



# Northeast Texas Forest Landowners Association Newsletter

October 2003 Published by the Northeast Texas Forest Landowners Association Vol. 23 Issue 4

## **Cost Share Assistance Programs Available for Reforestation Projects**

*Todd Nightingale, District Forester, Texas Forest Service, Crockett*

Three cost share programs are now available to assist landowners with reforestation goals on their property - Texas Reforestation Foundation (TRe), Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP) and Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Because of dollar limitations, the programs are not able to assist all landowners. However, they do offer help, for those who qualify and are approved, to enable them to pursue their reforestation goals.

Landowners may qualify for only one program on the same treatment area and recipients must be approved under the cost share program before any treatments can begin. Any costs incurred prior to approval will not be reimbursable. For example, if site preparation has already been completed prior to approval, site preparation related expenses would not be covered.

With each of these assistance programs, the landowner must complete the entire reforestation project, then submit receipts requesting reimbursement.

Here is an overview of each program:

### **Texas Reforestation Foundation (TRe)**

TRe is a privately funded program administered through the Texas Forestry Association. Landowners cannot own more than 1000 acres of commercial forestland. The project must be maintained for 10 years and the project size must be at least 10 acres. Upon approval, the TRe Board will pay up to 50% of the cost of reforestation or a maximum of \$80 per acre. Contact your local Texas Forest Service District Office for more information.

### **Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP)**

FLEP is a federal program administered by the Texas Forest Service and serves non-industrial private landowners owning a minimum of 20 acres but not more than 1000 acres. The project must be maintained for 10 years and the project size must be at least 10 acres. The program can assist with up to 35% of the total cost approved and cannot exceed \$3,500 per year (Qualified "underserved" landowners may be eligible for higher cost share rates.) Your local Texas Forest Service District Office can provide more information.

### **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)**

EQIP is a program of the USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to implement on-farm conservation practices. The program may fund tree planting in your area. Application has to be made during the limited sign up periods to the NRCS. Contact your local NRCS Office for more details.

## **Texas Forest Service State's Lead Agent for National Forest Legacy Program**

*Jan Davis, Texas Forest Service, College Station*

A new source of funding will give state and local governments, land trusts and non-profits a new method for protecting forestland in Texas. In a letter to the USDA Forest Service, Governor Rick Perry designated the Texas Forest Service as the lead agency for the Forest Legacy Program, a national conservation program that provides federal assistance to protect forestland threatened by conversion to non-forest uses. The Forest Legacy Program has contributed more than \$101 million towards projects valued at \$216 million, and has protected more than 396,000 acres.

The purpose of the Forest Legacy Program is to maintain forestland intact to provide traditional forest benefits including timber harvesting, wildlife habitat, watershed protection and open space conservation. Forest Legacy Program allows landowners to protect conservation values while also maintaining economic uses including timber production. Conservation easements can be used to protect "working forests," where forestland is managed for the production of forest products.

"Both the landowner and the community will benefit by the continued economic returns and the conservation benefits that are associated with such dynamic forest management planning," said Jim Hull, State Forester and Director of the Texas Forest Service.

This is a major opportunity for landowners who have significant property values due to potential development prospects, but wish to keep the land in the family as a working forest. Yet, they can still realize some of the financial gain from the development value in the land. Landowners that sell the development rights to a government institution, public university or land trust, continue to own the land, sell timber, pay taxes, do reforestation, and have hunting rights. It is a win-win situation in that the public continues to have open space lands without the annual cost of paying to manage the forest, and local governments continue to receive the property tax revenue to support schools and county government. The land continues to help support the local forest-based economy by providing a sustainable flow of forest products.

The Texas Forest Service will work with the state's Forest Stewardship Committee to develop an Assessment of Need that will determine eligibility requirements, set state goals and identify areas of focus for Forest Legacy Program in Texas. The USDA Forest Service and Texas Forest Service must approve the Assessment of Need before projects can be submitted for funding.

More information about the Forest Legacy Program can be found at <http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/loa/flp.shtml> or by acting the Texas Forest Service at 979-458-6600.

