Trinity-Neches Forest Landowner Association Newsletter

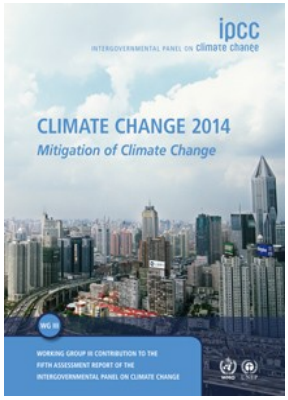
Fourth Quarter, 2014

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be at Richard Saunders Tree Farm in the spring of 2015. Congratulations to Richard for winning the Texas Tree Farm of the Year Award!

Inside

Report Cites Value of Wood Products to Mitigate Climate Change – *USFS, Forest Products Laboratory, Newsline, Vol. 13, Issue 3, page 11, James T. Spartz, Public Affairs Specialist.*



Some key climate change mitigation benefits from the use of wood have been cited by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 5th Assessment report on Mitigation of Climate Change.

One key measure related to slowing down, or mitigating, the rate of climate change impacts is greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. In general the report finds that "Provision of products with low GHG emissions can replace products with higher GHG emissions for delivering the same service (e.g., replacement of concrete and steel in buildings with wood, [and] some bioenergy options)." [p. 22]

According to economist Ken Skog, supervisory research forester and leader of the Economics, Statistics and Life Cycle Analysis Research group at the Forest Products Laboratory, the report "confirms findings that efforts to expand use of wood in long-lived applications such as multistory buildings are a key means to hold down GHG emissions and mitigate climate change."

Specifically, the report cites research indicating wood-based wall systems use 10–20% less embodied energy than traditional concrete wall systems. Concrete-framed buildings, in turn, use less embodied energy than their steel-framed counterparts.

The report states that "increased wood use does not reduce GHG emissions under all circumstances." Wood harvest "reduces the amount of carbon stored in the forest, at least temporarily, and increases in wood harvest levels may result in reduced long-term carbon storage in forests."

However, research shows that reducing wood consumption through paper recycling, for example, can reduce GHG emissions, and using wood grown in sustainable forestry systems, rather than "emission intensive materials such as concrete, steel, or aluminum" can further reduce emissions, mitigating the long-term effects of climate change.

Using wood from sustainably managed forests rather than non-wood materials in the construction sector (concrete, steel, etc.), research shows, reduces GHG emissions in most cases throughout the construction process for single-family homes, apartment houses, and industrial buildings. Most emission reductions in this process result from reduced production emissions rather than carbon sequestration in products, which "is relatively small."

Greenhouse gas benefits are highest, the report states, "when wood is primarily used for long-lived products, the lifetime of products is maximized, and energy use of woody biomass is focused on by-products, wood wastes, and end-of lifecycle use of long-lived wood products."

The report can be found online at http://mitigation2014.org/report.

Leaf-Cutter Ants Could Hold Key for Biomass - *John Davis, Domestic Fuel, http://domesticfuel.com/2014/08/20/leaf-cutter-ants-could-hold-key-for-biomass/*

A fungus from leaf-cutter ant gardens could be key in how biomass gets broken down into bioenergy sources. An article from the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory found at http://www.pnnl.gov/science/highlights/highlight.asp?id=2690, says researchers working with colleagues at the Great Lakes Bioenergy Research Center are using metabolomic and metaproteomic techniques to examine the dynamics of nutrient turnover in the gardens of leaf-cutter ants to discover how sugars, key in biofuels production, can be released.

***(NOTE**: Metabolomics is the systematic study of the unique chemical fingerprints that specific cellular processes leave behind. Metaproteomics is the study of all protein samples recovered directly from environmental sources.)*

Their results provide new insights into microbial community-level processes that underlie this important ant-fungus symbiosis.

The article goes on to point out that the study yields important information on how metabolomics can help us understand how microbes can break down plant material to release the raw materials needed to make biofuels.

Fall Webworms – Texas A&M Forest Service, http://texasforestservice.tamu.edu/main/popup.aspx?id=1200

The fall webworm, a common pest of many shade and ornamental trees in Texas, is native to North America and occurs throughout the United States and southern Canada. Its hosts include more than 100 species of broadleaf trees including pecan, persimmon, black walnut, sweetgum, elms, hickory, maple and cherry. This insect pest mainly affects the appearance of the host tree and is more a nuisance than a threat to the tree's health. The larvae, which cause the damage, are of two types - the blackheaded form and the redheaded form.

