



Northeast Texas Forest Landowners Association Newsletter

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How to Make Your Children Happy or Miserable

William Oettmeier, at the 60th Forest Landowners Conference in Alexandria, Virginia. Reprinted from "Forest Landowner", July/August, 2001

"....What I do intend to discuss today is a common management problem, no matter where you live, or what your terrain or species or product mix might be.

"And what is this common management problem? It is how, or even, should, we pass our land on to our children. My recommendations are based upon over 40 years of experience in the field of forestry, watching how people have left their land to their families.

"First let me say that if your children have always been a major pain in your life, and tried every way to make you lose your mind, then pay special attention because I can tell you how to get even.

"If you have several children, just leave them a piece of land to own together. Tie it up as much as possible in a good tight trust with no wiggle room. It helps if they have different financial needs, and it gets even better if it has good hunting, and fantastic if it has a cabin or a camp house. It is unbelievable how much pain you can cause when everyone wants to use the cabin the same weekend. Or even better when one child brings friends to hunt their sibling's favorite spot. With a little luck, you can have them refusing to speak to each other within two or three years. Four, if they were always close.

"There's more. Don't make any good maps of the property. Don't mark any of the corners. And for goodness sakes, don't show them where any property lines are. If you have any unwritten agreements with your neighbors, keep quiet about those.

"However, if by chance, you don't want to get even with your children, there are some things you can do to keep from making these mistakes. First, make certain that you do not get so hung up on saving estate taxes that you destroy your family. The amount you save may come at too great a price.

Second, how many of you own a GPS unit? How many don't even know what it is? This is a great tool to help you with your corners and lines. It is a hand held unit that will locate any point on the earth within a few feet, based on reception from a series of 24 satellites. A unit like this costs a couple of hundred bucks. And for another hundred bucks you can get a very good mapping program to go with it. You can go out and locate your corners, enter their GPS numbers, then go back to them (or to within a few feet). Or, you can hire a consultant to do it. Then either you or your consultant can take your children out and show them the property lines and the corners. If you have grandchildren, take them along and make a game of it. Let them use the GPS and help you find the corners. "In doing this, you will not only acquaint them with the property, but you may

find out a lot about your children and grandchildren. You may find that some, or even all, do not care enough about the land to put forth any effort. Anyone who won't learn his property lines won't have it long. So, if in trying to teach your children the property, some indicate little or no desire to learn or even spend the time or effort required, you may want to leave them something else in your estate. If none indicate any interest, you may want to sell the property and take a trip around the world. I say that jokingly, but you may know the value of the property much better than they do, and may be better equipped to dispose of it rather than let them botch the sale after you are gone.

"But assuming you all have good children, who love the land, let's talk about what you can do to prevent sibling war. As I said, teach them the property. Have good maps made. Take some time and sit down and write the history of each tract. Put as much factual and financial information as you can into the history with as much anecdotal information as you think of. Your children will treasure reading it and passing it down to future generations after you're gone. Either divide the property before your death or leave directions on how it should be divided in your will. Take the pressure off of your children.

"My wife Patricia's mother is a wise woman. She has four daughters, and originally her land was to be left to them in one estate. Her daughters were close, but they all had children and she could see problems looming in the future. So she hired an appraiser and a surveyor and had the property divided into four parcels of equal value. When the valuation and survey was complete, she sent a composite map to the four girls for them to examine. A month later the four girls (no husbands, no children) and their mother met with an attorney. The attorney told the girls they were going to draw for their parcels. Once they had drawn, he said "I am going to walk outside and smoke a cigarette, I will be back in 5 minutes and I will write the deeds. If you are going to do any swapping, you have 5 minutes." When he returned, he wrote the deeds to be signed by the other three siblings. This was more symbolic than anything. As a result, my wife and her siblings still love each other, they love their mother, and they love their land.

"I know how onerous estate taxes are. But, don't get so hung up on beating the IRS that you destroy your family. In fact, I bet with a little help from a good taxman, you can save on the taxes, and save your children's feelings towards each other and you at the same time. Or, at worst, make the land you love so much available to someone who will love it and take care of it as you have. Just some food for thought: from the grave, it is easier to roll than to rule!"

