

Northeast Texas Forest Landowner Association Newsletter

Quarter III 2016

Next Meeting

Date: Saturday
November 19

Time: 10 am

Place: Pizza Inn
Pittsburg

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Prescribed fire is a valuable tool for forest landowners that can increase forest and tree health, minimize wildfire risk and promote new grass and forb growth for wildlife



Exploring the History of Arbor Day

Texas A&M Forest Service

<http://tfsweb.tamu.edu>

Rather than look backward to events of the past Arbor Day looks forward with promise for a future filled with trees. Arbor Day celebrates planting and nurturing trees and all the ways trees enrich our lives and stabilize our environment.



While the purpose of Arbor Day lies in the future, it has an interesting history to earn a spot on the calendar. Historians trace Arbor Day's origins back to the fifth century when Swiss villagers gathered to plant groves of oak trees. Adults turned the event into a festival and children were given treats as a reward for their help planting trees.

Arbor Day first appeared in the United States in 1872. J. Sterling Morton is credited with guiding this country's first Arbor Day resolution through the Nebraska state legislature in that year. Residents of the Great Plains recognized how much trees could do for them, and they enthusiastically embraced Morton's vision.

President Theodore Roosevelt was a strong supporter of Arbor Day. Early in the 20th century, it was becoming clear that the nation's forests were being exhausted by cut-out-and-get-out timber harvesting. The science of forest management was emerging, and the government was moving to suppress wildfire and plant trees. President Roosevelt sent a letter to the children of the United States in which he wrote, "A people without children would face a hopeless future; a country without trees is almost as hopeless."

In Texas, Arbor Day first appeared in Temple on February 22, 1889. W. Goodrich Jones led the citizens of Temple in a mass meeting to call for a tree planting campaign along the streets of the city. One year later, the first statewide observance of Arbor Day was held in Austin. Through the efforts of Senator George Tyler of Belton, February 22nd was set aside by law as Arbor Day to encourage the planting of trees in this state.

After the original Texas Arbor Day law expired, the state continued to observe Arbor Day by proclamation of the governor, usually on George Washington's birthday. In 1949, the state legislature adopted a resolution designating the third Friday in January as Texas Arbor Day. In 1989 the legislature passed a resolution moving Texas Arbor Day to the last Friday in April to align with the traditionally observed national Arbor Day. Today, Arbor Day is held on the first Friday in November.

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***New App Developed for Forestry
Professionals in Texas***
Texas A&M Forest Service
<http://tfsweb.tamu.edu>

For the first time, foresters, landowners and contractors in Texas can now access guidelines for practicing sustainable forestry on their mobile devices.



The *Texas Forestry Best Management Practices Handbook* is now available as a smartphone application, enabling quick and easy access to conservation practices designed to protect soil and water resources when conducting forest operations.

Texas Forestry BMPs is a native app available at both the App Store (iOS) and Google Play (Android). It is convenient, quick reference tool for reviewing the forestry BMP guidelines, as well as recommended specifications and schematics to ensure their proper implementation while in the field.

“Landowners and forestry professionals are increasingly using technology to manage their land,” said Texas A&M Forest Service Water Resources Coordinator Hughes Simpson. “This free, publicly accessible mobile app provides critical information to help them keep their land healthy, productive and sustainable.”

Texas Forestry BMPs includes a searchable glossary of forestry terms and built-in tools for measuring slope and tree heights. Using your smartphone’s GPS, the soil identifier tool is able to display a map and key properties of the soils in your specific area.

To learn more please visit
<http://texasforestinfo.tamu.edu/MobileApps/Index.html>

***Hunters in Northeast Texas Advised to
Be Bear Aware***
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
<http://tpwd.texas.gov/>

Wildlife biologists are advising hunters, ranchers and rural residents in Northeast Texas of a handful of confirmed black bear sightings recently.