The food habits, biology, and markings on the larvae and adults are different for the two forms. In Texas, adults of the blackheaded form generally appear about one month earlier than the redheaded form.

Young larvae of the blackheaded form are yellowish green to pale yellow with two rows of dark bumps along the back. The head is black and covered with fine hair. The mature larvae of the blackheaded form is yellowish or greenish with a broad dark stripe along its back. The redheaded variety is tawny or yellowish tan with orange to reddish bumps. The larvae of the blackheaded form construct a flimsy web; that of the redheaded form is larger and more compact. Full-grown larvae of both varieties are about 1 inch (25mm) long.

The eggs hatch about two weeks after they are laid and the young larvae immediately begin to spin a silken web over the foliage on which they feed. As they grow they enlarge the web to cover more and more foliage. On large trees, complete branches may be covered, while on smaller trees, the entire plant may be encased in webbing. Young larvae skeletonize the upper leaf surface while older larvae devour the entire leaf except for the large veins and midrib. Larvae usually require 4-8 weeks to develop. As they approach maturity, the larvae leave the webs and wander and feed as they search for suitable pupation sites. Pupation generally occurs in thin silken cocoons spun in the duff or just beneath the surface of the soil.

The adult moths of the first generation usually appear by May in Texas. They have a wingspread of about 1 1/2 inch (30-42mm) and are white in color with dark spots on the wings. The coloration of the adults, as well as the larvae, can be quite variable. Shortly after the moths emerge, they mate and the female lays several hundred eggs in a mass on the underside of the leaves. She covers them with hair like scales from her body so they appear as a white, cottony patch on the leaf. There may be as many as four generations per year in southern areas of the state.

Since both the fall webworm and the tent caterpillar construct webs in the crowns of their hosts, it is important to distinguish between the two. The web of the fall webworm is more flimsy and encloses the ends of the leaves of individual branches. The tent caterpillar confines its web to limb crotches and flat mats along branches, and they are only found early in the spring.

- ***Continued on Page 5***

Gifford Pinchot Principles – *Peeling Back the Bark, Jamie "Mad B-Logger" Lewis, Forest History Society, July 16, 2013*

- A public official is there to serve the public and not to run them.
- Public support of acts affecting public rights is absolutely required.
- It is more trouble to consult the public than to ignore them, but that is what you are hired for.
- Find out in advance what the public will stand for; if it is right and they won't stand for it, postpone action and educate them.
- Use the press first, last and all the time if you want to reach the public.
- Get rid of the attitude of personal arrogance or pride of attainment of superior knowledge.
- Don't try any sly or foxy politics because a forester is not a politician.
- Learn tact simply by being honest and sincere, and by learning to recognize the point of view of the other man and meet him with arguments he will understand.
- Don't be afraid to give credit to someone else even when it belongs to you; not to do so is the sure mark of a weak man, but to do so is the hardest lesson to learn; encourage others to do things; you may accomplish many things through others that you can't get done on your single initiative.
- Don't be a knocker; use persuasion rather than force, when possible; plenty of knockers are to be had; your job is to promote unity.
- Don't make enemies unnecessarily and for trivial reasons; if you are any good you will make plenty of them on matters of straight honesty and public policy, and you need all the support you can get.

Gifford Pinchot was the first chief of the U.S. Forest Service. This list can also be found under the title "Pinchot Principles" as an appendix in the ***Proceedings of the U.S. Forest Service Centennial Congress***, published by the Forest History Society.

Market Report, July/August, 2014

Product	Statewide Ave. Price		Previous Ave. Price		Price/Ton Difference
	Weight	Volume	Weight	Volume	
Pine-Sawlogs	**$28.67/ton**	**$223.01/mbf**	**$25.91/ton**	**$204.81/mbf**	**+11%**
Pine-Pulpwood	**$8.71/ton**	**$23.49/cord**	**$8.52/ton**	**$22.99/cord**	**+2%**
Pine-Chip'n'Saw	**$10.88/ton**	**$29.38/cord**	**$12.23/ton**	**$33.03/cord**	**-11%**
Mixed Hardwood-Sawlogs	**$30.51/ton**	**$288.65/mbf**	**$36.24/ton**	**$326.12/mbf**	**-16%**
Hardwood-Pulpwood	**$14.22/ton**	**$39.82/cord**	**$11.99/ton**	**$33.56/cord**	**+19%**

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 .

