



Northeast Texas Forest Landowners Association Newsletter

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TEXAS FOREST LANDOWNERS COUNCIL PRESENTS:

Free events and outdoor learning for the entire family!

Fun for kids

Information

Food

Demonstrations

Exchange Ideas!

Trail Activities

TEXAS FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

**Spring Forestry
Tailgate Rally**

May 14, 2011

Saturday, May 14, 2011
9am - 3pm

2 miles east of Mt. Enterprise on Hwy 84
at Texas Forestry Association's Tree Farm

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Forest Landowners
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www.txforest.org



FROM THE FOREST



As of April 22, Burn Bans were in place in 207 Texas Counties. NETFLA's six counties had not established Burn Bans, but we are experiencing unusually dry and windy days with very low relative humidity. Landowners need to be aware of the fire danger, and do what we can to protect our forest land.

According to Texas Forest Service (TFS), careless debris burning is the major cause of wildfires in the State. TFS tips for safe debris burning are mostly common sense and are listed below.

- Do not burn trash and brush on dry windy days.
- Check to see if weather changes are expected before lighting the fire. Postpone burning if shifts in wind direction, higher winds or wind gusts are forecast.
- Before burning, establish wide control lines down to bare soil at least 5 feet around burn barrels. The larger the debris pile, the wider the control line to insure that it is not breached.
- Stay with all fires until they are completely out.
- Keep water and hand tools ready in case your fire attempts to spread.
- Burn household trash only in a burn barrel or container equipped with a metal grid to keep burning material contained.
- Never attempt to burn aerosol cans that can explode. Flying metal can cause serious injuries and scatter burning material over the control line into nearby vegetation.
- Stay informed about wildfire danger and heed warnings and bans on outdoor burning.

Everyone needs to exercise extreme caution with all potential ignition sources if additional senseless wildfires are to be avoided.

Also, as you travel to and from your forest land, be observant and report suspicious activities by calling the Arson Hotline at 888-501-3850. If possible, safely obtain an accurate description of the person and/or the vehicle, including the vehicle license number before calling the hotline. Remember, "Only you can prevent a forest fire".

Glenn Weiss

Program and Meeting Notes

Our spring field day will be the Tailgate Rally at the Texas Forestry Association tree farm just outside Mt. Enterprise, Texas. As most of you know, this is a biannual event sponsored by the Forest Landowners Council of the TFA. This council is made up of Forest Landowners Associations such as NETFLA. Proceeds from the hot-grilled food and and frosty drink go to support the Woodland Clinic competition and scholarships.

View new products and gather information from "tailgate" exhibits... Live equipment demonstrations...Get your questions answered one-on-one by forestry professionals...Wagon shuttle to Woodland Trail with over 18 marked stations...Supervised forest activities and contests for kids of all ages... Door prizes! TFA has many acres here, and they provide opportunities to see standing pine log grading, load pricing, hard wood log grading and portable sawyering, as well as other forestry equipment many have never seen. Too much to really tell about. No charge for admission, but we pay for food.

Many of you may want to go in your own cars for time flexibility, and the maps should help get you there.

For NETFLA members wishing to travel as a group, TFS will provide a white, marked, Forest Service van. The van will leave the Gilmer Civic Center parking lot at **8:15**. The Civic Center is adjacent to Walmart, at the north end of town and on the east side of Hwy 271. This van only holds 15 passengers, so **you that want to ride need to call Glenn Weiss at 903-645-3782 or email gjweiss@windstream.net. Cutoff is Wednesday May 11.**

We will collect on the free lunch won in the TFA membership contest at the August meeting in Pittsburg, and get a legislative wrap and a forestry outlook from Ron Hufford. Great time to bring guests and sign new members. Pizza Inn also does salads and subs. More on this in July.

