

Northeast Texas Forest Landowner Association Newsletter - III Quarter 2018

Next Meeting: 10 am Saturday, August 18, 2018 @ Pizza Inn in Pittsburg

Bright Spots for Conservation Forestry in the Senate Farm Bill

The Nature Conservancy

The U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee this week will consider its proposed Farm Bill, the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018. The bill, released last Friday, includes conservation and forestry provisions to fund voluntary, incentive-based sustainability programs for America's farmers, ranchers, and forest owners that strengthen agricultural and working lands.

“This bill is a win for conservation,” said Lynn Scarlett, co-chief external affairs officer at The Nature Conservancy. “By fully funding the conservation title—the single largest federal funding source for conservation on private lands — this bill creates the best opportunity to incentivize farmers, ranchers and foresters to conserve land and water. It is critical that Congress preserve this proposal in its entirety. The Senate bill would also benefit soil health management practices, provide solid funding for permanent conservation easements, and improve conservation outcomes through collaboration with private sector sustainability initiatives. And, importantly, this Senate bill focuses on broadly supported forest proposals, including extending the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration program.”

About half the land in the contiguous United States—nearly 900 million acres—is cropland, rangeland, forestland or pastureland that is eligible for conservation programs funded by the Farm Bill.

“Although the Farm Bill is often not recognized as the powerhouse it truly is for conservation and forestry, it provides farmers, ranchers and forest landowners with the tools necessary to protect and conserve not only the land but also their way of life,” said Scarlett. “That’s good for all of us. These programs are in high demand and necessary for ensuring healthy and productive rural lands, clean water, a robust economy and strong communities. These programs also enhance wildlife habitat, provide more outdoor recreation opportunities and increase flood control in communities across America.”

Longleaf Ridge Phase II

Texas A&M Forest Service



Image Source: Texas A&M Forest Service

A conservation easement in Jasper County, recently acquired by Texas A&M Forest Service for \$2.7 million, will permanently protect nearly 5,500 acres of sustainably managed timberland in East Texas. The easement is located north of Jasper in the area known as Longleaf Ridge, a line of hills which supports some of the only remaining longleaf pine forest

in Texas and is home to the region's best spring-fed creeks, waterfalls and thriving wildlife populations. Protection of this tract is part of an ambitious conservation effort to connect the Angelina and Sabine National Forests.

Funding for the purchase was provided through the Forest Legacy Program and funded in part by grants from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Texas Farm and Ranch Land Conservation Program, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation through Walmart's Acres for America Program and The Nature Conservancy.

"TPWD has long recognized the ecological significance of the forests, streams, and special habitats that make up Longleaf Ridge, and considers their protection to be a high conservation priority for Texas," Said Carter Smith, Executive Director of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. "This project epitomizes what can be accomplished when the public and private sector work together to accomplish lofty conservation goals."

Longleaf Ridge lies within the historic longleaf pine ecosystem that once covered 90 million acres of the United States. Less than 3 percent remains, making this easement a priority for America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative, a national effort focusing public and private resources on restoring and protecting longleaf pine forests.

"This working lands easement is a wonderful example of the conservation that the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), through Walmart's Acres for America Program, supports," said Jeff Trandahl, executive director and CEO, NFWF.

"Not only is it important for wildlife, but Longleaf Ridge provides exceptional value as it lies in a priority area under the America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative, a partnership working to bring back the native forest iconic to much of the southeastern United States."

The conservation easement was purchased from Crown Pine Timber LP, a limited partnership managed by Campbell Global, a timber investment and management firm based in Portland, Oregon. The easement will prohibit subdivision and extensive development of the tract, while allowing timber harvest to continue. The easement is called Longleaf Ridge Phase II as it is the second tract protected in the area; a nearby 4,785-acre easement was purchased in 2014.

The Forest Legacy Program is a federal program funded by the Land and Water Conservation Fund and administered by the USDA Forest Service. It encourages the voluntary protection of privately owned forestland primarily through the acquisition of conservation easements. These easements are legally binding agreements transferring development rights from one party to another without removing the property from private ownership.

"Texas lands are owned and managed primarily by private owners," said Tom Boggus, Texas State Forester. "They are critical in conserving and protecting our state's trees, forests and related natural resources."