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FROM THE FOREST



A guy can think some odd thoughts while watching the clouds come up and the sky get lighter about six in the morning. Sitting at the kitchen table, working on my first cup of coffee, everything quiet, just looking out the windows. There's a lot of glass in this big kitchen, with most starting at almost ground level. Like I told 'em when we bought the place, not exactly a house that can be defended, but plenty of ways to get out and disappear into the woods. Most mornings I just look to spot a deer or maybe the rare cruising coyote. One morning brought a couple of escaped emus at the bird feeder, another a big old coon that wanted to come in the utility room door when I opened it. Live-trapped that one, but am still pondering the critter that got in the burn barrel the other day. Bet you never tracked a coon by wet, ashy footprints pointing *down* the side of a metal barrel...clean going in, but must have been a sight coming out. Big one, too, since there wasn't that much in the barrel and it was a long reach to the top.

What is this, the varmint column? Hmm, we may have stumbled on a theme here.

Sam the Dog used to chase critters off, but she passed at fifteen this last winter, and we're now appreciating just how much work she really did. She was a Lab mix and would generally take on almost anything. She did have her sticking points, however; Sam refused to chase armadillos at night (didn't like the "lump, lump" sounds?), and refused to herd emus at all. Maybe she was a union dog and these exceptions were in her contract.

About the emus...one sunny morning I was sitting at the kitchen table and looked up when I heard the dog going nuts. The bird feeders sit outside, about ten feet from the window, and I expected a squirrel. Instead there were two emus well north of six feet tall checking things out, and a rapidly disappearing dog. I picked up the shotgun and a bunch of shells and decided to try my luck at herding emus. Moving slowly and shooting into the ground near their feet was fairly successful, so we proceeded this way out of the yard and up the 700' long drive, through the woods and to the fence line, where they decided to head south, a mutually agreeable solution. Well, until they decided to head back at me. Shotgun was losing its novelty, evidently. These birds have some truly formidable feet, but the big spurs on the back are the real killers. Regular disemboweling tools according to TV. Believe me, they get really big when they're headed in your direction, accompanied by the silly "gunk, gunk" emu conversational noises. So I lined up for a head shot and muttered "just one more step" while trying to visualize what to do with all that meat — heck, it takes us a week to finish up the Thanksgiving turkey. Fortunately, they turned back around and "gunk, gunked" right back south and off the place. For the next couple of years I saw them in the pasture across from us with the cattle, then not at all.

Understand politicians are even harder to herd than emus...see you at Sid and Eva's!

Bill Tucker

Program and Meeting Notes

Before we get to this month's program, I'd like to direct your attention to one being sponsored by our fellow group, the East Texas Timberland Owners Association on Friday, July 24. Those of you that have had the pleasure of hearing Billy Higginbotham speak recognize him as a raconteur par excellence, and Nathan Garner is great on black bears. By the way, there was a recent sighting of a black bear near the intersection of Highways 155 and 249. Bears, hogs, snakes and spooks (endangered species). Does it get much better than that? Details are on page 6.

May 30 we will have the rare privilege of touring Sid Greer's tree farm near Daingerfield. **The tour begins at 9:30 AM.** Sid and Eva were nominated for Texas Tree Farmers of the Year in 2000, and their place has done nothing but change for the better since that time. Sid has continued to experiment with forest planting and management techniques, and has also expanded into organic farming, grass-fed beef, and eco-tourism. There is truly a lot to see and learn at the Greer Farm, and it has been featured in the Dallas Morning News as well as on the ABC and CBS networks. For more information, visit their web site at www.greerfarm.com.

We will also have a catered lunch. Long-time professional chef and caterer Eva Greer will provide the meal and TFA (due to our victory in the 2008 TFA membership contest) will pick up the tab — doesn't get any better than that!