2011 PROGRAM CALENDAR

Saturday, May 14, 9AM-3PM
**TFA Tailgate Rally and
Family Fun Day**
Mt. Enterprise, Texas
Our Van Leaves Gilmer 8:15

Saturday, August 13, 10:00AM
**Ron Hufford, TFA Vice Presi-
dent, on the Texas Legislature**
FREE LUNCH at Pizza Inn
Meeting Room, Pittsburg, Texas

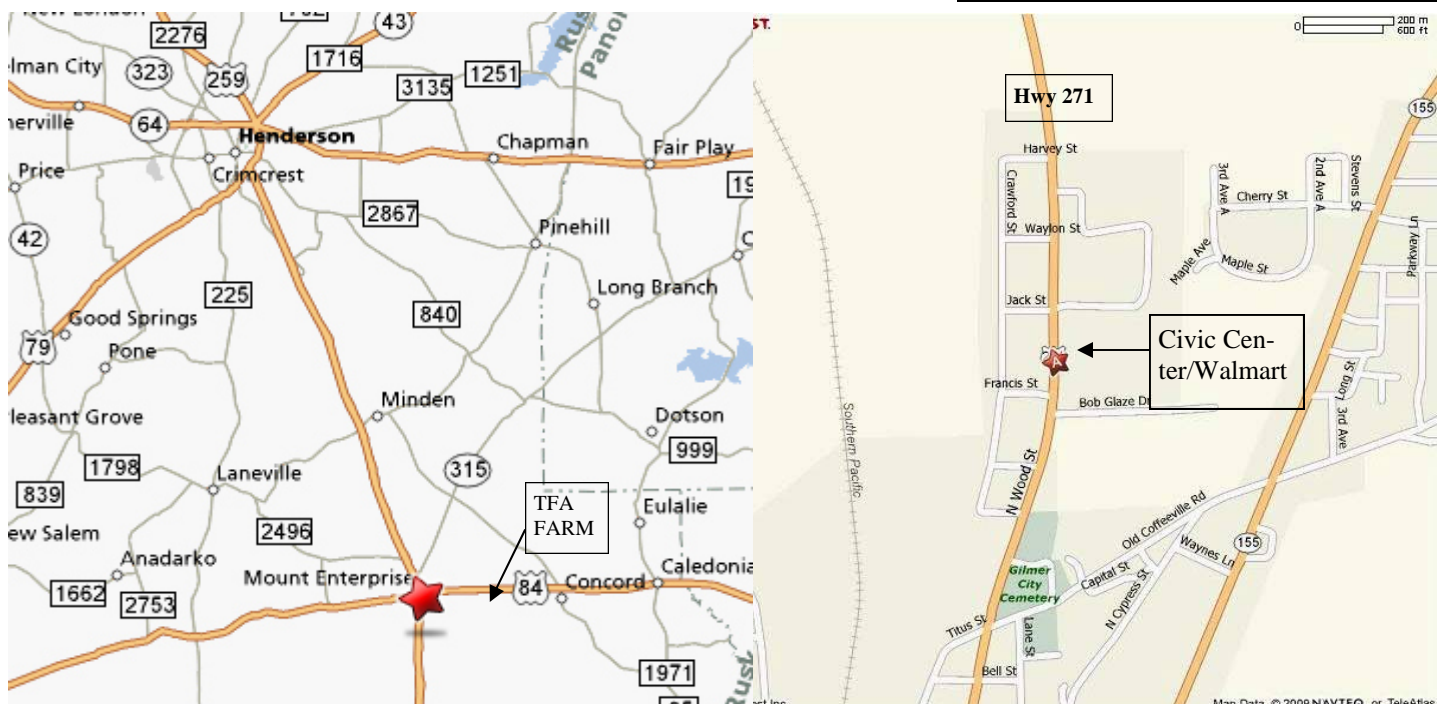
November — TBA
Elections

**Financial mailing address for
\$15 dues and other questions is:**

NETFLA
PO Box 642
Mt. Vernon, TX 75457

Contact Blanche Handy-Sparks
(903) 860-2507
bhandy@peoplescom.net

**Please do not send cash. Your check
is your receipt for mailed funds.**
Make checks payable to NETFLA.
THANKS!



New Systemic Insecticide Approved for Insect Control in Conifers and Hardwoods

Pest management specialists now have a new tool for protecting high-value trees from insect pests. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has approved the use of emamectin benzoate (EB), sold by Syngenta Crop Protection under the trade name TREE-äge® for “control of mature and immature arthropod pests of deciduous, coniferous and palm trees, including, but not limited to, those growing in residential and commercial landscapes, parks, plantations, seed orchards, and forested sites (in private, municipal, state, tribal and national areas).”