At least four sightings have been documented on game trail cameras between June and late August in Bowie, Red River and Smith counties. Wildlife biologists with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) confirmed the sightings and speculate the bears, which appear to be young males, are looking to establish their own new home ranges and likely dispersed from Oklahoma or Arkansas where bear numbers have increased in recent years.

This is the first confirmed presence of black bears in East Texas since September 2011. Breeding black bear populations have been absent from this region for almost 100 years, but bears from Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana occasionally wander into East Texas.

“Once these bears figure out there’s no opportunity for companionship over here they will likely retreat,” says Dave Holdermann, a non-game wildlife biologist with TPWD in Tyler.

Holdermann said as hunters in this area head to the field in preparation for deer season, some might see signs of bears attempting to enter camps where food is kept or wildlife feeders overturned. Bears eat mostly plant material and that’s probably their greatest source of protein; for example, seeds, acorns, nuts and even herbage has protein.

According to Holdermann, bears are normally shy and not aggressive to humans. But if a bear regularly visits a ranch or deer stand, people should try to scare it with rocks, a slingshot or air horn.

“If people encounter a bear at close range, they should talk calmly while backing away slowly. Don’t make direct eye contact, and don’t run away,” he advised. “If a bear approaches you, stand your ground and raise your arms, backpack or jacket to appear larger and yell at the bear to scare it off.”

Hunters are encouraged to study their game carefully to avoid mistaking a bear for a feral hog or other legal game animal. It is against the law to kill a black bear in Texas, with penalties of up to \$10,000, added civil restitution fines, jail time and loss of all hunting privileges. The black bear, *Ursus americanus*, is listed as threatened by the State of Texas.

More information about black bears in Texas, including safety tips, is available online at <http://tpwd.texas.gov/>. Anyone observing black bears in East Texas is urged to contact Holdermann at 903-566-1626 ext. 209 so wildlife experts can track trends in black bear populations and distributions.

The Importance of Forests to Water Resources – Part 3 of 4

Hughes Simpson, Texas A&M Forest Service

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Forests are vitally important in providing clean and abundant drinking water for millions of people. While approximately 70 percent of the Earth's surface is covered in water, less than 1 percent of it is considered to be available fresh water. In the United States, two-thirds of our freshwater resources originate on forestlands, producing the cleanest water of any land use. Gifford Pinchot, the first Chief of the U.S. Forest Service, clearly understood this relationship, saying "The connection between forests and rivers is like that between father and son. No forests, no rivers."

In much the same way that forests regulate water supply and stream flow, they also help ensure water quality protection. Tree canopies intercept precipitation, reducing the amount and impact of erosion causing rain. The forest floor, made up decomposing vegetation, along with shrubs, forbs, and grasses, hold the soil in place, preventing it from becoming detached and washing into nearby streams, rivers, and lakes during intense storms. Forest soils absorb large amounts of water through a process known as infiltration, preventing floods which can deliver pollutants and harmful debris to our waterways.

Perhaps the most important place to maintain forests is adjacent to water resources. Riparian forests function as "nature's kidneys," slowing down stormwater runoff long enough for sediment, nutrients, and other pollutants to be deposited or absorbed before reaching our waterways. Just like with a coffee filter or kitchen colander, clean water is allowed to flow freely through these areas. Research has shown that maintaining a forest buffer as small as fifty feet along streams and rivers can reduce sediment delivery by 75 – 90% percent. These buffers are just as important in agricultural and urban settings.

Water filtration provided by forests can significantly lower water treatment costs. Monitoring has shown that in-stream total suspended solids (TSS), total dissolved solids (TDS), and turbidity increase as forest cover decreases. Researchers, studying 27 different U.S. water supply systems, found that protecting forestlands within public drinking water supply watersheds can reduce capital, operational, and maintenance costs for drinking water treatment. Reducing forest cover by half, compared to a watershed with 60 percent forest cover, can increase drinking water treatment costs by 97 percent. Forest wetlands can also reduce the cost to treat wastewater. One study found that wetlands were 85 percent less expensive than conventional wastewater systems for every 1,000 gallons treated.