**Northeast Texas  
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Officers**

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TFS Foresters for our area:

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(903) 856-7181 Pittsburg  
Ken Conaway  
(903) 734-7007 Gilmer



## My View

I was so surprised that summer just sort of fizzled out in mid-September without a struggle. Outside my study window the trees are taking on a hint of color. I have high hopes we will have a beautiful fall. The summer was dry, but thank goodness we did not have the extreme dryness that was forecast. Already East Texas has had some fall rain, so we are off to a good start.

It's amazing that two years have passed since I became your association president. We were able to build on the excellent work of those that led the association before us and at the same time took a giant step forward by expanding the organization to include Wood and Upshur counties. The next move by the association is more of a leap. We are moving from the paper age into the electronic age. Our own website will be up and running in November. The site will be [www.txforest.com](http://www.txforest.com). It will have a membership list, calendar of events, the newsletter and links to timber ownership support organizations. We will be able to communicate quickly and economically with those of you with internet access. To accomplish this, we need your email address. You can send yours to me at [sidgreer@aol.com](mailto:sidgreer@aol.com). So I do not delete your message as spam, include in the subject line "Forest Association Address".

The other evening a neighbor called because he thought one of my cows had crossed the fence into the deep creek on the north side of our farm. It hadn't, but while checking I admired the River Birch trees that are along the creek. Everyone is familiar with the beautiful Birch trees in New England and their role in some of the great American poets works on nature. I really do think that our Texas River Birch trees are just as stately and beautiful as those up north. Sometime in our rush to get on with life we forget to stop and look around us and appreciate what we have on our own land.

At our November 8 meeting in Pittsburg we will be electing new officers and directors for 2004-2005. Like all elections, it is so important that you participant in person or by a mail in ballot. The secret of success for any organization is to have active officers and directors, but more importantly, active and involved members. Sometime its frustrating when our meetings have few in attendance after many go to so much trouble to present an interesting and educational program (hint: the last meeting). I encourage all of you to not only participate in the election in November, but to also try and attend as many of our meetings as you can and participate in areas that interest you. We are still looking for persons to participate in the Landowners Council meetings in Lufkin, handling publicity and press releases for the association and what I call back office support (getting the newsletter ready to be mailed). I know everyone is busy, but if we are to have an association that is effective we need active members. Please consider helping out.

As always, when I end my few comments to you I settle back and review the various interesting quotes I have saved in my diary and try to find one appropriate to share with you. My daughter is a junior at UT-Austin and called the other day and asked what I used to say to her about being yourself- so the quote this time is from me. "The most difficult person to be is yourself". J. Frank Dobie said it another way. "The important thing in life is to see clearly. See all you can, and above all live by what you, yourself, see."

I hope to see each of you Saturday November 8 at 10:30 in Pittsburg.

Sid Greer

## Meeting and Program Notes

We hope as many of you as possible can make this meeting, since we will be electing officers and directors for the next two years. We will meet again at the Western Sizzlin in Mt. Pleasant — this time, at long last, in the big room, and without the defensive driver program blasting us out. Those that have time can also eat in the meeting room or in the restaurant after the program. This is a good time to share ideas, good and bad experiences with loggers and consultants, or just a good story or two.

Lunch will not be free this time, as was traditional with the old Four County Association. With the addition of two counties, we have too many members and too many charitable forestry projects going to handle this financially.

Our program will be on Federal timber taxation and forest economics, with Paul Stanly as featured speaker. Mr. Stanley has his BS in Forestry and an MBA, is a member of the Society of American Foresters, and owns and manages timberland in east Texas. He has spent 25 years with International Paper Co., working intensively in timber taxation and financial reporting, as well as with property sales and land utilization. We will have plenty of time for Q and A.

Please give some thought to program ideas for next year, including the spring tour, and it's not too early to begin recruiting teachers for the Teachers Conservation Institute. Our teachers last year really enjoyed it, but we sent only half the number authorized.

