

Northeast Texas Forest Landowner Association Newsletter

Quarter III 2017

Next Meeting

*Date: Saturday
February 17, 2018*

Time: 10 am

*Place: Pizza Inn
Pittsburg*

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*Don't forget to pre-
order your seedlings
for this winter*



Support Forest Owners in the Farm Bill

American Forest Foundation

www.forestfoundation.org

When most think of the Farm Bill, they think of row crop farming and nutrition programs. But there's another piece of this bill that is vitally important to the clean water, wildlife habitat and wood supply that Americans count on - the Farm Bill's support for family forest owners.

Families and individuals, who own and care for the largest portion of U.S. forests, want to do right by the land, but often lack technical expertise and funds to get the work done. The Farm Bill helps these landowners overcome barriers, by providing planning and technical assistance, financial support, as well as policies to help grow markets, research, education programs and more.

HOW IS THE FARM BILL SUPPORTING FOREST AND WOODLAND OWNERS

The last Farm Bill, passed by Congress in 2014, made improvements in a number of its conservation and forestry programs, specifically for family forest owners. It has had a considerable impact on families' abilities to care for and improve their forestland.

Summary of the impact its programs are having:

- In just the past 3 years, the Farm Bill's conservation and forestry programs helped family woodland owners conduct conservation efforts across more than 10 million acres. That's more than 9,000 acres of family-owned forestland improved per day
- More than \$1.86 billion have been invested in the past 3 years through the Farm Bill to assist forest owners, a figure 3 times the amount allocated to programs for family forest owners through the annual appropriations process in the same timeframe
- Public-private partnerships, such as the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP) have better leveraged funds, connected with more willing landowners, and are working towards a greater impact on some of our biggest forest challenges. Federal funds used through these public-private partnerships are stimulating investments by the private side – with private industry, non-profit groups, local governments, universities and more, investing nearly \$2 for every \$1 federal dollar spent in these partnerships.
- The Farm Bill's forestry investments have not only put forests to work, but they have also put rural communities to work – we estimate upwards to 86,000 jobs were supported by Americans who helped complete forest conservation practices needed on the land

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Operation Ponderosa ***Texas A&M Forest Service***

<http://tfsweb.tamu.edu/operationponderosa>

The Davis Mountains of West Texas contain some of the largest populations of Rocky Mountain Ponderosa Pine, *Pinus ponderosa* var. *scopulorum*, in Texas. The Davis Mountains Preserve in Fort Davis contains a majority of these endemic stands.

Environmental stresses - a lack of soil moisture from drought, coupled with secondary bark beetle infestations - have killed the majority of trees. In addition, wildfires in 2011 burned through some of the most productive stands. Up to 75 percent of the Ponderosas in the Davis Mountains Preserve have been lost over the past decade, and it is predicted that losses will continue if nothing is done.

In 2014, Texas A&M Forest Service (TFS) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) staff assessed 18 Ponderosa Pine stands in the TNC Preserve – leading to recommendations to help maintain and improve existing stands.

Recommended tactics were:

- collect native seed
- thin overpopulated stands
- remove competing vegetation
- collect baseline data to monitor the recovery of forest stands over time

TFS marked stands and gathered baseline data in 2015 in preparation for thinning operations scheduled for 350 acres of forestlands on the TNC Preserve. TFS received a grant from USDA Forest Service for forest stand assessments and management prescriptions. TNC received grant to thin competing trees. TFS gathered cones from trees in yards in Ft Davis and grew out 2,800 ponderosa seedlings at the TFS West Texas Nursery in Idalou.

In 2016, over 2,000 of the grown-out seedlings were planted. Herbivory, mainly from gophers, took its toll on the plantings, and less than 25% survived. Data shows that survival rates below 25

percent is on par with average numbers from other Ponderosa plantings in New Mexico and Arizona.

The second round of cone collection yielded only 180 seedlings for the 2017 planting, but the third round yielded a large cache of seeds for 2018. TFS gave away seedlings to landowners in the surrounding communities of Ft Davis, Al-pine, and Marfa.

TFS will be creating a handbook of Best Management Practices. These and other educational resources will serve as technical information and assistance to land-owners and the public in restoring and recovering Ponderosa Pines in Texas and the American Southwest.

Websites of Interest



Texas A&M Forest Service Information Portal

<http://www.texasforestinfo.com>

Texas Parks and Wildlife

<http://tpwd.texas.gov/>

Southern Group of State Foresters

www.southernforests.org

Association of Consulting Foresters

www.acf-foresters.org/

Become a TFA Member Today!!!

