representatives from the Governor's Economic Development department and the Texas Department of Agriculture. Not only will these leaders provide support for the industry, they will also take back facts and data to begin working on strengthening the future of the forest industry.

"This meeting will be beneficial to forest landowners, foresters, logging contractors and industry representatives, as well as representatives from local Chambers of Commerce. Economic Development and businesses in each county in East Texas," said Ron Hufford, Executive Vice President of Texas Forestry Association. "We encourage representatives from every county to attend this event and participate in discussion that affects not only the future of the timber industry, but the future of East Texas," he

added.

The Forest Summit will be held at the Hotel Fredonia in Nacogdoches. Meeting registration will be available in late August.

TFA AUGUST MINI-SUMMIT ON FORESTRY ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Friday, August 14, 2009

Arthur Temple College of Forestry & Agriculture

Stephen F. Austin State University

East College at Raguet Street

Nacogdoches, Texas

Time: 10am - 2:00pm

The program is a precursor to the Forest Summit to be held October 20-22, 2009. The program will address issues of importance that will not be addressed in the October Summit.

Topics

- Water issues in Texas - impact to timberland
- Transportation costs associated with harvesting and hauling timber
- Eminent Domain legislation - where it is and where it's going
- Oil and gas leases - what landowners need to know
- Economic Development - updates from Texas Department of Agriculture

RSVP/Contact Information

Cost is \$15. All attendees must register by August 10, 2009. Download the registration form at www.texasforestry.org and mail form and payment to Texas Forestry Association, P.O. Box 1488, Lufkin, TX 75902-1488 or fax (936) 632-9461 to pay by credit card (Visa and MasterCard only).

For more information, call (936) 632-TREE.

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FROM THE FOREST



Well, this is attempt number three at writing this column. It's hard to talk about gentle things like forestry and woodlands while listening to the stuff coming out of Washington, D.C.

Right now, I am more concerned about preserving my rights as a citizen of what began as a democratic republic than about growing trees. Think for a moment of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, who pledged not only their lives and fortunes, but their sacred honor to create a new government, and wound up, in almost every case, losing all but that sacred honor. They kept their word despite illness, imprisonment, and torture.

Where stand the politicians of today – how do they stack up? One Congressman admitted – on TV -- that neither he nor his staff had read the three major bills (1000+ pages each) passed out of the House this year: Stimulus, Budget, and Cap and Trade. The Congressman asserted that it was impossible to read these bills because there was not enough time to study them before the vote, in one case only seven hours. **But he voted for them anyway! And then he went on to say that this is the common practice!**

Take a look at the latest “emergency,” the constantly changing Health Care bill, which at one time was just supposed to provide insurance for those who couldn't afford it (estimates range from the popular 45 million down to 12 million, including illegal aliens). Now it has morphed into a national health insurance plan – oh, you don't think so? How, no matter what private option we are promised, can a private insurance company that has to make at least a small profit to survive, possibly compete against a **non-profit, taxpayer subsidized** company? And so, soon there are no options but national health insurance, regulated by the government...socialized medicine.

These congressmen are coming home very soon. We should all button-hole these people — especially the ones representing our urban areas — and make our concerns known, especially that we insist on their voting “no” on any bill they have not thoroughly read and studied.

Government running any enterprise is terribly inefficient, wasteful, and destructive of our rights as guaranteed under the Constitution. The one thing government does best is fight wars, and that not particularly well. Thankfully, wars are temporary. Changes in our laws are not, and can be far more dangerous over time.

One of the founders, emerging from the Convention, was asked “What form of government have you given us?” His reply was “A Republic, if you can keep it.”

These Tea Party folks – Democrats, Republicans, and independents -- get it, and so do I. We're more than half way down the road to socialism in this country, but I intend to brace up, set my feet, and try to preserve what's left of the Founders' blood gift, the Republic of the United States of America.

Bill Tucker

Program and Meeting Notes

By now, you should have received the first mailer from the Texas Forestry Service about the Sustainable Forestry workshop in Gilmer August 15. This will be our August program and meeting, and because of the popularity of the SFI programs, has been over a year in the making. The last one for us was more than eight years ago, when we were the Four County Landowners Association, up at the Mt. Pleasant Civic Center.