On another note, the following email addresses came back as undeliverable: gwhitten@att.net, 6frazier@parklee.com, forrest@ccnac.com, treefarmer@75755yahoo, haroldt@sydcom.net. See me at the meeting or email me to make corrections, and any of you interested in working on the newsletter, email me also. Thanks — Bill

## 2003 MEETING CALENDAR

**Sat, Nov 8 10:30 AM**

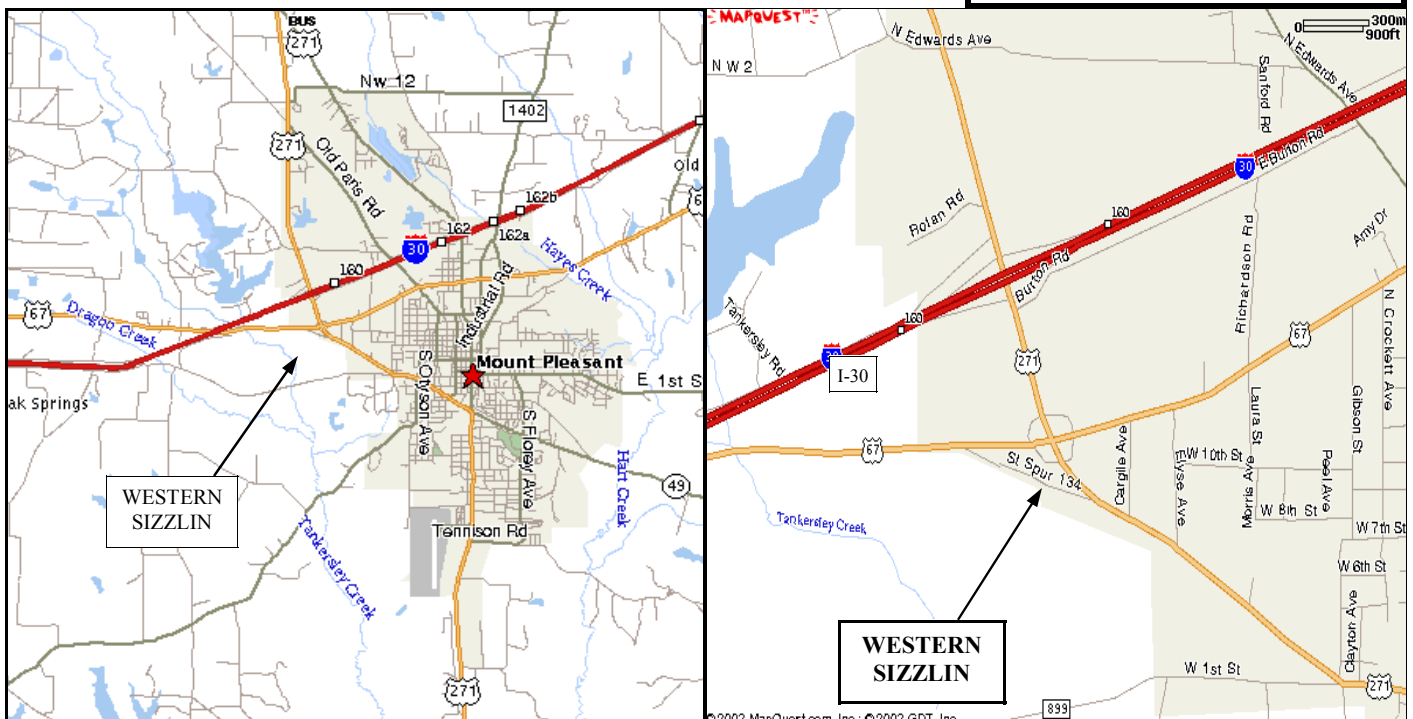
**Western Sizzlin'  
Restaurant  
Mt. Pleasant, Texas**

**Election of NETFLOA officers and County directors  
Timber Tax Workshop**

ASSOCIATION MAILING ADDRESS (for things like tax-deductible dues, which are now \$15/year, etc.)