<http://texasforestry.org>

Tallest All-Wood Building in the U.S. Approved for Construction

Dallon Adams, Digital Trends
www.digitaltrends.com



Timber is becoming an increasingly attractive construction material thanks to advances in wood-binding technologies. This week, city officials in Portland, Oregon, approved a construction permit for the United States' first all-wood high-rise.

The developer is set to begin construction of the 11-story building, called Framework, this fall. Once completed, the complex will house subsidized apartments and offices for Albina Community Bank and Beneficial State Bank.

Framework will utilize a technology known as cross-laminated timber (CLT). These CLT panels are constructed from small wooden planks bound to one another by a polyurethane adhesive, giving them the strength of traditional construction materials such as concrete and steel.

In fact, tests have shown that CLT designs can withstand large-scale earthquakes. Researchers at Portland State University and Oregon State University used seismic testing to verify the structural integrity of Framework's design.

State officials have high hopes for the future of CLT and believe the technology could bolster the floundering regional timber industry. Pacific Northwest logging has struggled in recent years due to trade deals, automation, and government regulation, among other factors.

Oregon has invested heavily into CLT technologies, including a rather robust \$150,000 grant to help a Douglas County logging company, D.R. Johnson Lumber Co., create its manufacturing line. Currently, CLT is manufactured predominantly in Europe and Canada, but the Framework high-rise will source the bulk of its CLT panels locally from D.R. Johnson.

Wood has many benefits over traditional construction materials. CLT structures can be erected faster than concrete and steel structures, and, most importantly, wood is far more environmentally friendly. Carbon dioxide is a chief byproduct in the creation of iron, steel, and the non-metallic minerals that are the raw components in concrete. It is estimated that these materials contribute as much to climate change as all of the automobiles on the earth combined.

This initiative and others like it may very well lay the groundwork for more ambitious wood construction projects in the future.

Scholarship to Honor TFA Executive Director
Texas Forestry Association – The Weekly
www.texasforestry.org



The TFA Educational Fund, Inc. is establishing a scholarship to honor Ron Hufford as he retires after 33 years with Texas Forestry Association, as follows:

Ronald H. Hufford Forestry Leadership Scholarship - This scholarship is being given in honor of Ronald H. Hufford, who served as Executive Director of Texas Forestry Association from 1984 through 2017. Junior or senior students in the fields of Forestry, Agriculture or other Natural Resources with preference given to students with proven leadership, volunteerism and communications experiences. Recipients will be chosen by faculty members of the forestry departments at Stephen F. Austin State University and Texas A&M University.

This scholarship will not be endowed, but will be given as the scholarship fund balance allows and will be administered through the Texas Forestry Educational Fund, Inc., meaning that all donations will be tax deductible as a charitable donation.

For more information or to donate to the Ronald H. Hufford Forestry Leadership Scholarship please contact the TFA office at (936) 632-8733.

Market Report, July/August, 2017



Product	Statewide Ave. Price		Previous Ave. Price		Price/Ton Difference
	Weight	Volume	Weight	Volume	
Pine-Sawlogs	\$25.29/ton	\$193.75/mbf	\$25.47/ton	\$192.70/mbf	+1%
Pine-Pulpwood	\$7.89/ton	\$21.28/cord	\$8.50/ton	\$22.96/cord	-7%
Pine-Chip'n'Saw	\$9.00/ton	\$24.30/cord	\$8.96/ton	\$24.19/cord	-14%
Mixed Hardwood-Sawlogs	\$29.07/ton	\$273.03/mbf	\$28.79/ton	\$272.84/mbf	-25%
Hardwood-Pulpwood	\$8.82/ton	\$24.70/cord	\$8.91/ton	\$25.00/cord	-16%

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>.

Support Forest Owners in the Farm Bill Cont.

- The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) helped tackle wildfire risk, insects and disease, improve water quality and more across 1.7 million acres in just 3 years' time.
 - Specifically, landowners were able to install 8,300 miles of fire breaks to help prevent catastrophic wildfires. That's 3 times longer than the length of the U.S.

IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE NEXT FARM BILL

As we look toward the 2018 Farm Bill, the American Forest Foundation (AFF) asks Congress to improve on the last iteration to further address our biggest environmental challenges, and continue to provide the natural resources that Americans count on from family forests:

- Maintain funding and support for woodland owners in forestry and conservation programs
- Improve technical assistance and program implementation for woodland owners
- Support cross-boundary, landscape scale efforts to tackle forestry issues, especially Wildfire
- Provide support and regulatory assurance for landowners who help at-risk wildlife
- Support a strong, diverse forest products industry, including legislation like the Timber Innovation Act and new tools to help grow markets

FORESTS IN THE FARM BILL COALITION

In addition to being the voice of family forest owners in Washington, D.C., AFF co-leads a diverse coalition, the Forests in the Farm Bill Coalition to build broad forest and conservation support for forest priorities in the Farm Bill.

The Coalition, which has been in existence for more than 15 years, includes more than 90 forest and conservation groups representing all aspects of the forest sector, including forest owners, conservationists, hunters, anglers, forest industry and natural resource professionals. It is co-chaired by the American Forest Foundation, National Association of State Foresters, National Wild Turkey Federation, and The Nature Conservancy.

For more information about the impact of Farm Bill conservation programs and AFF's effort to enhance and protect those programs in the next Farm Bill visit:

[Forests in the Farm Bill Progress Report](#)
[Policy Recommendations from the Forests in the Farm Bill Coalition](#)

Calendar of Events

November 14-16 – Longleaf Alliance Course "Longleaf and Fire" in Lufkin. Participants will also be included in a "Longleaf Social" banquet at Crown Colony Country Club hosted by Rufus Duncan and the Texas Longleaf Team. Course registration is \$150 which includes all course materials and lunch both days. For more information or to register please contact the Longleaf Alliance at (334) 427-1029 or karen@longleafalliance.org.

December 1 – Retirement "come and go" for Ron Hufford at the TFA office, 1-3 p.m.

December 6 – Trinity Neches Forest Landowner Association meeting at the Cherokee County Electric Co-Op building at 29880 HWY 69 North, Rusk. Registration is at 0830 and the meeting starts at 9:00 am. Topics include: Invasive species, NRCS& TFS cost share programs, pond construction and management. TNFLA serves forest landowners in: Anderson, Cherokee, Freestone, Henderson, Houston, Leon, and Van Zandt counties.

December 14 – Western Gulf Silvicultural Technology Exchange, Forest Herbicides: New Science & Products Updates. CEUs will be provided, for more information and to register please visit <http://d19cgyi5s8w5eh.cloudfront.net/eml/hZMrQupxSCO-OHWVPrNwug?e=sstutts%40texasforestry.org&a=C0GGzfQxQMmW3FGk9hi57A&f=&t=1>

November 18 Membership Meeting:

Allen Smith, Regional Forest Health Coordinator, Texas A&M Forest Service from the Longview office, gave a program on "Common Forest Health Problems and Solutions. Many of those in attendance requested Allen's contact information. It is as follows: Allen Smith, e-mail lasmith@tfs.tamu.edu, telephone 903-297-5094.

NETFLA Officers

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Director of Titus County:

Open

Director of Upshur County:

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Director of Wood County:

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TFS Foresters for our area:

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(903) 856-7181
Tandy Wheeler, Gilmer
(903) 734-7007

NETFLA WEB SITE:

www.netxforest.org

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February 17, 2018 Meeting: Linda Alford, Texas A&M Forest Service, will give the program "Behind the Scenes at the Texas Forest Service". The meeting is scheduled for 10 am at the Pizza Inn in Pittsburg. The Pizza Inn is located at 1000 North Greer (US Hwy 271) in Pittsburg. More information will be available in the next Newsletter.

Election of Officers and Directors: Officers and Directors elected at the November 18th meeting for two-year terms are as follows:

President:	Glenn Weiss
Vice president:	Wayne Arnold
Secretary-Treasurer:	Judy Weiss
Director, Camp Co.	Vernon Holcomb
Director, Franklin Co.	Harry Earl
Director, Morris Co.	Fred Davenport
Director, Titus Co.	Open
Director, Upshur Co.	Kenneth Stewart
Director, Wood Co.	Larry Hoffman

Thank You Blanche: Blanche is retiring as our Secretary-Treasurer after many years of faithful service. Membership voted at the November 18 meeting to present her with a memento for her contributions to the Association. You will be missed. Please note the new mailing address below.

NETFLA Contact and Membership Dues Information

Membership dues are \$15.00 per calendar year. If you have not yet renewed your 2017 or 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