Bringing EB to the market as a registered pesticide was a long process involving many collaborators. Dr. Don Grosman, coordinator of the Texas Forest Service Forest Pest Management Cooperative (FPMC), first started working with Dr. David Cox, Syngenta Crop Protection, in 1997 and then later with Joe Doccola, Arborjet Inc. (2003), to test tree injections of EB as a systemic treatment for control of cone and seed insects, bark beetles, wood borers, and other forest pests. In nearly all trials, this chemical has provided excellent extended protection against these pests both in conifers and hardwoods.

In early trials (1998), EB almost completely eliminated coneworm damage for two years in loblolly pine seed orchards in Texas. The effect against seed bugs, another group of seed orchard pests, was moderate. A second trial ultimately showed that a single injection of EB reduced average coneworm damage by 80% over a 6-year period. Unfortunately, the seed orchard market alone (just 9,000 acres in the South) is insufficient to justify the cost of EPA registration.

In an attempt to expand the potential market, the FPMC began tests in 2003 on other forest pests. A laboratory test showed that substantially fewer pine regeneration weevils survived when they fed on EB-treated branches compared to those fed on untreated branches. A second trial in 2004 looked at chemical effects against pine bark beetles, forest pests closely-related to weevils. Surprisingly, EB completely prevented the successful attack and colonization of *Ips* engraver beetles on cut logs and standing loblolly pine trees. **Subsequent trials showed that single injections of EB could significantly reduce mortality of loblolly and ponderosa pines attacked by southern pine beetle and western pine beetle, respectively, for 3 years.** (*Emphasis added*). Other researchers also have found EB to be effective against several species of defoliators (gypsy moth, spruce budworm, tent caterpillars, winter moth, bagworm, fall and mimosa webworm, tussock moth, leafminers and sawfly), borers

(clearwing, flat-headed and roundheaded), pine needle scale, red palm mite, and pinewood nematode. With the larger potential market, Syngenta decided to pursue EPA registration of this systemic insecticide.

In 2009, EPA approved the use of emamectin benzoate on ash trees for protection against emerald ash borer and other insects, but postponed a decision on other tree species. More recently, EPA has approved the use of TREE-äge (by injection) on additional trees, including conifers, other hardwoods, and palms.

The FPMC currently is evaluating the efficacy of TREE-äge® against several invasive insects such as the soapberry borer (a cousin of emerald ash borer) on western soapberry in central Texas and a chalcid wasp attacking Afghan pine in west Texas. Preliminary results are favorable. In addition, along the Rio Grande River in Texas and Mexico, populations of a leaf beetle introduced to control saltcedar have also infested athel, an important shade tree closely related to saltcedar. A new trial was established in 2010 to evaluate the effect of TREE-äge® injections for protection of valued athel trees from beetle-caused defoliation.

TREE-äge® is applied as a trunk injection treatment at very low rates (0.1 – 0.6 g per inch DBH) near the base of target trees. The FPMC has demonstrated that several injection systems (Arborjet’s Tree I.V., QUIK-jet and VIPER™ Hydraulic Device, <http://www.arborjet.com/>; ArborSystem’s Portal System <http://www.arborsystems.com/>; and the Sidewinder (<http://www.treeinjectors.com/>) can be used to effectively apply this product into conifers and hardwoods. Once EB is injected into the sapwood, the chemical is translocated throughout the tree (foliage, cones, branches, stem and roots). The rate of movement within the tree is dependent on tree species, tracheal system type, and water availability. Generally, it is recommended that injections are made at least 4 weeks prior to target insect appearance to allow insecticide distribution throughout the tree.

Applications of TREE-äge® can be made at nearly any time of the year. However, uptake of the product is dependent upon the tree’s rate of transpiration. For optimal uptake, apply when soil is moist, soil temperatures are above 45°F, ambient temperatures are between 40° and 90°F, and during the day when transpiration is greatest, typically before 2:00 PM. Applications to drought- or heat-stressed trees may result in injury to tree tissue, poor treatment and ineffective control. Injection treatment is

most effective on trees having a full canopy of leaves and a healthy vascular system.

