

**Next Meeting: Saturday November 23, 2019, 10am at Aubrey E. Pilgrim Agriculture Building. Located beside Pittsburg ISD Central Admin. Bldg., 402 Broach St, Pittsburg**

**Rodent Anyone? Louisiana Company Turns Invasive Swamp Rodents into Dog Treats**  
By Charles Watson, Fox News

PECAN ISLAND, La. — The state of Louisiana is upping the bounty on nutria rodents that devour and ruin thousands of acres of marshland in coastal Louisiana every year.

The rodents have been eating away at the state's marshland, which protect already vulnerable Louisiana from major storms. The wetlands absorb wind and rain, and help sustain wildlife, but they have been virtually eliminated by pesky nutria as their population continues to grow.

A ramped-up market for nutria meat could help the state reverse course on the destruction caused by the swamp rodent.

Marsh Dog, a dog food company based in Baton Rouge, believes its company is one of the keys in preserving the state's marshland. It has opened a new market for nutria meat, which it then uses to produce dog treats the



*Dog treats produced by Louisiana-based Marsh Dog. The company hopes the use of nutria meat in their dog treats will help tame the damage nutria cause to the state's marshland. (Fox News, Charles Watson)*

company is aiming to market nationally.

During hunting season, between November and March, Marsh Dog has taken advantage of the bounty on the swamp rodents—buying nutria meat from hunters around the state to produce dog treats. The company's president, Hansel Harlan, said the company's plan isn't to get rich, rather it's to help Louisiana with a serious issue.

“Nutria are a herbivore that absolutely love our wetlands and devour it like nobody's business,” he said. “By creating a market for nutria, we incentivize people to hunt the nutria, which keeps their population in check.”

The swamp rodents are native to South America. According to Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries, they were first brought to the state in the 1930s, when the population exploded to as many

20 million. The trade of their fur was booming back then, which gave hunters and trappers an incentive to capture the rodents for the sale of their thick, soft coat of fur. Once the international fur trade began to dwindle in the mid-1980s, harvests dropped and widespread damage caused by quickly populating nutria skyrocketed.

The rodents, which reach sexual maturity about three months after birth and have a litter of pups every eight to 12 weeks, quickly repopulated. After damaging hundreds of thousands of acres of land coastwide, the state implemented its bounty program in 2002.

Damage to marshland has decreased dramatically. However, reduced harvests since the 2015 to 2016 hunting

saw nutria damage to wetlands increase to 16,424 acres of land — the highest estimate of damages since more than 20,000 acres were harmed in 2009, according to Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries.

Harlan said the bounty program is currently the most ethical way to deal with Louisiana’s nutria problem.



However, he’s hoping the state’s goal of capturing 400,000 nutria annually is achieved by his company to the point where there will be no need for a bounty program any longer.

“We use hundreds of thousands of pounds of nutria meat every year. We’re hoping that over time we will be able to significantly reduce or displace the need for the bounty program,” he said. “That’s \$4 million a year that’s coming out of Louisiana taxpayers in order to control this evasive species. If we could help reduce that number that’s spent on the bounty control program, we consider that a positive”. Nutria are not only wreaking havoc on Louisiana’s coastline. The herbivores have also found their way into at least 16 states, including areas of Maryland, Texas and California, according to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

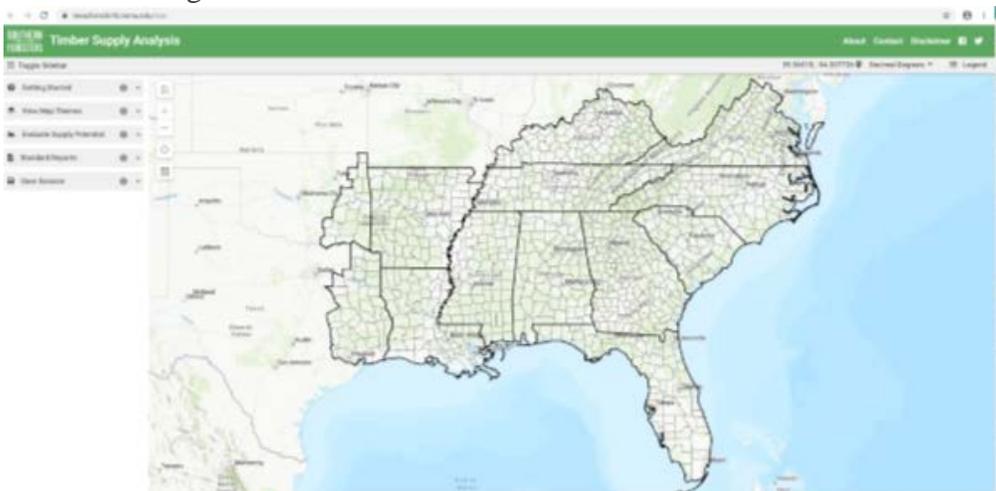
*Hansel Harlan, president of Marsh Dog, feeds his pup a dog treat made from nutria meat. (Fox News, Charles Watson)*