In addition to filtering stormwater runoff, riparian forests also stabilize stream banks and provide thermal protection to streams. Shade from tree canopies help lower water temperatures, increasing the dissolved oxygen content in waterbodies and allowing fish to flourish. Many organisms have small tolerances for large variations in water temperature. Increasing the amount of sunlight that reaches the water, and thereby raising water temperature, can lead to substantial changes in the aquatic ecosystem.

As our population continues to grow, increased urbanization will likely lead to significant changes in land use, resulting in impacts to water quality. In the absence of mitigating actions, the conversion of forest lands can have substantial impacts on water quality.

Urbanization results in increases in impervious cover (buildings and associated roads, sidewalks, parking lots, driveways, and rooftops). Development that removes forest vegetation converts permeable forest soils to impermeable surfaces. As rain falls on these areas, runoff water mixes with pollutants, such as oil, gas, and other automobile fluids, and is delivered to streams through the storm drain network. Homeowners, wanting to live near waterbodies, continue to maintain manicured lawns right up to the waterfront. Landscape chemicals, including fertilizers and pesticides, are able to flow directly into streams, lakes, and rivers when forested buffers are not maintained.

Cont. Arbor Day...

In 1919, the state legislature officially designated the pecan as the State Tree of Texas. The pecan was chosen for its adaptability anywhere in Texas, and because Governor James Hogg requested a pecan tree to be planted near his grave. He said, I want no monument of stone or marble, but plant at my head a pecan tree and at my feet an old-fashioned walnut. And when these trees shall bear, let the pecans and walnuts be given out among the people of Texas so they may plant them and make Texas a land of trees.

Thanks to the diversity of this state, Arbor Day is celebrated in Texas communities anytime from throughout the fall and winter planting season. The official Arbor Day ceremony, complete with the Governor’s proclamation declaring the day the official state Arbor Day, moves around from place to place to help reach audiences all over the state.

Today, above all, Arbor Day is for children, parents and grandparents to strengthen the bond between generations by planting trees together. It presents a tremendous opportunity to teach fundamental lessons about stewardship of our natural resources and caring for our environment. There is no more powerful demonstration than helping children plant and care for trees that their own children and grandchildren will enjoy.

Cont. Water...

Auburn University has documented these water quality impacts, referred to as the “urban stream syndrome.” For years, researchers have studied the hydrologic changes that result when forested watersheds transitioned to urban areas near Columbus, Georgia. In addition to the traditional pollutants mentioned above, emerging concerns are developing with the increasing prevalence of bacteria and personal care products (deodorants, perfumes, pharmaceuticals, and medical waste) being found in urban streams. While more research is needed, these pollutants can potentially be a threat to human health.

Forest conversion, regardless of the type of new land use, results in substantial changes in the quality of adjacent and downstream waters. The importance of conservation and integrated management of our forestlands cannot be understated, and will be critical to meeting our future water demands.



Market Report, July/August, 2016

Product	Statewide Ave. Price		Previous Ave. Price		Price/Ton Difference
	Weight	Volume	Weight	Volume	
Pine-Sawlogs	\$26.38/ton	\$201.22/mbf	\$26.64/ton	\$204.69/mbf	+1%
Pine-Pulpwood	\$8.50/ton	\$22.96/cord	\$8.67/ton	\$23.38/cord	-2%
Pine-Chip’n’Saw	\$10.46/ton	\$28.24/cord	\$12.81/ton	\$34.59/cord	-18%
Mixed Hardwood-Sawlogs	\$38.91/ton	\$368.01/mbf	\$40.07/ton	\$374.85/mbf	-3%
Hardwood-Pulpwood	\$10.45/ton	\$29.25/cord	\$10.84/ton	\$30.36/cord	-4%

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 Dawn Spencer at (979)458-6630. The complete Texas Timber Price Trends can be viewed at <http://tfsweb.tamu.edu/main/article.aspx?id=145>.