This type of conservation – often called a working forest conservation easement – keeps forestlands in private ownership while conserving the land for future generations. Landowners and local communities continue to realize economic gain from timber management while the forest provides other benefits such as watershed protection, wildlife habitat, recreation and scenic values.

"This easement contains many of the most important features that we want to conserve in East Texas, including rare plants and more than 2,000 acres of longleaf pine forest which has been restored by Campbell Global and Temple-Inland before them," said David Bezanson, The Nature Conservancy's protection and easement manager.

Much of the property will continue to be managed for longleaf pine with timber harvest allowed according to a forest stewardship plan.

Learn more about the Longleaf Ridge Phase II conservation easement and the Forest Legacy Program by visiting <http://texasforests.tamu.edu/ForestLegacy>.

Read the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Acres for America news release by visiting <http://www.nfwf.org/whoweare/mediacenter/pr/Pages/acres-for-america-supports-land-conservation-projects-in-eight-states-2017-1115.aspx>

View images at <https://flic.kr/s/aHskANmkfh>.

5 Steps to Planting a Wildflower Meadow

National Wild Turkey Federation

Story by: David Hart



Image source: National Wild Turkey Federation

Want to create an eye-catching sight and help wildlife at the same time? Convert that empty field or part of your sprawling lawn into a dazzling wildflower meadow.

Planting a field full of colorful wildflowers not only gives you a season full of fresh-cut flowers and a place to reflect on nature's beauty, it offers passing drivers a reason to slow down. More important, a meadow brimming with flowers provides vital food for a wide variety of birds and insects.

Annuals or Perennials?

So what should you plant? Annuals tend to produce more flowers and many perennial varieties won't bloom until their second year. However, perennials don't have to be planted every year and will often spread from their own seeds.

Not sure? Combine them. Plant perennials, but over seed each spring with easy-to-grow annuals like zinnias, bachelor's buttons and larkspur for a variety of color.

No matter what you choose, some flowers will do better than others in your soil type. Consider planting several types the first year or two until you learn what works best. Just make sure they are compatible with your region, the soil type and the amount of sunlight they will get.

Prep the Site

Any seed you choose needs to come in contact with the soil. If the selected site is covered with living plants, you'll need to kill them with a non-selective herbicide. Do that when plants are actively growing, give them some time to die and then disk them into the soil. You don't need to spend too much time disking, just enough to expose some bare dirt. Burning that dead plant matter is a good option, too.

Plant the Seed

Annuals can be planted any time after the last frost, but it's not a bad idea to wait a few weeks. Your soil has a bank of weed seeds just waiting for the ideal conditions to sprout. Let them emerge and then spray the field one last time. Sow your flower seeds right before a rain if you can. Annuals should be planted in the late summer or early fall so they can become established before the winter.

Keep the Weeds Down

Weeds are inevitable. You will need to keep them in check or they will overwhelm your flowers. Grasses can be controlled with a selective herbicide like sethoxydim, which kills grasses, but not broadleaf plants. Other weeds either need to be pulled by hand or spot-sprayed with a non-selective herbicide. Use a backpack sprayer and a long wand to carefully spray individual weed plants between your flowers.

Buy Lots of Seed

Instead of buying small packets of seed from your local garden or big-box hardware store, order bulk seed from online retailers. They typically sell seed in large quantities, a quarter-pound or more, which means you will pay far less per seed. Places like American Meadows, Ernst Seed Company, Vermont Wildflower Farm and Eden Brothers carry lots of varieties.

Forest Facts

American Forests

Full Story: www.americanforests.org/explore-forests/forest-facts



Image Source: Michelle Moore

Forests are vital, but complex, ecosystems that provide so many benefits that help keep our planet healthy and habitable for all life. From serving as Earth's greatest air conditioners to providing wildlife habitat to being a source of clean drinking water, forests are essential.

Explore some of the ways in which forests provide for the health and well-being of the entire planet.

- More than half of U.S. drinking water originates in forests.
- On average, a mature tree can absorb 36% of the rainfall it comes in contact with.
- One square kilometer of forest can house more than 1,000 species.

- One mature tree absorbs carbon dioxide at a rate of 48 pounds/year.
- In one year, an acre of forest can absorb twice the CO₂ produced by the average car's annual mileage.
- Naturally occurring fires, as well as controlled burns, clear out underbrush and help prevent catastrophic fires.

