

# Trinity-Neches Forest Landowner Association Newsletter

Third Quarter, 2012

## Next Meeting

Date: xxxxxx  
xxxxxx

Time: xxxxxx

Place: xxxxxxxxxxxx  
xxxxxxxxxx

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## **Sustainable Forestry Initiative – How Today’s Decisions Impact the**

**Future of Forests** – from Texas Forestry Association online  
newsletter, June 22, 2012.



The Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) Inc. recently released its annual progress report showing how purchasing and policy decisions made today affect North America's forests and the communities that depend on them.

"The decisions and actions taken today by all of us - by individuals choosing wood or paper products, by buyers setting out procurement principles, by government agencies developing policies, by conservationists planning research activities - affect our future, the future health of our forests and the future prosperity of rural communities across North America," SFI President and CEO Kathy Abusow said today. "Our progress report shows how decisions made by the SFI Board of Directors and our many partners have led to a brighter and more responsible future for forest resources."

The report entitled *The Future is Decided Now* cites recent SFI achievements.

- Research - SFI is the only forest certification standard in North America that requires participants to support forest research. In 2011 SFI participants invested \$83.2 million for research activities. The total since 1995 is more than \$1.3 billion.
- Conservation grants - Since 2010, SFI Inc. has committed \$1.27 million for 29 projects through its Conservation and Community Partnerships Program. This includes five projects in 2012 that focus on water resource management.
- Working with communities - Close to 900 people are involved with 37 grassroots SFI Implementation Committees, which contributed \$2.5 million to support local programs such as logger training and landowner outreach in 2011. Since 1995, there has been a total of \$60.2 million devoted to these programs.
- Training loggers - In 2011, 6,497 resource and logging professionals were trained in responsible forestry through the SFI program or its recognition of other programs. Since 1995, 135,835 individuals have completed training programs.

The SFI External Review Panel, an independent expert panel that advises the SFI Board of Directors, said the report is evidence that the SFI program is having a substantial impact by setting and achieving a high standard for the practice and continuous improvement of sustainable forest management in North America.

For more information about the Sustainable Forestry Initiative in Texas, please see <http://www.texasforestry.org/programs/initiative>. Or you may contact the Texas Forestry Association at (936) 632-8733.

***New Soil Survey Available Online*** – Central Texas Conservation Partnership publication, <http://www.TexasConservation.org>

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has inventoried all the different soil types and their locations for all 254 counties in Texas. The soil inventory provides aerial maps with soil boundaries, soil descriptions, and tables of soil properties, and shows how the soil can be used. The soil data is available free of charge online on the Web Soil Survey (WSS) at <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>.

WSS can assist landowners in making decisions relative to farming, forestry, and ranching operations by listing the trees and other plants capable of growing on that site. WSS can also identify the most erosive soils and which soil sites will provide the greatest benefit from aerial spraying or other brush management practices. Interpretive maps provided through WSS can help the land user determine yield potentials when planting crops and implementing pasture and hay land plantings. The WSS can help producers maintain profits while reducing erosion and improving soil and water quality.

Topographic maps and measuring tools are available to help landowners manage their resources. Users have the ability to save and print information and maps. WSS can help determine sites for homes, roads, and pipelines. It can be used in conservation plans, farm and ranch appraisals, nutrient management plans, and range and wildlife management. WSS can also help identify risks and hazards associated with different soil types.

***Harvesting Aesthetically*** – from *Tree Farmer, American Tree Farm System, Summer, 2012, page 8.*

To reduce your impact on the environment, improve your relationship with your neighbors, or cut trees without creating an eyesore, consider the following:

- Explain your plans to your neighbors; let them walk the land with you.
- Put a dogleg into the access road between the landing and the public road to screen the landing.
- Remove slash away from roads and other areas where it would otherwise be visible or have it chipped or hauled away for biomass.

More information can be found in *A Guide to Logging Aesthetics: Practical Tips for Loggers, Foresters, and Landowners* which can be purchased for \$7.00 from <http://palspublishing.cals.cornell.edu>. Or consult *Texas Forestry Best Management Practices*, found by going to <http://texasforestservice.tamu.edu/main/article.aspx?id=71>, then clicking on Publications, then *Texas Forestry Best Management Practices*.

***TxWRAP – New Tool for Assessing Wildfire Risk*** – from *Texas Forest Service news release, April 27, 2012*

A new tool, developed by Texas Forest Service GIS Specialists is the first web portal of its kind in the nation granting public access to risk assessment data that previously has not been readily available, particularly in a user-friendly format. Texas Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal, or TxWRAP, allows users to identify wildfire threats for a particular area based on landscape characteristics, historical fire occurrence, weather conditions, terrain and potential fire behavior. It also routes users to resources that can help them implement wildfire prevention practices. TxWRAP will enable homeowners, civic leaders, community planners, elected officials and others to identify the risk wildfire poses to their communities. This tool empowers Texans to be able to better protect their homes and property.”

Accessible at <http://www.texaswildfirerisk.com>, the applications are free to use. Professional users such as civic planners, wildland fire managers and elected officials can use TxWRAP to generate a report packaging all the wildfire risk data for their community. Such a tool can be useful in defining mitigation options, allocating resources and prioritizing programs that will better protect communities.

Texas Forest Service Director Tom Boggus called the website a “holistic approach to Texans helping Texans mitigate their wildfire risk. This can and should be a ‘game changer’ for Texans as they learn what their risks are and how to mitigate them,” Boggus said. “It is a tool that neighbor can pass on to neighbor, making Texas a safer place to live.”