NETFLA  
PO Box 715  
Pittsburg, TX 75686

*If you have a red dot on this newsletter, it means your 2003 dues are not yet paid and you are not eligible to vote in the election. You can pay your dues in arrears either in person before the meeting or by returning your check prior to the meeting to the address above. 2004 dues will be payable as of Jan 1 or at the Feb. meeting.*



## TEXAS ANNUAL STATEWIDE AVERAGE STUMPAGE PRICES

Year	Pine			Hardwood	
	Sawlog	Chip-N-Saw	Pulpwood	Sawlog	Pulpwood
	\$/MBF-Doyle	S/Cord	S/Cord	\$/MBF-Doyle	S/Cord
1984	170.53	30.85	23.48	54.61	4.03
1985	129.87	28.35	18.46	54.79	5.13
1986	127.45	23.68	14.53	46.16	4.18
1987	142.59	22.53	15.28	55.46	6.78
1988	152.31	24.88	16.33	64.93	6.59
1989	156.32	26.25	18.45	69.48	9.27
1990	163.34	30.12	22.17	62.20	6.03
1991	189.33	29.71	22.59	53.83	9.09
1992	252.26	39.39	27.98	67.04	10.10
1993	283.80	39.46	26.89	80.67	12.76
1994	358.03	47.81	22.75	93.77	15.57
1995	438.36	62.96	27.26	105.17	28.65
1996	395.46	59.18	25.25	88.28	10.78
1997	441.75	73.39	28.61	132.20	25.20
1998	414.51	76.40	37.01	138.75	14.41
1999	382.86	68.44	28.95	139.44	12.24
2000	376.57	57.69	19.20	120.88	7.97
2001	325.14	42.06	12.94	120.32	15.11
2002	334.86	41.92	12.33	156.97	15.67
2003.1	315.52	37.88	16.21	127.77	14.42
2003.2	299.79	38.31	18.15	148.21	14.13
2003.3	296.53	35.46	14.23	140.29	12.60
2003.4	281.92	37.89	11.94	174.34	18.36

## TEXAS TIMBER PRICES FOR PROPERTY TAX APPRAISAL

Data Source: Texas Forest Service, February 2003

Note: To get 2003 figures, drop 1998 and add 2003 (data yet to be determined — next page will give you 2003 indications).

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	
Pine Sawlog	\$/MBF	333.69	303.83	291.97	290.58	291.98
Pine Pulpwood	\$/Cord	38.73	29.81	20.36	16.13	15.49
Hardwood Sawlog	\$/MBF	126.29	138.81	127.30	122.63	148.50
Hardwood Pulpwood	\$/Cord	28.17	20.88	25.76	31.24	16.94
<b>Southeast Texas</b>						
Pine Sawlog	\$/MBF	325.15	296.86	278.11	267.91	265.27
Pine Pulpwood	\$/Cord	36.11	28.30	22.01	15.44	11.26
Hardwood Sawlog	\$/MBF	143.45	132.61	115.41	115.13	131.02
Hardwood Pulpwood	\$/Cord	27.23	28.90	24.99	23.10	9.06

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.

## STUMPAGE PRICE TRENDS IN TEXAS

July/August 2003  
9/30/2003 Volume 21, #4

Product Region	Average Price		Average Price Last Period		Average Price Same Period A Year Ago		# Sales Reported	Total Volume	
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	38.38	281.63	39.05	288.81	41.84	321.57	24	153,618	20,934
Southeast TX	38.58	283.65	41.24	303.20	43.23	313.96	18	26,155	3,557
Statewide*	38.41	281.92	40.22	296.53	42.85	315.94	42	179,773	24,491
USFS	**	**	**	**	**	**	2	**	**
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	5.31	14.21	7.42	19.76	4.94	12.54	63	277,117	103,635
Southeast TX	3.23	8.72	4.34	11.72	2.79	7.29	23	196,666	72,914
Statewide*	4.45	11.94	5.29	14.23	4.16	10.67	86	473,782	176,548
USFS	**	**	**	**	**	**	2	**	**
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	18.35	47.32	14.78	36.96	16.71	43.67	22	7,069	2,741
Southeast TX	14.29	37.20	13.57	35.39	16.99	44.19	49	97,457	37,440
Statewide*	14.57	37.89	13.62	35.46	16.83	43.89	71	104,526	40,181
HARDWOOD									
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	17.04	156.35	15.94	146.68	15.18	147.08	20	23,409	2,551
Southeast TX	20.97	188.73	11.73	112.36	13.60	130.58	3	28,702	3,189
Statewide*	19.21	174.34	15.13	140.29	15.02	145.38	23	52,111	5,741
USFS	**	**	**	**	**	**	0	**	**
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	6.21	17.54	6.06	16.66	4.86	14.11	20	20,471	7,240
Southeast TX	6.65	18.55	4.26	11.82	2.68	7.70	3	90,641	32,517
Statewide*	6.57	18.36	4.56	12.60	4.58	13.27	23	111,112	39,758
USFS	**	**	**	**	**	**	2	**	**

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).