Websites of Interest

Texas A&M Forest Service Information Portal www.texasforestinfo.com

Texas Parks and Wildlife tpwd.texas.gov

Southern Group of State Foresters www.southernforests.org

Association of Consulting Foresters www.acf-foresters.org

Become a TFA Member Today!!! texasforestry.org

Texas Nature

Conservancy <https://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/texas/index.htm>

Upcoming Events

Friday, July 20, 2018 from 1-4 pm– Tyler County Hardwood Forest Management Workshop: Promoting Health and Resiliency Workshop at the Texas A7M AgriLife Extension Office, 201 Veterans Way, Woodville, TX 75979. To register for this event please go to http://tfsweb.tamu.edu/healthyforests_workshops.

Friday, July 20, 2018 from 7:30 am to 3pm– Logger Training Workshop for Continuing Education at the Texas Forestry Association Office, 1903 Atkinson Dr., Lufkin, TX 75901. The cost is \$40 per person/workshop. Advanced registration and payment is required. This workshop will qualify for six hours under the Texas Pro Logger Program. For more information or to register online visit <https://www.texasforestry.org/events>

Saturday, July 21, 2018 from 10am-12pm—Guided Canoe Trip on Martin Dies, Jr. State Park. Space is limited so please sign-up ahead of time by visiting <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/guided-canoe-trip-tickets-46236933914>. For more information on the paddling trip and what to bring visit <https://tpwd.texas.gov/calendar/martin-dies-jr/guided-paddling-trip>

Every Saturday Night in July from 8 pm-10pm— Family friendly dances at Daingerfield State Park Historic Pavilion. Entrance fees are \$4/adult; children age 12 and under are free. For more information visit <https://tpwd.texas.gov/calendar/daingerfield/saturday-night-dances/2018-07-14>

Market Report

Product	Statewide Ave. Price		Previous Ave. Price		Price/ Ton Difference	
	Weight	Volume	Weight	Volume		
Pine- Sawlogs	\$34.00/Ton	\$272.00/MBF	\$34.18/Ton	\$273.47/MBF	-1%	↓
Pine-Pulpwood	\$6.89/Ton	\$18.61/Cord	\$7.89/Ton	\$21.30/Cord	-13%	↓
Pine-Chip-n-saw	\$11.59/Ton	\$31.29/Cord	\$13.50/Ton	\$36.45/Cord	-14%	↓
Mixed Hardwood- Sawlogs	\$32.72/Ton	\$294.48/MBF	\$30.95/Ton	\$278.52/MBF	6%	↑
Hardwood- Pulpwood	\$11.23/Ton	\$31.44/Cord	\$11.51/Ton	\$32.23/Cord	-2%	↓

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. The complete Texas Timber Price Trends can be viewed at <http://tfsweb.tamu.edu/timberpricetrends>.

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Tandy Wheeler, Gilmer
(903) 734-7007

NETFLA WEB SITE:

www.netxforest.org

August 2018 Meeting and Program:

Saturday, August 18, 10 am, Pizza Inn, Pittsburg

Rob Hughes, Executive Director Texas Forestry Association (TFA), will present the program. He will update us on current TFA activities and important issues that will come before the next session of the Texas Legislature.

November Meeting and Program:

Saturday, November 10, 10 am, Pizza Inn, Pittsburg

Marty Walker, Forester and Realtor, will present the program. He has managed timberland for private landowners and company owned timberland since 1980. One topic he will discuss is hardwood trees

February 2019 Meeting and Program:

The Board of Directors is considering several topics. Do you have an issue that you would like to have a program on? If so, talk to an Association officer or director.

NETFLA Contact and Membership Dues Information

Thank you for your NETFLA membership in past years. We hope that Newsletters and Programs at quarterly meetings have provided you with useful information that has helped you manage your timber property. We encourage you to continue your membership.

Membership dues are \$15.00 per calendar year. Most memberships have already been renewed for 2018. If you have not yet renewed your 2018 Membership, or if you would like to become a member, mail your check to: **NETFLA, P.O. Box 343, Daingerfield, TX 75638-0343.** Thank you.

Contact: Judy Weiss (903) 645-3782, or e-mail gjweiss@windstream.net

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