

Trinity-Neches Forest Landowner Association Newsletter

Third Quarter, 2013

Next Meeting

To be announced in next
newsletter!!

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Timber Theft – Report It and Prevent It! – Texas A&M Forest Service
website - <http://texasforestservicetamu.edu/main/popup.aspx?id=10576>

Timber theft is a crime that affects everyone and it rises with the price of timber and an increase in absentee land ownership. While timber and landowners initially feel the monetary loss, everyone stands to lose a natural resource - trees taken without reforestation methods in place to ensure a new forest for the future.

Many timber theft cases involve absentee landowners who are more vulnerable because they aren't around to protect their property. In these cases, the thief is often long gone by the time the crime is discovered.

Another method of theft involves timber buying contracts. There are a number of scenarios, but the most common is probably that the contract is never fulfilled by the buyer.

To help property owners avoid these and other timber theft tactics, the Texas A&M Forest Service offers the following advice:

- Have someone you know and trust report any cutting or trespassing on your land **immediately**.
- Have a Bill of Sale before any cutting begins and NEVER sign a contract without checking several references of the buyer. For an overview of a required bill of sale, please see:
http://www.texasforestry.org/docs/billofsale_examples.pdf
- For the best price insist on getting bids for your timber.
- Mark all property lines to assure cutting on adjacent property does not encroach on yours.
- Most importantly, for landowners who do not know the timber business, find someone who does to help you determine volumes, current prices and potential bidders.
- To learn more about timber theft prevention and applicable laws, read the **Timber Theft Laws in Texas** brochure, which can be found at
<http://www.texasforestry.org/media/timber%20theft%202011%20brochure%20FINAL.pdf>.

To report suspected timber theft or suspicious activity call: **TFS Timber Theft Hotline, (800) 364-3470** or contact the Texas A&M Forest Service – Law Enforcement Department at: PHONE: (936) 875-4962/FAX: (936) 875-4812.

***Trees and America's
Pastime*** – National
Association of State Foresters –
[http://www.stateforesters.org/news-
events/blog/trees-and-americas-
pastime](http://www.stateforesters.org/news-events/blog/trees-and-americas-pastime)



With summer in full gear, many of us head to the ballfield to watch our favorite baseball teams bat away. There is nothing better than hearing the crack of the bat and watching your favorite player hit a home run. So what is the history of the bat? Has ash always been the most popular wood? Have bats always been the same size and shape? The answers may surprise you, and make you itch to head out on the field yourself.

Early batters (mid-1800s) were known to sometimes whittle bats to suit their own hitting style. As you might imagine, the results were quite diverse—there were flat bats, round bats, short bats and fat bats. While bats made of ash have always been a popular choice, maple, willow and pine were also commonly used, and it wasn't unheard of to see spruce, cherry, chestnut and sycamore.

According to *The Evolution of the Baseball Bat...from the first crack to the 'clank'*, by Bernie Mussill, edited by Steve Orinick, and found at http://www.stevetheump.com/Bat_History.htm, “in today's industry, it takes thousands of trees each year to supply the bat demand.”

Check out this great article from the Smithsonian for more bat history: on the following webpage <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture/>, click on “The Past and Future of the Baseball Bat” or see http://blogs.smithsonianmag.com/design/2013/07/the-past-and-future-of-the-baseball-bat/?utm_source=twitter.com&utm_medium=socialmedia&utm_campaign=20130702&utm_content=designdecodedbaseballbat1.

***NRCS in Texas Announces Incentive
Payments to Improve Wildlife Habitat***

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) State Conservationist Salvador Salinas today announced that NRCS in Texas has \$5.5 million in funding available for people who want to develop and improve wildlife habitat on their land through the agency's Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP).

“WHIP helps Texas landowners restore and improve fish and wildlife habitats, and benefit at-risk species,” said Salinas. “This funding will give landowners across the state the opportunity to address wildlife concerns in Texas.”

This funding has been established to improve Bobwhite quail and Pronghorn antelope habitat, as well as for landowners that have lost wildlife habitat through the drought and wildfires of recent years.

Through WHIP, the NRCS provides both technical assistance and financial assistance to establish and improve fish and wildlife habitat. WHIP agreements between NRCS and the participant generally last from 5 to 10 years from the date the agreement is signed.

Landowners interested in participating in the program are encouraged to contact their local USDA-NRCS field office, in the nearest USDA Service Center. Applications are accepted continuously and the ranking criteria are established by the State Conservationist, based upon input from the state technical committee.

WHIP applications must address traditional natural resource issues such as water quantity, water quality, grazing lands, forest health, soil management, emerging natural resource issues, and climate change.

For additional information about WHIP, or to find the NRCS service center nearest you, visit <http://www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov>.

Forestry Terminology 101 –



Texas A&M Forest Service:

<http://tfsweb.tamu.edu/main/popup.aspx?id=187>

This list is the sixteenth in a series of forestry definitions that will be useful to forest landowners and others interested in better understanding forestry.