PLEASE NOTE THAT YOU WILL NEED TO RSVP FOR THIS EVENT BY MAY 23 — RSVP INFORMATION AND CUTOFF DATE ARE ON THE BACK PAGE.

THERE WILL BE NO VANS SINCE THE SITE IS SO CLOSE — SAVE THE MAPS SO YOU KNOW WHERE TO GO.

From Highway 11:
Turn right (southeast) at CR 1124; then turn right (south) at CR 1125.
Stop at railroad tracks and check for train! No light and no crossing bar!!
Greer Farm - House on right (about 1 mile)

2009 PROGRAM CALENDAR

Saturday, May 30, 9:30 AM
Greer Farm Tour, and TFA Lunch
Near Daingerfield, Texas
RSVP REQUIRED

Saturday, August 15, 9AM-2PM
TFS Sustainable Forestry
Workshop and Free Barbecue
Gilmer Civic Center

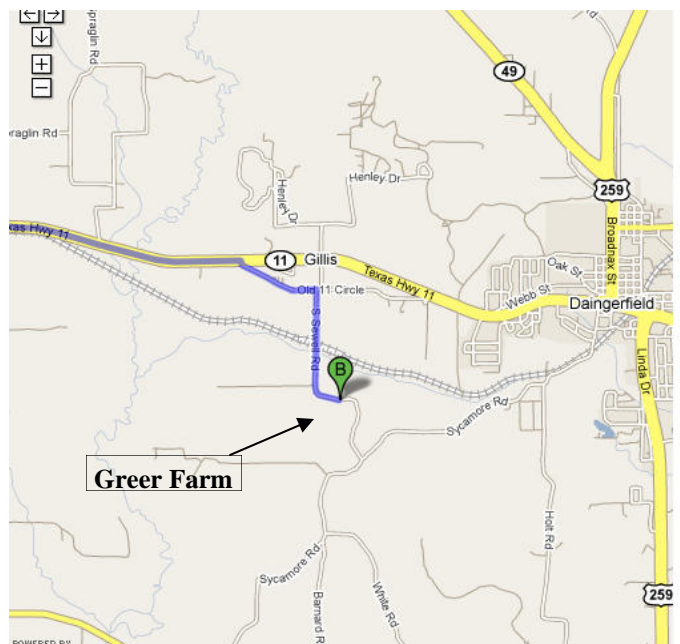
Saturday, Nov. 14, 10 AM
Elections, Program Not Set Yet
Feel Free to Make Suggestions

Please Remit 2009 Dues to:

NETFLA
PO Box 642
Mt. Vernon, TX 75457

Dues are \$15 per member or associate per year. Make checks payable to NETFLA, and thanks!

Remember, we use your dues for our programs and charitable activities.



Research Roundup: Better Pines, Better Habitat

Research Reveals Forestland Management a Boon to Both Pines and Wildlife

Jonathan Smith, Senior Sales Specialist, BASF Professional Vegetation Management (ProVM)

Studies by several southeastern United States universities from as early as 1996 demonstrate that intensive forest management strategies, such as herbicide use, deliver healthier, faster-growing pines and better habitat for wildlife—particularly white-tailed deer and a variety of bird species.

Better Deer Forage

In the mid-1980s, the increasingly common use of intensive forestry management practices sparked debate over the impact of herbicides on forage production and wildlife habitat quality. To address this issue, a group of industry and academic specialists developed a collaborative research project to determine how intensive pine management practices affected wildlife habitat quality, especially deer habitat¹. The group included the National Council for Air and Stream Improvement; Mississippi State University (MSU); the University of Georgia (UGA); the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks; and the forest products industry.

Commencing in 2001, researchers identified ways that land managers could increase pine growth while also creating high-quality deer habitat. Four sites were studied in Mississippi, where intensive pine management is common. The team identified a range of five management strategies, from low- to high-intensity, and applied all five strategies to each of the four study areas.