TREE-äge® insecticide is a Restricted Use Pesticide and must only be sold to and used by a state certified applicator or by persons under their direct supervision. TREE-äge® is currently registered in 38 states including TX, OK, GA, FL, NC, SC, TN and VA in the South. Approval in other states is pending. It is important that all users read the label and follow all precautions and guidelines.

TREE-äge® is currently available in 1-liter containers from two distributors: Rainbow Treecare Scientific - contact Dean Morris at (952) 252-0506, (612) 280-9038 or dmorris@trecarescience.com) and John Deere Landscapes (to find the branch location nearest you, go to <http://www.johndeerelandscapes.com/storelocator/bullseyepro/search.asp>, or contact Chad Schnicter at (972) 881-0205 or Tim Kline (972) 681-5511. The latest price quote is \$525 per liter (discounts are available when purchasing a case of 8 liters or more). Thus, the cost to treat a 10 inch DBH tree at a medium rate (0.2 g AI per inch DBH) would be about \$28 while a treatment of a large (25 inch DBH) tree would be about \$68 (labor excluded).

For additional information, contact Dr. Don Grosman, Texas Forest Service, Forest Health, P.O. Box 310, Lufkin, TX 75902-0310; (936) 639-8170; dgrosman@tfs.tamu.edu.

Forecasting Fire Danger A Cooperative Effort — *News Release, TFS, Feb. 27, 2011*

Every day Predictive Services Department Head Tom Spencer and his team study weather patterns, drought conditions and the status of vegetation across the state.

They gather wind speeds and moisture levels from the field. They monitor areas reporting high winds and low moisture levels, two of the key ingredients for dangerous wildfires. They study changes in land use and the long term wildfire risks that accompany them.

“I’m hoping a wildfire outbreak doesn’t happen, but I’m glad we have the capabilities that we do,” Spencer said of the thoughts that race through his mind when the predictions start to come together.

“It’s just like hurricane or tornado forecasting. It’s good to be able to do it and get the information out, but it doesn’t change the outcome. The hurricane always makes landfall somewhere, the tornado always destroys some-

one’s house somewhere. These fires always occur and somebody is at risk.”

Created in 1998, the Texas Forest Service Predictive Services Department is tasked with forecasting fire danger. Spencer has led the department since its inception and his team is divided by their specialty – gathering weather data, studying vegetation and mapping wildfire risk.

Spencer then consolidates all their information, focusing on the bigger picture as he develops a longer term forecast. As they complete the process, they also produce several maps – including fire danger and drought maps – that detail conditions and are available to the public.

The research and forecasts have proven invaluable to Texas Forest Service fire managers, who are tasked with planning when and where additional people and equipment may be needed.

“Tom Spencer’s job is to produce seasonal forecasts, as well as short term weekly and daily forecasts – and he’s never been wrong,” said Mark Stanford, fire operations chief for Texas Forest Service.

But Spencer is quick to point out that the agency doesn’t do it alone. When the team spots an alarming trend, they immediately alert their partners: National Weather Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the USDA Forest Service, as well as a host of other agencies.

“We want to make sure we’re on the same page and seeing the same thing,” Spencer said. “We get feedback along those lines and it helps us develop a more comprehensive operating picture of what’s coming.” With the advancements made during the last three decades, the climate indicators have become pretty consistent, Spencer said, explaining that everyone generally is on the same page.

And when everyone is in agreement, Spencer said, it’s time to notify the public. When your job focuses on predicting disasters, the most rewarding aspect is helping people better protect themselves.

“That’s really what we’re all about and why we do this, and it’s why the National Weather Service forecasters do what they do,” Spencer said. “We can’t stop a disaster, but hopefully, our work helps limit the amount of damage that results from one. The safety of our citizens is key.”

For fire danger and drought maps, check <http://ticc.tamu.edu>.

For wildfire updates, check <http://texasforests.tamu.edu>.

They Do Hurricanes, Floods, and Shuttle Crashes, but right now the Texas Forest Service is doing this...