### **Pine Reversed Course to Higher, Hardwood Sales Robust**

Pine timber markets experienced a slow start following the fourth of July holiday, a typical "seasonal trend" of soft market. Industry source reported that with the continued dry weather, falling timber prices were expected throughout the summer. A mill that purchases pine pulpwood in the northeast area reported that quotas were set on wood purchases and "deliveries limited to 4 days per week". However, pine market gained strength and demand became strong toward the end of August in certain areas, which caught suppliers by surprises. "Harvest and delivery (was) inadequate for mill demand," as one reporter said. Market players in the northeast region struggled to make sense of the "roller coaster" policy changes of the mills, which led to shortages of loggers and truckers.

Overall, pine Sawlog price for the East Texas area was below \$40/ton mark, averaging \$38/ton (\$282/MBF), which slightly decreased from the last two-month period by less than \$2/ton. Average stumpage price in the same period a year ago was \$4/ton higher at \$42.85/ton (\$316/MBF).

There's little improvement in the pine chip-n-saw market prices during the July/August period. Average stumpage prices slid to \$14.6/ton (\$38/cord) in the two-month period, relatively unchanged from the May/ June period but decreased from the \$17/ton (\$44/cord) in the same period a year ago. This is another record-low price for years.

Another market trend during this two-month period is that "increase in hardwood pulpwood price caused decline in pine inventory" in some mills as loggers pursued hardwood pulpwood.

Delivered poles for all regions averaged \$82/ton with steady demand, as reported by our reporter.

Hardwood sawtimber and pulpwood continued their firm market trends. The average stumpage prices paid for hardwood sawtimber and pulpwood remained strong in East Texas. Hardwood pulpwood prices continued to be higher than the pine pulpwood prices.

Lumber market prices were sharply higher in August to a level not seen for many years. The significant wildfire in the Southern Interior British Columbia, Canada in August curbed the region's lumber output, impacting both Canadian and US wood markets.

## NETFLA, Murphrey Win Awards at TFA Meeting

We won! At the Texas Forestry Association Annual Meeting, your association won the membership award, a new one given each year to the County Association with the highest percentage of TFA members.

Our Association's name will be engraved on the permanent plaque displayed at TFA headquarters in Lufkin. Ron Hufford will personally present the plaque at one of our meetings, so all can see it. This is great, but the better news —

A Free Lunch! TFA will spring for the meal at one of our meetings next year. And the best news — there is no reason why we can't win this thing year after year.

Many thanks to Betty Smith for cleaning our membership list and getting the information in to TFA by the deadline..

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Our old friend Mike Murphrey has always been a winner. His hard work for many years paid off at the TFA meeting, when he was officially recognized with one of their most distinguished awards.

Mike was named the TFA Educator of the Year.

This honor is not lightly won; it involves nominating and selection committees — might compare it to election to an athletic hall of fame. Far as I know, all the other winners have been certified teachers in the school system. Mike is the first "outsider." He received two nominations for the award — another first.

Mike recruited many, if not most of us, to our Association, to the Tree Farm Program, and to TFA. He has been the friend of all of us in Northeast Texas — especially the kids — throughout his forestry career.

Awards are nice, but this one came with a \$1,000 check attached, which makes it even sweeter.

Way to go, Mike!

(You did tell Heidi about the check, right?)

## Teacher Feedback — NETFLA Scholarship Program

Janey Boney told me on the phone that she had a great time, but didn't get an email to me before the deadline. — *Bill*

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Just wanted you to know how much I enjoyed the workshop this summer. It was a rigorous schedule but well worth it. I have so many resources now to pull from when I am teaching about our environment.