Five Management Strategies

Strategy 1

Mechanical site preparation with a plow to subsoil, till, and bed
One-year banded herbaceous weed control

Strategy 2

Chemical site preparation with a mix of Chopper® herbicide, Accord® herbicide, and Garlon® 4 herbicide
One-year banded herbaceous weed control

Strategy 3

Mechanical site preparation with a plow to subsoil, till, and bed
Chemical site preparation with Chopper, Accord, and Garlon 4
One-year banded herbaceous weed control

Strategy 4

Mechanical site preparation with a plow to subsoil, till, and bed
Chemical site preparation with Chopper, Accord, and Garlon 4
One-year broadcast herbaceous weed control

Strategy 5

Mechanical site preparation with a plow to subsoil, till, and bed
Chemical site preparation with Chopper, Accord, and Garlon 4
Two-year broadcast herbaceous weed control

During the first year after planting, the percentage of understory cover forage for deer decreased proportionately to the increase in management intensity. However, during the second year, Strategies 1, 2, and 3 resulted in similar

amounts of understory cover, while Strategy 4 produced the greatest increase overall in understory cover. According to these results, an intensive management strategy does not necessarily lead to less understory cover in the second year following planting.

The most important factor, however, was not the quantity, but the quality of the understory that resulted from each management strategy. While the amount of forage is important, researchers noted, the quality is even more vital to providing deer habitat.

On sites treated with the more intense management—Strategies 3 and 4—high-quality, deer-preferred forbs and legumes more than doubled in the second growing year. In addition, an analysis of the nutritional carrying capacity produced by each strategy revealed that Strategy 1, the least intensive method, which clearly provided the most understory, actually provided very little nutrition for deer. In fact, the least intensive approach (Strategy 1) and the most intensive approach (Strategy 5) offered equal nutritional carrying capacities: two deer-days* per acre.

Strategy 3 created the best deer habitat, with a nutritional carrying capacity of 16 deer-days per acre. Researchers attributed the success of Strategy 3 to its chemical site preparation, which removed the woody brush, making sunlight, water and nutrients available for the growth of higher-quality forbs and legumes. The research results show that intensive pine management techniques, such as site preparation and herbaceous weed control, also benefit wildlife.

Mid-Rotation Optimization

At mid-rotation, hardwoods can invade a pine stand, reducing pine productivity and increasing shading, which adversely affects deer forage production. A recent joint study from MSU, the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Experiment Station, and BASF examined ways to mitigate these effects and optimize wildlife habitat at mid-rotation².

The study's objective was to quantify the effects of a coordinated program of prescribed burns and Arsenal® herbicide Applicators Concentrate (Arsenal AC) on deer nutritional carrying capacity at six pine plantation sites in both the lower and upper coastal plains of Mississippi. Each study site consisted of a treated area of 20 acres and an untreated control area of the same size. The research team applied the herbicide by skidder in fall 2002 and followed with prescribed burns in winter 2003. They spent the next two growing seasons studying the results.

In September 2005, the data revealed remarkable results on the treated sites: undesirable woody species declined and desirable forb species increased, creating a 300 to 900 percent increase in nutritional deer-carrying capacity.

Throughout the study, the team observed three avian communities on the sites and found the study's strategies did not harm those communities. In fact, another MSU study completed in 2003 showed that Arsenal AC or the combination of prescribed burning and the herbicide actually increased the habitat value for many bird species³.

The results of the mid-rotation study were so encouraging that the Mississippi Forestry Commission, Natural Resource Conservation Service, and Farm Services Agency have initiated cost-share programs for intensive treatments that use a combination of Arsenal AC and fire. Most states in the southeastern United States have adopted similar programs.

Managed Pines Draw Deer

The results of a 2004 study in partnership with MSU and BASF paralleled the 2005 study's findings, demonstrating that chemical vegetation treatments can cost-effectively produce high-quality, natural deer forage⁴.

The study examined the use of Arsenal AC, prescribed fire, and fertilizer to improve forage production for white-tailed deer on several north-central Mississippi naturally regenerated mature loblolly pine stands. The study compared the nutritional quality and production of selected forage in plots treated in 1998 and 1999 with untreated lots during the two years following treatment. Researchers also measured the quality and production of cowpeas produced in food plots.