Site Preparation- any treatment of a forest site to get it ready for planting, direct seeding, or natural regeneration such as clearing, chemical vegetation control, burning, disking, bedding, windrowing, or raking

Skid Trail- a route over which logs are moved to a landing or road

Slope- degree of deviation of a surface from the horizontal, measured as a numerical ratio, percent, or in degrees. Expressed as a ratio, the first number is the horizontal distance (run) and the second is the vertical distance (rise), as 2:1. A 2:1 slope is a 50 percent slope. Expressed in degrees, the slope is the angle from the horizontal plane, with a 90 degree slope being vertical (maximum) and a 45 degree slope being a 1:1 slope

Soil- the unconsolidated mineral and organic material on the immediate surface of the earth that serves as a natural medium for the growth of land plants

Soil Conservation- using the soil within the limits of its physical characteristics and protecting it from unalterable limitations of climate and topography

Soil Productivity- the output or productive capability of a forest soil to grow timber crops

Southern Yellow Pines- most often refers to loblolly pine, shortleaf pine, longleaf pine, and slash pine

Stand- a group of trees occupying a given area and sufficiently uniform in composition, age, and condition so as to distinguish them from adjoining forest areas

Stem- the trunk of the tree

Stewardship Forest- property being managed in keeping with a plan prepared by resource professionals that considers landowner objectives and USDA Forest Service Stewardship standards



Market Report – March-April, 2013

Product	Statewide Ave. Price		Previous Ave. Price		Price/Ton Difference
	Weight	Volume	Weight	Volume	
Pine-Sawlogs	\$21.23/ton	\$169.82/mbf	\$24.71/ton	\$197.68/mbf	-16%
Pine-Pulpwood	\$5.93/ton	\$16.01/cord	\$5.77/ton	\$15.57/cord	+3%
Pine-Chip'n'Saw	\$10.47/ton	\$28.27/cord	\$9.16/ton	\$24.73/cord	+13%
Mixed Hardwood-Sawlogs	\$31.65/ton	\$284.81/mbf	\$30.41/ton	\$273.66/mbf	+4%
Hardwood-Pulpwood	\$7.37/ton	\$20.64/cord	\$8.42/ton	\$23.58/cord	-14%

** Indicates insufficient sales to report price statistics (fewer than three sales).

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

Project Learning Tree Activities for Families – <http://www.plt.org/educational-nature-activities-for-families>

Since 1976, Project Learning Tree (PLT) has been at the forefront of environmental education, working with formal and informal educators to teach kids how to think, not what to think, about what's around them.

Now, families have the opportunity to use PLT activities to help foster this same type learning at home, where kids, using scientific information, learn to figure things out for themselves. The activities, such as “The Shape of Things”, “The Forest of S. T. Shrew”, “We All Need Trees”, “Web of Life” and the perennial favorite “Birds and Worms” are based on those found in the PLT PreK-8 Environmental Education Activity Guide.

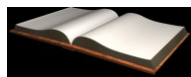
To find these 20 exciting learning opportunities for your young people, please see <http://www.plt.org/educational-nature-activities-for-families>.



Raising Conservation-minded Kids – Scott Steen, *American Forests* - <http://www.americanforests.org/magazine/article/raising-conservation-minded-kids/>

1. Simply and most importantly, spend time with your kids out in nature. Take them hiking, camping or for simple walks through a local wooded park. Make a game of identifying as many trees, plants and animals as you can. Identify the places where animals might live (dens and nests, for example). Use your outings as a way to teach your kids about the fragility of nature and their role as stewards. As Alexis, one child whose mother was successful in raising a conservation-minded kid, says, “In nature, I watch out where I step, and when I see things, like wildflowers, I smell them and look at them, but always leave them for other people to enjoy. I also plant any chance I get and treat all living things with love and care.”
2. Read nature and environment-themed books with your children. Recommendations include Todd Carr’s *The Earth Book*, Alan Zweibel’s *Our Tree Named Steve*, Joanne Ryder’s *Each Living Thing* and Frank Asch’s *The Earth and I*; and classics like *The Lorax*, *Watership Down* and *The Wind in the Willows*.
3. Put your child in charge of household recycling and explain the importance of the three Rs — reduce, reuse and recycle. Give them responsibility for carrying your reusable shopping bags into the store when you shop and have them help carry (unbagged) items when reusable bags are not available.
4. Teach children never to litter and to pick up trash to throw away whenever they can.
5. Encourage your kids to pick a favorite tree to get to know by sitting, thinking, writing and reading under it — making it their special spot.
6. Ask kids to identify five ways that their family can reduce energy costs or be kinder to the environment around the house. Teach them to turn off the water while brushing teeth and turn off the lights (and TV) when they leave a room.

Books of Interest



Woodlands Management Course from the Forest Landowners Foundation, is a guide to forestry management activities for landowners who do not have an extensive background in forestry. The book educates landowners on options for managing their forests, the benefits and costs of forest management, how to organize activities to meet their objectives, and finding professional foresters to manage their chosen activities. 1-9 copies: \$20.00 plus shipping. <http://www.forestlandowners.com/> or call (800) 325-2954.