The field trips were fascinating! I am always amazed to learn how other people spend their days working! I get so wrapped up in my little classroom. I appreciated the time the facilitators put into the workshop. Not to mention the effort of getting all the materials (and us) organized! That was amazing. I not only became an "expert" on trees, but made some new friends!

Thanks again,  
Susan Wiley  
New Diana

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I had a VERY FULL week at the Conservation Center. I didn't realize it would be so non-stop. I wish we could have spent more time in the forest, but I'm told that is the second half of the workshop. I have already started using the activities I learned, and my 6th graders love it. Our big project for this year is to design an outdoor classroom area, complete with pond and small wooded area. Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to participate in the week long workshop. I feel like I'm a better teacher because of my experiences. I wish I could have met you, to thank you in person. Keep sending me the good articles.

...since I've been through the program I have not been able to look at the 40 acres behind my house without wanting to improve it. My husband and I are trying to work out buying the property and managing it the way it should be managed. I hope I can call on some of the folks I met last summer to help me out.

Sincerely, Laura Cook

## Notes From TFA Landowners Council

The Texas Forest Service will again sponsor a Master Tree Farmer program beginning early next year. This will be a series of weekly workshops — perhaps eight in all — similar to the classes held in 2000, but with updated information and a better workbook. Evening classes are held simultaneously via satellite TV feed to remote locations throughout the South. The cost will be about \$50 for the course and workbook. No meals are included, and a probable start time might be 7 PM.

Right now the only confirmed Texas location will be in Lufkin. We were asked to poll our members to see how many were interested in the program and get back to the Council at its December meeting. Other sites may be designated according to the number of prospective students in a geographic area, so it's possible to get a site close to us if enough people express interest.

Sid Greer went through the original series and said it was really a great course. Check with Sid for further details. His contact information is on page two.

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TFA has begun working to establish a timber tax consultant for its members. Ideally we, or our accountants, could get answers to tax questions for a very small yearly fee. This is in the very early stages, but worth pursuing.

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The property and sales tax reductions we won in 1999 will be in serious danger next spring when the Texas legislature meets to consider the school tax issue.

At the last session, a coalition of seven East Texas timber counties hired a lobbyist (with their taxpayers' funds) to campaign to overturn these reductions. They had to get legislators from the cities to sponsor their bill, since no rep from East Texas would do so. They will be back at the next session with an expanded coalition. We need to fight these people, not only through TFA, but as a County Association and as individuals.

**NORTHEAST TEXAS FOREST LANDOWNERS  
ASSOCIATION  
BALLOT FOR OFFICERS FOR 2004 AND 2005**

If you are unable to attend the meeting but would like to vote (full members only), use this ballot and return to the PO Box on the back of this form. Those attending will vote at the meeting. Please check or X the box next to the candidate for whom you are voting.

**PRESIDENT**

- SID GREER
- WRITE-IN \_\_\_\_\_

**VICE PRESIDENT**

- BILL TUCKER
- WRITE-IN \_\_\_\_\_

**SECRETARY/TREASURER**

- HARRY EARL
- WRITE-IN \_\_\_\_\_

**DIRECTOR FROM CAMP COUNTY**

- BOB TURNER
- WRITE-IN \_\_\_\_\_

**DIRECTOR FROM FRANKLIN COUNTY**

- BLANCHE HANDY
- WRITE-IN \_\_\_\_\_

**DIRECTOR FROM MORRIS COUNTY**

- GLENN WEISS
- WRITE-IN \_\_\_\_\_

**DIRECTOR FROM TITUS COUNTY**

- WRITE-IN \_\_\_\_\_

**DIRECTOR FROM UPSHUR COUNTY**

- BILL VOSS
- WRITE-IN \_\_\_\_\_

**DIRECTOR FROM WOOD COUNTY**

- DURWARD HENRY
- WRITE-IN \_\_\_\_\_

According to the Bylaws, only FULL members *whose dues are current* may vote in this election, and the person submitting an absentee ballot must sign and date the ballot so their dues status may be verified. If you wish to get current, enclose a check for \$15 with your ballot.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Signature \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Northeast Texas Forest Landowners Association**  
**P.O. Box 715**  
**Pittsburg, TX 75686**