On average, treated plots produced four times more leaf biomass and nearly five times more digestible protein than untreated sites. Additionally, cowpea food plots produced 545 kg/ha of leaf biomass and 110 kg/ha of digestible protein, raising the carrying capacity of the managed, treated pine stands to 268 deer-days per acre, a significant increase over the seven deer-days per acre produced by untreated plots.

Benefits for Bobwhite Quail

In pine stands, hardwood midstories not only decrease pine productivity, but also reduce the suitability of these forests for bobwhite quail. A 2004 UGA study set out to discover if herbicides could provide a solution for both of these problems⁵.

The university study was conducted at the Tall Timbers Research Station (TTRS) in Tallahassee, Florida. In July 1997, researchers established three blocks of seven plots each (1 ha/plot) within a mature pine stand. One of

seven treatments—including various combinations of burning, Arsenal AC treatments, mowing, and chopping—was applied to each site.

After one year of treatment, hardwood stem density increased on mechanically treated sites, but the herbicide and herbicide plus burning treatments both showed decreases. In addition, the herbicide-treated sites exhibited a greater than three-fold increase in forb coverage after one year of treatment. Forb coverage did not increase at all on mechanically treated sites.

Because they do not destroy the root structure of hardwoods, mechanical treatments, such as mowing and chopping, actually increased hardwood sprout prevalence. However, the study showed that a single application of Arsenal AC, with or without prescribed fire, could control hardwood encroachment and stimulate forb coverage for bobwhite quail.

Prescribed Burning, Herbicides, and Habitat

Prescribed burning is widely known to benefit the bobwhite's ecosystem, but many forestland managers are limited in their ability to burn due to safety and liability issues.

Herbicides are another effective option for bobwhite habitat management. In 2003, Louisiana State University conducted research on three similarly aged, over-mature pine stands comparing the effects of selective herbicides to those of prescribed fire⁶.

Using treatments of Arsenal AC, Arsenal AC combined with Accord, and prescribed fire only, researchers discovered that both herbicide treatments more effectively improved vegetational structure for brood-rearing and nesting bobwhites. In general, plant and invertebrate species declined on the treated sites during the year following treatment; however, they increased substantially during the second season. Most importantly, bobwhite food plants increased during the first growing season on the site treated with Arsenal AC alone, and increased on both herbicide-treated sites during the second season.

The study also revealed that neither herbicides nor fire produced bareground percentages that were preferred by bobwhites. Only prescribed fire created and maintained bobwhite--preferred escape cover. Unfortunately many forestland managers are limited in their ability to burn due to safety and liability issues. Overall, Arsenal AC provided the greatest net benefit, retaining species diversity and greatly improving invertebrate diversity. As a result of the study, researchers recommend that land managers target areas where prescribed burns cannot be performed and apply Arsenal AC strategically to create a thriving bobwhite habitat.

Websites of Interest

Southwick Associates specializes in quantifying the business-side of fish and wildlife. Website lists ways they help natural resource agencies and the outdoor industries understand the retail sales, economic impacts, and other benefits business and people receive from wildlife and fisheries. Many free reports listed on their website: <http://www.southwickassociates.com/>

Government 101 (AF&PA). How government works and how people can become effective citizens: http://www.bipac.net/page.asp?content=government_info&g=afpa&parent=BIPAC

NEW - Texas Forest Service Tree Identification website: <http://texastreeid.tamu.edu>

“Liquid Assets: The State of Texas’ Water Resources” from State Comptroller Susan Combs’ office: <http://www.window.state.tx.us/specialrpt/water/>

“Condemnation & Compensation”, Judon Fambrough, Reprint from *Tierra Grande*: <http://recenter.tamu.edu/pdf/1895.pdf>

Arbor Day Foundation – “Storm Recover Kit”: <http://www.arborday.org/media/stormrecovery/>

Tips for Involving the Next Generation

Clint Bentz, “Forest Landowner”, March/April, 2009. *The Forest Landowners Association*, www.forestlandowners.com.