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://texasforestservice.tamu.edu/main/article.aspx?id=145) are used. MBF = thousand board feet. Doyle Log Scale used for board foot measurements.

Take Care of Texas by Managing Your Leaves

– "Hot Wire", Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, http://takecareoftexas.org/hot-wire

As autumn brings cooler temperatures, it also signals the arrival of another seasonal display – falling leaves.

While Take Care of Texas encourages you to plant shade trees to help lower your utility bills in the summer, these deciduous trees lose their leaves in the fall. Instead of raking and bagging them, where they'll head to a landfill, put them back into your lawns and gardens, as a valuable source of mulch and fertilizer, and an addition to your compost.

Leaves contain 50-80percent of the nutrients a plant extracts from the soil and air during the season. Grass clippings, leaves, and other yard debris make up 20 percent of the trash sent to landfills each year. It costs Texans over $250 million a year to collect and dispose of this waste.

There are four basic ways in which leaves can be managed and used in the landscape:

1. **Mowing** – a light covering of leaves can be mowed, simply leaving the shredded leaves in place on the lawn. This technique is most effective when a mulching mower is used. For a guide to yard care, see: http://takecareoftexas.org/sites/default/files/publications/gi-028_0.pdf.

1. **Mulching** –a lawn mower with a bagging attachment provides a fast and easy way to shred and collect the leaves. Apply a three to four inch layer of shredded leaves around the base of trees and shrubs. A two to three inch mulch of shredded leaves is ideal for flower beds. For vegetable gardens, a thick layer of leaves placed between the rows functions as a mulch and an all-weather walkway that will allow you to work in your garden during wet periods. See http://takecareoftexas.org/sites/default/files/publications/gi-036_0.pdf for information on mulching.

2. **Composting** – in addition to leaves, other yard wastes such as grass clippings, pine needles, weeds, and small prunings can be composted. Compost can serve as a soil conditioner that nourishes your yard and reduces the need for outdoor watering up to 60 percent. For information on composting, see http://takecareoftexas.org/sites/default/files/publications/gi-036_0.pdf.

3. **Soil Improvement** – leaves may be collected and worked directly into garden and flower bed soils. A six to eight inch layer of leaves tilled into a heavy, clay soil will improve aeration and drainage. The same amount tilled into a light, sandy soil, will improve water and nutrient holding capacity.

Creating a Plan to Enhance the Deer Population on Your Land

– The Spectrum, September 18, 2014

http://www.thespectrum.com/story/life/features/mesquite/2014/09/18/create-plan-wildlife-thrive-land/15847933/?utm_campaign=[%27WeekInTrees%27]&utm_source=[%27WIT092614%27]&utm_medium=[%27Email%27

With a little foresight and planning, it is possible to attract and maintain a healthy deer herd on relatively small woodland tracts. Providing food, water, cover and space to attract healthy deer throughout the year can be done following these suggestions:

- Planning: Advance planning is crucial. Use free resources, such as My Hunting Land Plan's journal to log your projects. It can be found at: http://www.MyHuntingLandPlan.org. The site's mapping feature is easy and intuitive to use and can be used to mark out the locations of trail cams, as well as your deer hunting stand.

- Discing: Also known as strip disking, discing is disturbing the soil through shallow tillage to stimulate the growth of native grasses and the resprouting of many woody species. It also helps control brush.

- Creating openings: Depending on the surrounding landscape and size of your woods, about 10 percent of your forest acreage should consist of openings. Create them by clear-cutting one- to five-acre patches throughout larger forests.

- Monitoring your wildlife: Trail cams can be a great way to see what you have in your woods and track them throughout the year. Place your trail cams on larger tree trunks in areas where you have seen signs of animals. Be sure to mount it at the height of the animal you want to track.

- Managing trees: Removing undesirable trees and cultivating mast-producing ones can help nourish and attract wildlife. Ideally, 20 to 30 percent of your woodland should consist of these fruit- and nut-bearing trees.