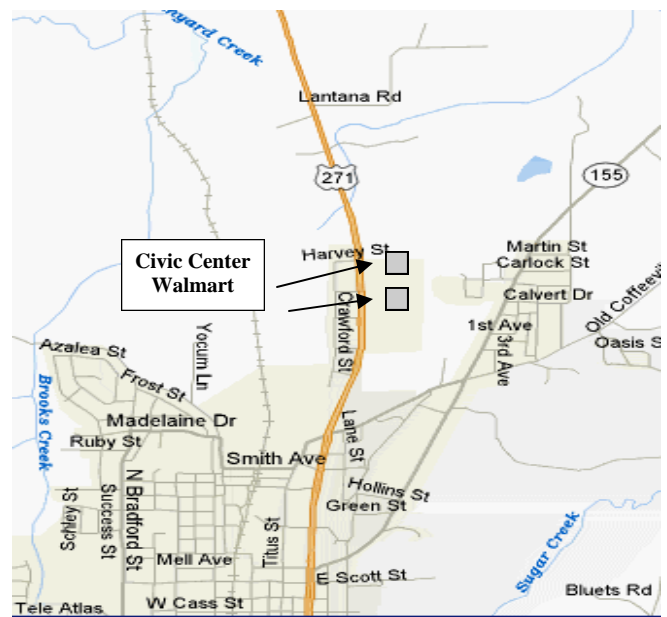
There is no detailed agenda in this issue because you should all receive one, along with the RSVP response form, in the mail directly from the Texas Forest Service. Check your mail carefully and don't trash TFS mail.

These mailers (and radio ads) are going out to every forest landowner in our six counties with 40 acres or more, including Titus County, where we desperately need help on membership. This is a real chance to get our paid membership up to 100, and to turn Titus County back into an actively participating bunch of good forest friends and neighbors. This program should have an attendance of well over 100, and we need to be there at our table visiting with people and signing them up to our association. We need to be there before the program begins, during the breaks, at lunch, and after the meeting. We need people for setup before the meeting – in the building and ready to work at 8 AM – not just for us, but also perhaps TFS. There will be coffee and rolls, and they can only physically do so much. This is also prime time for visiting, and you can bet there will be some people there at 8 AM.

It won't really be that difficult. Betty Smith, Peggy Brewington, and I managed our table at the last SFI workshop, trading off as needed, and all went fine.

I realize that there are not many of us around in August, but we're really just looking for three or four besides myself. Please consider what our outfit can gain if you put this as the first priority on your calendar, and act accordingly. Let me know if you want to work – contact info is on the facing page.

See you there — Bill



2009 PROGRAM CALENDAR

Saturday, August 15

8:30 AM-2PM

**TFS Sustainable Forestry
Workshop and Free Barbecue
Gilmer Civic Center**

Saturday, Nov. 14, 10 AM

**Elections, Tentative Program —
Oak Decline in East Texas Forests**

**The TFA Membership Contest
Cutoff Date Is Sept 1**

**Please get your dues in before this
date if you want to eat free in 2010
See back page for details!**

Please Remit 2009 Dues to:

**NETFLA
PO Box 642
Mt. Vernon, TX 75457**

**Dues are \$15 per member or asso-
ciate per year. Make checks pay-
able to NETFLA, and thanks!**

Reforestation Timelines

Wayne Bell, International Forest Company

What do I do next? This question is a common one for landowners as they talk with professional foresters about their reforestation projects. In fact, there are a number of critical decisions to be made that will affect your forest for years to come. The starting place must be defining the management objectives for the property in relation to things like timber production, wildlife management, ecosystem management, and real estate development. For example, with timber production, the landowner must decide if he or she plans to market pulpwood, saw timber, poles, pine straw, etc. For wildlife management, the choices could include target species desired, aesthetic appeal, or habitat species to develop. Ecosystem management decisions may include those about water quality, aesthetics, endangered species, desired plant or animal species, or carbon sequestration. Real estate development decisions could include the issues of aesthetic appeal, species that appeal to the buyers, road development, and planting patterns. There could be options of combining two or more of these objectives or having objectives that have never been considered before.

Seedling Spacing

The objectives that a landowner selects will influence decisions about issues such as seedling spacing. The general trend over the last few years has been for wider spacing, as research is showing that survival decreases significantly as trees start to compete. Growth is also significantly decreased or increased by spacing choices. Wildlife managers generally prefer fewer trees per acre. The spacing determines how many seedlings must be ordered from a nursery. Below are some examples of spacing and how it affects the number of seedlings needed:

12 ft. x	12 ft.	=	302 trees/ac.
10 ft. x	12 ft.	=	363 trees/ac.
8 ft. x	12 ft.	=	454 trees/ac.
7 ft. x	12 ft.	=	519 trees/ac.
6 ft. x	12 ft.	=	605 trees/ac.