Have a family work party. Involve them in planning, organizing and conducting projects such as planting trees, clearing trails, pruning trees, building a campsite or picnic shelter, building a fence, setting up hunting plots...

Don’t miss opportunities to teach skills to your heirs... measuring trees, setting fence posts, changing oil in a tractor, etc.

Share your passion about the property. Let them know why you own it; accompany lessons with stories about the history of the tree farm.

Try to maintain a good balance between work and family life. Don’t always tack a chore (stacking wood) onto a “walk in the woods”.

As children grow, involve them in decisions on the property, especially those that will have long-term affect on their future.

Involve your adult children as if they were owners of the property with you. They can learn from you how best to take care of the property.

Create recreational opportunities on your Tree Farm for the family (hiking trails, picnic areas, archery range, pistol range, gun range, paintball range, hunting stand...).

Offer your property for a public tour through your local forestry association and involve the family in the tour.

East Texas Timberland Owners’ Association Wildlife Program Schedule for July 24.

The East Texas Timberland Owners’ Association Wildlife Program is scheduled for Friday, July 24, 2009 in the Truman Arnold Student Center, Texarkana College, 2500 N. Robison Road, Texarkana. Registration will begin at 9:00 am and presentations start at 9:30 am and the program should conclude around 2:30 pm. Each speaker’s presentation will conclude with a drawing for a door prize. The programs of the East Texas Timberland Owners’ Association are always open to the public and this program will consist of:

Dr. Billy Higginbotham, Extension Wildlife Specialist, TAMU Overton will speak on feral hogs and supplemental food plots on logging sites for the timber landowner.

Nathan Garner, with the Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept, Athens will speak on the Louisiana black bear recovery in East Texas and management of them on timberlands.

David Sierra, with the Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept, Athens will speak about reptiles and amphibians in North East Texas.

Ricky Maxey, Biologist with the Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept, Karnack will speak about rare species and management of them on timberlands.

The Texarkana College Culinary Arts Dept. will cater lunch, costing \$10 per person, payable at the registration table. **Please RSVP by Friday, July 17** to Jerry Voss at 903-832-5565 Extension 3293 or jvoss@texarkanacollege.edu so that we can plan the number of meals needed.

The East Texas Timberland Owners’ Association serves the timber owners of Bowie, Cass, Marion and Red River Counties and welcome new members. For additional information, contact Charles Snowden, Program Chairman at 903-756-7172 or Fred Winters, Public Relations Officer at 903-639-1267 or Russell Lykins, Linden District Forester at 903-756-5571/5572 or Don Edson, New Boston District Forester at 903-628-2711.

RSVP FOR GREER FARM TOUR AND LUNCH

Tour is Saturday May 30 — Starts 9:30 AM

RSVP Cutoff Date For Lunch is Saturday, May 23

Contact Bill Tucker at **903-856-6316 (email btimber@aol.com)** or fill out, tear off and mail this strip to:

Bill Tucker

1172 CR 2412

Leesburg, TX 75451

Your name _____

Number in your party _____

Don't forget — you can bring guests, and this is a great time to sign up new members!

Market Report – January/February 2009

Product	Statewide Ave. Price		Previous Ave. Price		Weight Difference
	Weight	Volume	Weight	Volume	
Pine-Sawlogs	\$24.25/ton	\$184.73/mbf	\$29.74/ton	\$234.11/mbf	-18%
Pine-Pulpwood	\$7.05/ton	\$18.95/cord	\$8.09/ton	\$21.81/cord	-13%
Pine-Chip'n'Saw	\$16.21/ton	\$43.76/cord	\$17.90/ton	\$48.33/cord	-9%
Mixed Hardwood-Sawlogs	\$21.28/ton	\$177.92/mbf	\$22.23/ton	\$204.29/mbf	-4%
Hardwood-Pulpwood	\$7.71/ton	\$21.58/cord	\$8.41/ton	\$23.56/cord	-8%

See [Timber Price Trends](http://texasforests.tamu.edu) 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 gateway 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.

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