Read the full story at <https://www.foxnews.com/us/rodent-anyone-louisiana-company-turning-invasive-swamp-rodent-into-dog-treats>

## The First Web Application of its Kind Started in Texas and Hopes to Attract Forestry Business to the South

### Texas A&M Forest Service

COLLEGE STATION, Texas – Forestry officials from across the United States unveiled a new web application this week that will help communities, investors and wood buyers determine the supply of available forest resources in a given area and make more informed decisions on where to locate wood-based businesses in the U. S. South.



Texas A&M Forest Service, the Southern Group of State Foresters, National Association of State Foresters and USDA Forest Service developed the Southern Timber Supply Analysis application, accessible at [southerntimbersupply.com](http://southerntimbersupply.com). By utilizing the web application’s maps, users can

estimate the amount of timberland, standing timber, and growth and removals within a specified distance or

trucking time of any site in the Southern United States. Data is updated regularly and readily shows areas that have an abundant and sustainable supply of forest resources.

“Exemplifying the power of this web tool is the recent decision by Angelina Forest Products to locate a \$100 million sawmill in Lufkin, Texas,” said Texas A&M Forest Service Division Chief Operating Officer Burl Carraway. “Using our timber analysis information, they determined that the area offers an abundance of sustainable forest resources as well as a talented workforce familiar with the industry.”

Now such information is accessible across the South. Based on the Texas program, the Southern Timber Supply Analysis web application is the first of its kind in the nation, granting public access to timber supply data to anyone with access to the internet in a user-friendly format.

The digital tools are free to use, readily accessible and are able to generate reports and insights that can easily be shared. The tools can be used to proactively recruit wood-based businesses to the South, identify areas on which to focus restoration efforts, and make stronger, more informed decisions on behalf of the Southern economy.

The South accounts for over half of timber production in the United States. The region boasts more than 250 million forested acres, 87 percent of which are privately-owned, across 13 states – each with its own unique mix of wood resources, manufacturing innovations and investment opportunities.

In Texas, forestry contributes \$32.5 billion in economic activity, 144,500 jobs and \$8.4 billion in labor income to the state economy.

Data used in the Southern Timber Supply Analysis application is derived from Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA), a USDA Forest Service program conducted in partnership with state forestry agencies. The application is a project of the Southern Group of State Foresters. It was funded in part by the USFS and developed by Texas A&M Forest Service for the 13 southern states.

For more information on the Southern Timber Supply Analysis application and how Texas A&M Forest Service and the Southern Group of State Foresters support forest-based economic development, visit <https://www.southernforests.org/services>.

## **Texas Scenic Views Leads Texas to Fall Foliage Texas A&M Forest Service**

COLLEGE STATION, Texas — Texas A&M Forest Service launched Texas Scenic Views in celebration of the first day of fall. This new online application helps Texans find the most impressive views of fall foliage and spring wildflowers throughout the state.

Users can preview routes, view photos, read reviews and download directions to their mobile device while browsing scenic points and drives. The crowdsourced application displays a map that shows the current rating of each route to help users find the best displays of fall foliage.

“Texas has many extraordinary places to view scenic landscapes. This application helps connect users with those majestic hardwood forests, stunning bluebonnet fields, and inspiring wide-open spaces that define this great state,” said Hughes Simpson, Texas A&M Forest Service Forest Systems Department Head.

While Texans are out exploring and enjoying fall colors, they can upload their photos of fall foliage to Texas

Scenic Views and rate and comment on the routes they travel.

Texans have a good reason to get outside and explore. Exposure to forests and woodlands decreases mental fatigue by relaxing and restoring the mind, as well as providing a sense of security.

By taking a drive to scenic outdoor areas, Texans can embrace the health benefits provided by trees and green space and gain an appreciation for their value.

“Medical research is increasingly showing the numerous, positive health benefits of trees in our everyday lives. This application helps Texans enjoy the natural beauty of this state while positively impacting their health,” said Simpson.