Seedling Options

Nurseries offer a variety of seedling options. Seedlings are available for all pine species and several species of hardwoods as either container or bare-root. Container seedling benefits include better survival, increased growth for early planting, a bigger planting window (September through May), uniform root systems and tops, and a more accurate count per package. Bareroot seedling benefits include less cost and less bulkiness to transport.

The key to selecting seedling type is what benefits are most important to your objective. Cost per acre of an established uniform stand of trees should be evaluated financially. For example, container longleaf survival is consistently much higher than bare-root and therefore, the overall cost is less per surviving seedling. To be assured of getting the type seedling you would like, the best option is to order these seedlings before April.

One of the most confusing aspects of choosing seedlings comes in selecting genetic quality. Decisions on what seed to sow are made by nursery managers during January 1 to March 15, although many have to purchase or collect seed as early as the previous fall in many cases. And now with the introduction of varietal line seedlings, decisions may need to be made a year in advance to be assured of getting those seedlings.

The nursery must know your desire during the January to March period at minimum to insure that you get to choose the best genetic option. After March 15, selection will be limited to what the nursery will sow in the spring. To have the most options, ordering in the month of January is best. These standards are primarily true for pine species, but for hardwoods, the window is usually much earlier due to longer preparation times and different sowing times. Some hardwoods are sown in the fall of the preceding year.

Seedling supply is affected by other factors such as hurricane damage, fire damage, or government programs. These factors can cause seedlings to be in short supply very early due to increased demand. An example of this is the recent longleaf CRP program that was announced in December and caused a big increase in demand during early spring before nursery sowing.

Many customers prefer seedling specifications that suit some special circumstances or their desired preferences other than what the nursery normally produces. To make these special requests, the landowner should give the nursery as much advance notice as possible, but no later than March 1, as decisions are being made quickly after that date and seed sowing often starts in March or early April. One example is when container seedlings need to be delivered in early fall. With an early delivery date, seedlings must be sown earlier. Another example in bare-root would be when morphologically-improved seedlings are the choice, then the seed must be sown at a much wider spacing to achieve the seedling characteristics desired.

To continue planning for reforestation, field conditions must be evaluated before planting. Site preparation options must be explored by spring as well. There is no need to plant seedlings if competition will overtake the newly planted seedlings. To help make this evaluation, a professional forester and a chemical professional should be consulted. Invasive species must also be evaluated on the property or on adjacent property to determine if they will become a problem.

Soil Preparation

Landowners should also consider mechanical soil preparation options. These operations could include bed-ding, subsoiling, scalping, harrowing, etc. Planting seedlings after these operations require different timetables based on the option chosen. The amount of rainfall and the soil types often have significant effects on when the site will be ready for planting. Local consulting foresters and experienced site preparation contractors can advise on conditions to achieve the best possible planting condition.

In many areas of the south, summer and early fall have been dry in recent years. Evaluating when there is enough moisture to plant is critical to survival and growth. There should be soil moisture within two inches of the soil surface. Too much moisture must be considered in some areas. If the site has standing water, it could be too wet to get proper root growth and the seedlings could become stressed. Arranging for a planting contractor must be made during the summer months and the earlier the better to be able to get planting done at the time desired. Always work with experienced contractors.

Planting Timing

Timing for planting seedlings is typically done in the south starting in the fall and running through March. With container seedlings, the window for planting is generally from September through May. However, landowners are discovering this window can be stretched even more as long as there is adequate field moisture. Field moisture is important for planting at any time of the year. Bareroot seedlings have a narrow window, which is generally from December 1 to March 15. Although some plant outside this window in special cases, this should be arranged well ahead of time with the nursery to insure the seedlings are physiologically ready for shipping and are handled properly.

As planting time actually arrives, handling seedlings will be important to successfully complete

the process. All seedlings must be kept from overheating and freezing after they are packaged. Bareroot seedlings should be transported in refrigeration or in tarp-covered loads during cool periods of the day. Refrigeration should be kept between 33 and 40 degrees Fahrenheit. Seedlings stored without refrigeration should be kept in a shaded storage area.