SUMMARY OF THE 81ST LEGISLATIVE SESSION FOR THE TEXAS WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN

State lawmakers have allocated about \$20 million in annual, additional funding for Texas Forest Service, allowing the agency to beef up volunteer fire departments' capacity, as well as its own.

That includes \$9 million per year for Texas Wildfire Protection Plan, a five-part approach to disaster response that focuses on predictive services, prevention and mitigation, planning and preparedness, local capacity building and rapid response.

Legislators also boosted the budget by another \$10 million per year for the rural volunteer fire department assistance grant program. The new money combined with existing funds will allow the agency to devote about \$25 million annually to the program. TFS interim Director Tom Boggus praised the Rural Fire Advisory Council, the State Firemen's & Fire Marshal's Association of Texas and the Texas Forestry Association for their support during the session. He also applauded the efforts of HB 4002 author State Rep. David Swinford, R-Dumas and Senate sponsor Sen. Robert Duncan, R-Lubbock.

During the 81st legislative session, lawmakers also:

- Transferred a \$1 million per year grant program to Texas Forest Service from the Texas Commission on Fire Protection.
- Increased the Volunteer Fire Department Insurance Program by \$250,000 per year.
- Approved a land swap between Fairchild State Forest and a neighboring property owner. The state forest swapped disconnected forestland for a parcel that was the same-size and contiguous to the main forest.

Market Report – Jan./Feb., 2011

Product	Statewide Ave. Price		Previous Ave. Price		Price/Ton Difference
	Weight	Volume	Weight	Volume	
Pine-Sawlogs	\$21.29/ton	\$166.49/mbf	\$24.74/ton	\$192.54/mbf	-14%
Pine-Pulpwood	\$6.48/ton	\$17.49/cord	\$6.42/ton	\$17.31/cord	+1%
Pine-Chip'n'Saw	\$11.70/ton	\$31.58/cord	\$13.09/ton	\$35.35/cord	-11%
Mixed Hardwood-Sawlogs	\$29.51/ton	\$265.60/mbf	\$27.11/ton	\$243.99/mbf	+9%
Hardwood-Pulpwood	\$7.71/ton	\$21.68/cord	\$7.47/ton	\$20.92/cord	+3%

Texas Timber Price Trends is a bimonthly publication reporting average prices paid for standing timber in Texas. *This report is intended only as a guide to general price levels.* It should not be used to judge the fair market value of a specific timber sale, which may vary considerably due to many factors. 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 or is buying the timber, and contract requirements by the landowner. Hard copies of this publication can be purchased by contacting Monica Jadowski at (979)458-6630. The complete Texas Timber Price Trends can be viewed at <http://texasforests.tamu.edu/main/article.aspx?id=145>.

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/main/article.aspx?id=145>) are used. MBF = thousand board feet. Doyle Scale used for board foot measurements.

Just a Reminder — Paid Your Netfla Dues Yet? These People Have, and make the Good Guys List.

*Please mail your \$15 check to: NETFLA PO BOX 642 Mt. Vernon, TX 75457
THANKS!*

Kenneth	Bolin	Fred	Howard
Alton	Brown	Tom	Irby
John	Bryan	David	Laschinger
June	Carter	George W.	Lester
Harold & Patsy	Coley	Leon & Barbara	Lester
Kenneth	Conaway	Wanda R.	Mitchell
Michael H.	Connor	Michael	Murphrey
Harold	Connor	James C.	Petty
Jan and Diane	Dalby	Brian	Pope
Kip and Kay	Derrick	Neal A.	Prince
Harry	Earl	Warren	Proctor
Danielle	Early	Melvin	Reynolds
Betty	Erwin	Andrew	Roane
Hoffman	Family Properties	Mr. and Mrs. C. M.	Rogers
Tommy	Goodwin	Dave	Schneider
Sid	Greer	Walter	Schroen
Jim and Alice	Grissel	Larry	Shelton
D.J. and Jill	Haines	W. Rex	Shirey
Blanche	Handy-Sparks	Charles L.	Still
Arlis	Hart	Dennis and Roberta	Townsend
Larry	Hoffman	Bill	Tucker
Vernon	Holcomb	Glenn and Judy	Weiss
		Fred	Winters