In the spring, Texans can use the app to find routes that showcase beautiful wildflower displays.

Visit <https://texasforestinfo.tamu.edu/txscenicviews/> to visit Texas Scenic Views.



*Photo Credit: Texas A&M Forest Service*

## Market Report– January/February 2019

Product	Statewide Ave. Price		Previous Ave. Price		Price/ Ton Difference	
	Weight	Volume	Weight	Volume		
Pine- Sawlogs	\$27.67/Ton	\$213.25/MBF	\$36.48/Ton	\$291.87/MBF	-24%	↓
Pine-Pulpwood	\$7.37/Ton	\$19.40/Cord	\$9.80/Ton	\$26.47/Cord	-25%	↓
Pine-Chip-n-saw	\$14.49/Ton	\$39.12/Cord	\$16.60/Ton	\$44.81/Cord	-13%	↓
Mixed Hardwood-Sawlogs	\$34.17/Ton	\$301.86/MBF	\$39.06/Ton	\$351.52/MBF	-13%	↓
Hardwood- Pulpwood	\$12.38/Ton	\$34.68/Cord	\$14.57/Ton	\$40.79/Cord	-15%	↓

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>.

## Upcoming Events

**Wednesday, October 16, 2019– Prescribed Burn Managers Training**–Location: SFASU Experimental Forest near Nacogdoches- Program will provide 3.0 hours of required continuing education for Certified Burn Managers in the State of Texas. Register at <https://www.texasforestry.org/events>

**Wednesday, October 16– Friday, October 18, 2019– Texas Forestry Association Annual Meeting**  
Location: The Fredonia Hotel in Nacogdoches. Create new contacts, network with old friends, and access the latest information from the best speakers in the business. Register at <https://www.texasforestry.org/events>

**Friday, November 15, 2019– Jasper/Newton Forest Landowner Workshop 8:30am-2:30pm** – Location: Courthouse Annex Building, 271 Lamar St. Jasper, TX

**Friday, November 22, 2019-Texas Black Bear Alliance Annual Meeting 10:00am-2:00pm**– Location: Large classroom of Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture at Stephen F. Austin University (419 E. College St., Nacogdoches, TX). Please RSVP for this event to Mr. Adrian Van Dellen (409-331-4406).

**Saturday, November 23, 2019– Gone Birding! With Claire Moore, 9am-11:30am**– Location: Texas A&M Forest Service, William Goodrich Jones State Forest, 1328 FM 1488, Conroe, TX 77384. Register at <https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/content/article.aspx?id=30433>

**Saturday, November 23, 2019 - NETFLA Meeting at Aubrey E. Pilgrim Agriculture Bldg., Pittsburg**

## Election of Officers and Directors:

Officers and Directors will be elected for a two-year term at the November 23 Meeting. Nominations can be placed by the Nominating Committee, members from the floor, or by absentee nomination by mail to the Secretary-Treasurer. Nominees from the nominating committee are as follows:

President:	Glenn Weiss
Vice President:	Wayne Arnold
Secretary-Treasurer:	Judy Weiss
Director Camp County:	Larry Shelton
Director Franklin County:	Harry Earl
Director Morris County:	Open
Director Titus County:	Open
Director Upshur County:	Kenneth Stewart
Director Wood County:	Larry Hoffman

## Background and RSVP for November 23 Meeting: Woodland Clinic Competition

Initiated in 1957, Woodland Clinics provide students with a working knowledge of forestry. Each year, youth from 4-H Clubs and FFA compete throughout East Texas at clinics held locally by Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Winners from the local clinics go on to compete at the State Woodland Clinic sponsored by Texas Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Texas Forestry Association (TFA).

Students gain experience with a variety of skills such as pine identification, hardwood identification, forage-wildlife relationships, tree measurements and volume determination, compass and pacing, site management concerns, and site productivity.

TFA's Educational Fund provides cash scholarships to the highest-scoring junior or senior participant at each of the district competitions. TFA's Forest Landowners Council provides a cash scholarship to the high scoring participant at the state level.

A total of 189 students (31 in 4-H and 158 in FFA) participated in the State Woodland Clinic competition held last April at the Stephen F. Austin Experimental Forest. Pittsburg High School FFA was the First-Place team followed by DeKalb and Central Heights. Brandon Wilkes from the Pittsburg FFA was the overall High-Scoring individual, and he was the recipient of the TFA Forest Landowner Council's \$1000 scholarship. NETFLA makes an annual contribution to this scholarship fund, so this year it went to a local student.