- Sharing: If your land is really thriving, show it off by uploading trail cam photos or pictures from your woods, or answer the questions of others within the community "ask a forester" section on the My Hunting Land Plan website at http://www.MyHuntingLandPlan.org.

Fall Webworms – *continued from pg. 2*

The fall webworm has a large complex of natural enemies - more than 50 species of parasites and 30 species of predators are known in America. These beneficial insects along with disease, starvation and unfavorable weather conditions usually keep webworm populations at tolerable levels. Should direct control become necessary, nests of the webworm may be pruned from high value trees and destroyed. Chemical controls recommended for the fall webworm include Sevin and the bacteria Bacillus thuringiensis. All suggested chemicals must be currently registered and labeled for use by the US Environmental Protection Agency and the Texas Department of Agriculture. Before using any pesticide, read and carefully follow all application directions, cautionary statements and other information appearing on the label.

All I Need to Know about Life I Learned from Trees – author unknown

- It's important to have roots.
- In today's complex world, it pays to branch out.
- Don't pine away over old flames.
- If you really believe in something, don't be afraid to go out on a limb.
- Be flexible so you don't break when a harsh wind blows.
- Sometimes you have to shed your old bark in order to grow.
- If you want to maintain accurate records, keep a log.
- To be politically correct, don't wear firs.
- Grow where you're planted.
- It's perfectly okay to be a later bloomer.
- Avoid people who would like to cut you down.
- Get all spruced up when you have a hot date.
- If the party gets boring or dangerous, just leaf.
- You can't hide your true colors as you approach the autumn of your life.
- It's more important to be honest than poplar.

Websites of Interest

Pine trees without the pine cones - http://www.walb.com/story/25714890/pine-trees-without-the-pine-cones?utm_source=WIT061314&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=WeekInTrees

Feral hog abatement programs - https://www.texasagriculture.gov/GrantsServices/TradeandBusinessDevelopment/FeralHogGrantProgram

Biochar used to treat fracking water - http://www.eaem.co.uk/news/biochar-used-successfully-treat-fracking-water

My Land Plan – American Forest Foundation, how to get more out of your woods – http://www.MyHuntingLandPlan.org.

Discover the Forest's Potential (to affect climate change) - https://www.forestfoundation.org/discover-forest-potential

Around the World

As forests are cleared and species vanish, there's one other loss: a world of languages - http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2014/jun/08/why-we-are-losing-a-world-of-languages?utm_source=WIT061314&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=WeekInTrees

Belgian fairytale forest carpeted in bluebells - http://www.explosion.com/59962/this-amazing-forest-in-belgium-will-restore-your-love-for-nature-absolutely-amazing/?utm_source=WIT061314&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=WeekInTrees

Long-term study: **Global Change: Trees Continue to Grow at a Faster Rate** - http://phys.org/news/2014-09-global-trees-faster.html

Ancientwood's Ancient Kauri Woodworking (New Zealand) - http://www.ancientwood.com/

Calendar of Events

Garden Seminars, Ina Brundrett Conservation Education Building, Pineywoods Native Plant Center, SFASU, 2900 Raguet Street, Nacogdoches, TX. For more information, please contact Elyce Rodewald, (936) 468-1832 or erodewald@sfasu.edu. RSVP – sfagardens@sfasu.edu or (936) 468-1832.

December 13, 2014 — Deck the halls: Creating Evergreen Decorations for the Holidays with Dawn Stover. 9:00 a.m. – noon. $25/members, $30/non-members.

Theresa and Les Reeves Lecture Series, Ina Brundrett Conservation Education Building, Pineywoods Native Plant Center, SFASU, 2900 Raguet Street, Nacogdoches, TX. 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. For more information, please contact sfagardens@sfasu.edu.

December 11, 2014 — Dave Creech, SFA Gardens – "The true and unabridged story of this past year." E-mail: dcreech@sfasu.edu.

One last thing . . . .

Recently, elections were held for TNFLA Board Member positions. Phillip Power will remain TNFLA President for 2015. Bea Jarvis will become the Secretary-Treasurer in 2015. In the past, Thom Karels held the position of Treasurer and his wife, Carolyn was the Secretary for the association. In order to simplify management of the association, the positions of Secretary and Treasurer were combined starting 2015.

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