With or without refrigeration, good air circulation should be maintained around the packages. Seedlings can be stored for one to two weeks without refrigeration depending on the outside temperatures. When outside temperatures are above 60 degrees, seedling storage times will be shortened. With refrigeration, seedlings can be stored for several weeks, although the best option is to limit storage to as short as possible. Container seedlings are not as sensitive as bareroot, but they must be properly stored observing the same general requirements as bareroot. Regardless of the seedling type, the longer seedlings are stored, the greater the chance of decreased survival.

Planning for a successful reforestation will pay off in benefits as you reap your management objectives. Please take these timelines in consideration to choose your best options.

Biomass Crop Assistance Program

The Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) was established by the 2008 Farm Bill (Section 9011). The overall purpose of the program is to provide support for the establishment and production of crops for conversion to bioenergy in project areas and to help with the collection, harvest, storage and transportation (CHST) of eligible material for use in biomass conversion facilities.

Introductory information on the program administered by the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) and sign-up information for news releases may be found at the following link: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=ener&topic=bcap>. Please check back regularly for updates.

Also a first notice with related information can be found at: http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_Notice/bcap_1.pdf

And finally, a Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) that provides some further detailed information was also released and can be found at:

http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_Federal_Notices/bcap.pdf

Farm Service Agency will be moving forward with rulemaking later this year to fully implement BCAP. As more information becomes available, your FSA county offices will be able to educate and assist producers and facilities become eligible to participate.

***Southern Pine Beetle:
Another Year of Low Activity Predicted in
Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas for 2009***

Ronald F. Billings, Manager Forest Pest Management, Texas Forest Service, College Station, TX

For the eleventh year in a row, no infestations of the South's most destructive forest pest, the southern pine beetle (SPB), were detected in East Texas, Louisiana or Arkansas in 2008. The most recent SPB infestations detected in East Texas were reported in 1998, when the last major outbreak ended. Early spring surveys conducted with attractant-baited traps in March and April of 2008 correctly forecasted these low infestation levels. The forestry agencies across the South since 1986, uses attractant-baited traps placed in pine forests in early spring. The traps sample dispersing populations of two insects

SPB and one of its natural predators, the checkered or clerid beetle. The average numbers of SPB per day, coupled with the ratio of SPB to predators, provide information required to predict whether SPB trends will be increasing, static or declining from the year before.

In March 2009, survey traps were installed and results of this year's SPB prediction survey clearly indicate that another low year of SPB activity can be expected in 2009 for Texas and other southern states located west of the Mississippi River.

The Texas Forest Service (TFS) has developed an effective system for predicting SPB infestation trends and levels. The system, implemented by cooperating state and federal monitored in 12 counties (from Nacogdoches to Liberty) and the four National Forests in Texas. Results were very similar to those reported since 1999. Not a single SPB adult was captured, while more than 4,400 checkered beetles were caught in all traps combined. Clearly, despite damage from Hurricane Ike and another mild winter, there are no indications that SPB populations have begun to rebound from the low levels experienced since 1998. Continued low SPB levels are expected throughout the year. Based on similar trap catches, no SPB problems are anticipated during 2009 in Louisiana, Arkansas or Oklahoma pine forests either.

Historically, SPB outbreaks have occurred every 6-9 years in East Texas. Since SPB is a native and populations tend to be cyclic, another outbreak of this native insect pest eventually is anticipated in Western Gulf states. In a continuing effort to monitor the SPB population cycle and predict pending outbreaks, the trapping survey will be repeated throughout the southern United States in the spring of 2010.

With SPB populations at very low levels, now would be an ideal time for private forest landowners with pine plantations to take preventive measures to avoid beetle-caused losses in the future. To reduce susceptibility to SPB infestation, dense pine stands (those having stand basal areas exceeding 120 square feet per acre) should be thinned. Thinning serves to maintain vigor of the remaining trees and increases spacing between trees, which in turn reduces risks of losses to both SPB and wildfires. Healthy, rapidly-growing pines are more able to ward off initial beetle attack with copious flows of pitch or oleoresin. Thinning also pays dividends by encouraging trees to grow to a more valuable pole or sawtimber size in a shorter period of time.

Dense stands in need of a first thinning may qualify for federal cost shares, under the Southern Pine Beetle Prevention Project. This is a cooperative project administered by the Texas Forest Service with cost-share funds provided by the USDA Forest Service, Forest Health Protection.