New Reports Reinforce the Value of Sustainably Managed Private Working Forests
National Alliance of Forest Owners
Washington D.C.
www.nafoalliance.org

The National Alliance of Forest Owners (NAFO) today released two new reports confirming the ongoing relationship between strong markets for wood products and sustainable forestry in the U.S.

“The reports reveal that the more wood we use, the more trees forest owners grow, and that has a positive impact on everyone, especially in communities where working forests are the cultural and economic foundation. These forests support 2.4 million jobs nationwide and thousands of wood-derived products that improve the quality of our lives,” said Dave Tenny, NAFO President and CEO.

The reports study the 32 most forested states, representing 91.3% of all working forests in the contiguous U.S., 74% of which are privately-owned. *United States Forest Inventory and Harvest Trends on Privately-Owned Timberlands* is a first-of-its-kind national report detailing annual forest growth and removal data by product, species and region and summarizes this data at a national level. The report reveals that private forest owners:

- Grow 40% more wood than they remove.
- In the South, they are growing 41% more.
- In the North, they are growing 32% more.
- In the Pacific Coast/Northwest, they are growing 42% more.
- Remove a small percentage of the total inventory of growing trees.
- In the South, removals were equivalent to 2.9% of growing trees
- In the North, removals were equivalent to 1.2% of growing trees.
- In the Pacific Coast/Northwest, removals were equivalent to 2.0% of growing trees.

“The report makes clear that forest owners are harvesting only a small portion of the trees they grow to maintain an abundance of trees,” Tenny said. “Strong markets for wood products—including energy here and abroad—help keep these forests healthy, productive and able to provide numerous environmental benefits such as clean air and water, and habitat for wildlife. Public policy has long recognized this positive relationship. As a result, forest owners are growing 40 percent more wood than they are harvesting.”

NAFO also released *The Economic Impact of Privately-Owned Forests in the United States*, the second update to NAFO’s inaugural report published in 2009. The report revealed on a national level that private working forests support:

- 2.4 million jobs
- \$99 billion in payroll
- \$281 billion in sales

Both reports were produced by Forest2Market, a company providing market data and analytics to participants in the wood supply chain.

To view the entire report and find more information please visit http://www.nafoalliance.org/media-room/nafo-news-releases/551-new-reports-reinforce-the-value-of-sustainably-managed-private-working-forests?utm_content=buffer420ac&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook.com&utm_campaign=buffer

Calendar of Events

October 26-28, 2016 – Texas Forestry Association Annual Meeting, LaTorretta Resort on Lake Conroe.

November 4, 2016 – Texas Arbor Day, for more information about Texas Arbor Day 2016 and tips for how you or your community can get involved please visit <http://tfsweb.tamu.edu/arborday/>

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NETFLA WEB SITE:

www.netxforest.org

November Program:

Saturday, November 19, 2016

10 am at Pizza Inn, Pittsburg

Mike Murphrey from the Texas A&M Forest Service will present a program on the Emerald Ash Borer, Invasive Plant Species, Pine Bark Beetles, and other forestry concerns. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 10 AM at the Pizza Inn on US Hwy 271 North of Pittsburg. Many of you have known Mike since he was a Forester with Texas Forest Service in Pittsburg and instrumental in organizing NETFLA. Mike plans to retire in February 2017, so this will be his final program as an employee of the Forest Service. Plan to attend this meeting to give Mike a send-off into retirement.

February 2017 Program:

The Board of Directors is planning a program presented by a representative from one of our local USDA-NRCS offices. The primary topic would be an update of cost share programs that are available to landowners. Current cost share programs include tree planting, timberland improvement, wildlife enhancement, erosion control, water quality improvement, etc.

NETFLA Contact and Membership Dues Information

Membership dues are \$15.00 per calendar year. If you have not yet renewed your 2016 Membership, or if you would like to become a member, mail your check to: NETFLA, PO Box 642, Mt. Vernon, TX 75457.

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