Pittsburg High School Agriculture Teacher John Russell and his Woodland Clinic team will give the program at the **Saturday, November 23 NETFLA meeting**. The meeting will begin at 10 am and be held at the Aubrey E. Pilgrim Agriculture Building. It is located beside the Pittsburg ISD Central Administration Building at **402 Broach Street, Pittsburg, TX 75686**. Directions: **Enter parking lot of Admin. Bldg., drive toward back, turn right onto cattle guard and proceed to Pilgrim Ag. Bldg.**

Following the meeting, a hamburger lunch will be provided by Marty Walker, Forester & Realtor in Daingerfield. In order to prepare sufficient food, **Please RSVP your attendance by calling Judy Weiss at 903-645-3782, E-mailing [gjweiss@windstream.net](mailto:gjweiss@windstream.net) or mailing the RSVP below to NETFLA, PO Box 343, Daingerfield, TX 75638.**

-----Clip and Mail-----

### RSVP for Saturday November 23, 2019 NETFLA Meeting and Meal

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number in Party: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: NETFLA, PO Box 343, Daingerfield

## NETFLA Officers

### President:

Glenn Weiss  
(903) 645-3782  
[gjweiss@windstream.net](mailto:gjweiss@windstream.net)

### Vice President:

Wayne Arnold  
(903) 797-2345

### Secretary-Treasurer:

Judy Weiss  
(903) 645-3782  
[gjweiss@windstream.net](mailto:gjweiss@windstream.net)

### Director of Camp County:

Vernon Holcomb  
(903) 856-6877  
[gigum60@gmail.com](mailto:gigum60@gmail.com)

### Director of Franklin County:

Harry Earl  
(903) 860-3306  
[hsearl@suddenlink.net](mailto:hsearl@suddenlink.net)

### Director of Morris County:

Fred Davenport  
(903) 897-5398

### Director of Titus County:

Open

### Director of Upshur County:

Kenneth Stewart  
(903) 843-2174

### Director of Wood County:

Larry Hoffman  
(903) 569-2237  
FAX (903) 569-2908

### TFS Foresters for our area:

Kelby Wolf, Pittsburg Office  
(903) 856-7181  
Tandy Wheeler, Gilmer  
(903) 734-7007

### NETFLA WEB SITE:

[www.netxforest.org](http://www.netxforest.org)

## Northeast Texas Forest Landowners Association Newsletter Quarter IV 2019

### Next Meeting: 10 am Saturday November 23, 2019

Pittsburg FFA teacher John Russell and the State Champion Pittsburg FFA Woodland Clinic Team will present the Program. See the Background Information on Page 6 of this Newsletter. **The meeting will begin at 10 am and be held in the Aubrey E. Pilgrim Agriculture Building.** It is located beside the Pittsburg ISD Administration Building at **402 Broach Street in Pittsburg.** Enter the parking lot of the Admin. Bldg., drive towards the back, turn right onto the cattle guard, and proceed to the Pilgrim Ag. Bldg. Broach travels S to N between Tx Hwy 11 (Quitman St.) and Spur 179 (Abernathy).

**Lunch will be provided** by Marty Walker, Forester & Realtor in Daingerfield. Please RSVP as outlined on Page 6 in order to prepare sufficient food.

### February 2020 Program:

The Board is exploring several topics for the next program. One is to have a game warden address hunting and trespassing issues. Another is to have a presentation on timber theft and new regulations for selling timber in Texas. Please contact a board member if you have another topic that you would like addressed at a future meeting.

### NETFLA Contact and Membership Dues Information

Thank you for your NETFLA membership in past years. We hope that Newsletters, Programs and 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. It is not too early to renew your membership for 2020. Please renew at a meeting or 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](mailto:gjweiss@windstream.net)

Northeast Texas Forest Landowners Association  
PO Box 343  
Daingerfield, TX 75638

## Social Media Resources

Texas A&M Forest Service on Facebook - @texasforestsERVICE

Texas A&M Forest Service on Twitter - @TXForestService

TFS Pittsburg District on Twitter - @TFSPittsburg

Texas Forestry Association on Facebook - @TexasForestryAssociation

Texas Forestry Association on Twitter - @texasforestry

American Forest Foundation on Facebook - @AmericanForestFoundation

American Forest Foundation on Twitter - @AmForestFndn