Since the SPB Prevention Project began offering cost shares for first thinning in 2003, a total of 1,112 cases involving over 75,000 acres in East Texas have been approved for cost shared thinning. Of these, 809 cases covering 56,214 acres have been completed and more than \$3 million in cost shares have been paid to private landowners. Additional federal funds for this successful program have been provided for FY 2009, so there is still ample opportunity for more landowners to participate. For more information, contact the Texas Forest Service District office nearest you or visit the TFS web page at <http://txforests-service.tamu.edu> and click on Insects and Diseases, Publications, then Insects.

Our good friend Tom Ewan passed away on June 26 after a brief illness. He was 91. Our condolences to his two sons and their families.

Tom had a degree in physics, and a distinguished naval career beginning in World War II. Later years saw him with the University of Texas, and with General Dynamics and Lone Star Steel in Daingerfield in high level research and development.. Our quiet friend had over 100 patents in his name.

After coming to Morris County, Tom and his wife began acquiring land and turning it into productive woodlands. One of our directors said Tom had planted over a million seedlings during his time here. He also spent many years actively supporting the Boy Scouts of America, and I imagine that if you'd asked him, he might have said the two just naturally went together.

We'll miss you, Tom. God speed and God bless.

DON'T TURN DOWN A FREE LUNCH IN 2010!!

Our cutoff date for the TFA membership contest this year is Sept. 1. All members need to get their 2009 NET-FLA dues current by then so we can win this contest once again. One member can make the difference.

This list shows less than half the membership paid. If your records indicate you've paid, and you're not on the list, please drop an email to Bill Tucker at btimber@aol.com or call 903-856-6316.

Please remit to the address on p. 3 or the back of this page. Thanks!

The 2009 NETFLA "Good Guys" (paid-up dues):

<u>First Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>
Wayne	Arnold
Dennis and Maggie	Boerner
John and Myrna	Bradley
Peggy J.	Brewington
Harold & Patsy	Coley
Kenneth	Conaway
Harry	Earl
Robert	Emerick

Betty Hoffman	Erwin Family Properties
Sid Dennis	Greer
Blanche	Grimes
Larry	Handy-Sparks
Vernon	Hoffman
David	Holcomb
Leon & Barbara	Laschinger
Rick and Jan	Lester
Wanda R.	Lively
John C.	Mitchell
James C.	Osteen
Warren	Petty
Andrew	Proctor
Mr. and Mrs. C. M.	Roane
W. Rex	Rogers
Betty	Shirey
Kenneth	Smith
Carl R.	Stewart
Dennis and Roberta	Strange
Bill	Townsend
Robert & Gloria	Tucker
Glenn and Judy	Turner
Mary	Weiss
Samuel Rex	Wells
	Youngblood

Market Report – March/April 2009

Product	Statewide Ave. Price		Previous Ave. Price		Weight Difference
	Weight	Volume	Weight	Volume	
Pine-Sawlogs	\$24.72/ton	\$188.44/mbf	\$24.25/ton	\$184.73/mbf	+2%
Pine-Pulpwood	\$5.68/ton	\$15.30/cord	\$7.05/ton	\$18.95/cord	-19%
Pine-Chip'n'Saw	\$12.66/ton	\$34.19/cord	\$16.21/ton	\$43.76/cord	-22%
Mixed Hardwood-Sawlogs	\$21.12/ton	\$176.47/mbf	\$21.28/cord	\$177.92/mbf	-1%
Hardwood-Pulpwood	\$9.03/ton	\$25.33/cord	\$7.71/ton	\$21.58/cord	+17%

See Timber Price Trends at <http://texasforests.tamu.edu> for more detailed information. Copies can be purchased from the Texas Forest Service, Office of the Director, John B. Connally Building, 301 Tarrow, Suite 364, College Station, TX 77840-7896. It is recommended that you use the services of a professional consulting forester in managing any timber sale. Important factors affecting timber prices include the type, quality and volume of timber for sale, accessibility, distance to mills/markets, weather conditions, economy/market conditions, who is handling the sale, who is buying the timber, and contract requirements by the landowner.

Conversion factors between volume and weight vary from sale to sale, so the differences in volume prices above may not equal differences in weight prices.

Stumpage price statistics include gatewood sales (estimated by subtracting cut-and-haul costs, other expenses and profits provided by reporter).

Statewide data excludes U.S. Forest Service sales.

Price calculated from specific conversion factor reported for each sale if available; otherwise, average conversion factors listed on page 4 of Texas Timber Price Trends (<http://texasforests.tamu.edu/timberpricetrends>) are used. MBF = thousand board feet. Doyle Scale used for board foot measurements.