Making a Trail Fit for Fun – *Woodland magazine, American Forest Foundation, Spring, 2013, page 19.*

American Trails is a non-profit organization that supports greenways and represents the interests of trail users. It recommends the following when creating a recreational trail system:

- Determine who will be using the trail.
- Choose the corridor; then refine it. Walk the land and refer to photos and maps.
- Determine points of interest, existing roads or trails, physical obstacles, at-risk species and ownership boundaries.
- Plan the direction and length as well as the width, surface, clearance height, grade, water crossings and what you want hikers to see along the trail. Are there railroad crossings, public roads, rights of way along the trail? Obtain permits, if needed.
- Use surveyor's tape and colored stakes to mark the route.
- Remove obstacles along the path such as saplings, shrubs, limbs of larger trees, and in some cases, trees themselves. Then remove stumps and oversized rocks.
- Apply finish to the surface so that it is smooth and durable enough for intended users.
- Build water bars, bridges, steps and ladders as needed.
- Post signs at the trailhead(s) and along the way to help hikers stay on the path.
- Maintain the path.

New App Added to TexasForestInfo.com

A new application called "Map My Property" has been added to the Texas Forest Information Portal. It's an easy-to-use tool for landowners and managers to produce a simple map of their property that can be shared with others.

When contacting foresters for technical assistance, landowners and managers may quickly produce a map of their property, save it as a PDF document and email it to the forester so that both may refer to it when discussing the property over the phone.

The application allows a tract boundary to be drawn over an aerial image, explained GIS Specialist Gretchen Riley.

Labels and symbols for significant features may also be added. Additionally, it provides a tool that measures area and distance. Check out "Map My Property" and other geospatial applications at TexasForestInfo.com.

Did You Know?

- "Families own more of America's forests than the federal government and private industry." – American Forest Foundation, *Woodland* magazine, Spring, 2013, pg. 7.
- Hogs were introduced into the US by settlers as early as the 1500's for food due to their adaptability to a variety of environments and their prolific reproduction.



Websites of Interest

Texas Invasives (Take Action, Stop the Spread, Report It, Eradicate It, etc.) - <http://www.texasinvasives.org/action/index.php>

Texas Native Shrubs - <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/ornamentals/nativeshrubs/>

American Forest Foundation Spring e-newsletter - <http://www.forestfoundation.org/spring-2013>

Free the Trees – help stop the spread of bugs, weeds and diseases that are devastating our forests - <http://www.forestfoundation.org/free-the-trees>

Hurricane Preparedness Information – <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/prepare/ready.php>; and <http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem/ThreatAwareness/smartPlanning.htm>

Highway road conditions – <http://www.txdot.gov/driver/weather/hurricane.html>

Non-Timber Forest Products: Alternate Income Opportunities - http://forestry.about.com/cs/alternativeforest/a/alt_nontimber.htm

When There's No Will (here's who gets what) - <http://recenter.tamu.edu/tgrande/?m=136>

Calendar of Events

August 9, 2013 ***Seminar for Forest Landowners: Building a Strong Foundation***, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. College of Forestry & Agriculture, SFA State University, Nacogdoches, TX. Cost: \$25.00. Lunch provided. For more information, see <http://www.texasforestry.org/> or contact Susan Stutts, Texas Forestry Association, (936) 632-8733 or [sstutts@texasforestry.org](mailto:ssutts@texasforestry.org).

Oct. 3, 2013 ***Texas Forestry Museum TREEmendous Celebration – an Evening in the Pines***. Live and silent auctions, special presenters, dinner and the Texas Forestry Hall of Fame induction ceremony. Tickets: \$50/person. Table sponsorships: \$500, \$750 and \$1,000. Pitzer Garrison Civic Center, 601 North Second St., Lufkin, TX. Contact information: Texas Forestry Museum, info@treetexas.com; (936) 632-9535; website: <http://treetexas.com>.

Oct. 8-10, 2013 Save the date. ***99th Annual Meeting of the Texas Forestry Association***. Details to be announced later.

Theresa and Les Reeves Lecture Series, SFASU, Nacogdoches, TX, Agriculture Building, 1924 Wilson Drive. 6:30 p.m. – social/refreshments. Lecture at 7:00 p.m. followed by exciting plant raffle! For more information, please contact sfagardens@sfasu.edu.

Aug. 15, 2013 Paul Cox, retired Director, San Antonio Botanical Gardens, San Antonio, TX – ***Lessons in Nature: Reflections on the Meaning of Life from a Plantsman's Point of View*** - pcoxfamily@sbcglobal.net

Sept. 19, 2013 Wayne Pianta, Ball Horticultural Company, Fort Worth, TX - ***Plant Breeding, Garden Performance and New Product Development: What Makes the Cut and Why? A Survey of Recent Introductions*** – wpianta@ballhort.com

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