Texas Senator Royce Watson said: “The devastating fires in Central Texas last fall revealed how we need strong collaboration between local, county and state officials. This new Wildfire Risk Assessment Tool furthers the potential for this critical collaboration in disaster management and risk assessment. It’s an important resource for Texans to plan, protect and act.”

An instructional video for the portal is available at: <http://www.youtube.com/texasforestservice>.

## Forestry Terminology 101 –



Texas Forest Service:

<http://texasforests-service.tamu.edu/main/popup.aspx?id=187>

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

**Residual Stand-** trees, often of saw log size, left in a stand after logging to grow until the next harvest

**Residual Trees-** live trees left standing after the completion of harvesting

**Rill Erosion-** an erosion process in which numerous small channels only several inches deep are formed; occurs mainly on disturbed and exposed soils

**Rip Rap-** aggregate placed on erodible sites to reduce the impact of rain or surface runoff on these areas

**Rolling Dip-** a shallow depression built diagonally across a light duty road or trail to divert surface water runoff from the road or trail

**Rotation Period-** the number of years required to establish and grow trees to a specified size, product or condition of maturity

**Runoff-** in forest areas, that portion of precipitation that flows from a drainage area on the land surface or in open channels

**Ruts-** depressions made by the tires of vehicles such as skidders, log trucks, pickups, etc. usually under wet conditions

**Sale Area-** the land area that contains the trees to be sold and any other area affected by the harvesting operation

**Salvage Cut-** the harvesting of dead or damaged trees or those in danger of being killed so they can be sold for some economic value

**Sanitation Cut-** the harvesting or destruction of trees infected or highly susceptible to insects or diseases to protect the rest of the forest stand

**Sapling-** a small tree usually between 1 and 4 inches DBH



## Market Report – March/April, 2012

Product	Statewide Ave. Price		Previous Ave. Price		Price/Ton Difference
	Weight	Volume	Weight	Volume	
Pine-Sawlogs	\$22.11/ton	\$173.22/mbf	\$23.56/ton	\$168.35/mbf	-6%
Pine-Pulpwood	\$5.48/ton	\$14.77/cord	\$5.88/ton	\$15.85/cord	-7%
Pine-Chip'n'Saw	\$13.51/ton	\$36.48/cord	\$8.72/ton	\$23.54/cord	+55%
Mixed Hardwood-Sawlogs	\$25.09/ton	\$232.76/mbf	\$24.06/ton	\$216.52/mbf	+4%
Hardwood-Pulpwood	\$9.09/ton	\$25.66/cord	\$7.81/ton	\$22.06/cord	+16%

\*\* 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://texasforests-service.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-service.tamu.edu/main/article.aspx?id=145>) are used. MBF = thousand board feet. Doyle Scale used for board foot measurements.

*Field Notes –  
personal reflections about our forests and trees*

**Opening Day, 2011-** Michael Murphrey, Staff Forester II, Texas Forest Service, Lufkin, TX

Life is awesome, especially as a Tree Farmer. Sometimes it is impossible to see the blessings you're about to receive. As I was honored to give my daughter Melanie away at her wedding on 9-10-11, I received a wonderful new son-in-law, David. In actuality we got a package deal. When my wife and I were blessed with David, we also became grandparents to the sweetest little three and half year old boy you've ever met, little Dalton.

Full of energy and curiosity, little Dalton, as I'm sure you all would understand, is always on the go and full of questions. I've known this young man now for about two years he is truly a blessing.

Now back to the title "Opening Day." My three brothers and I own 66 acres east of New Summerfield in Cherokee County. It was thinned in 2006 and when the harvest operation was completed, I made sure the property was cleaned up and setup with fire breaks, cross roads, food plots and numerous hunting opportunities. We all meet at the old home place the day before opening of deer season for a "hunting reunion weekend", David and Dalton now included. When all the guys (supposed to be men) get together, well you know, we all become boys again. Laughter and stories of the "days of old" fill the house along with smells of good food being prepared for dinner.

My son Nicholaus, nephew Eric, and David, all want the latest toys for hunting. So we have deer stands with swivel chairs, corn feeders, and game cameras in all the food plots (what happened to a two by twelve between two limbs?) My game camera's shown for the last four days, between four and six o'clock that several hogs show up at my corn feeder. Ground work is laid for the ambush on "Opening Day." We hunt that morning and see many young bucks but no takers. The boys bring a pop-up blind down to my stand and lay out the attack. Personally I hope it works. I'm tired of "corn feeding" hogs I'm not eating. Since my stand is six feet off the ground and very sturdy, Melanie and little Dalton go with me.

Mind you it is 2000 feet to my stand from the house and Dalton walked the whole way. He would not be carried. The last 300 feet is off the main logging road and through the trees on a forested path covered with pine straw. Dalton sees the ground, how it has been plowed up by the hogs. He asked what happened and Melanie tried to explain how the hogs "root" around through the trees digging in the soil for grubs, worms and other insects. Dalton (remember, he's three and half) says "Are you sure it was hogs? It looks like the cows tore everything up because there is hay (pine straw) everywhere." Grand parenting is good!!!

We get to the stand around three o'clock; the boys are in place. Dalton has been instructed to be very quiet and he did a very good job; I was so impressed. We wait, quietly!!! Cell phones have everything on them today which helped provide the quiet part for Dalton. He worked on his ABC's and played a puzzle game. Around four o'clock the prettiest seven point buck came out into the food plot and noticed the pop-up blind. I showed Melanie and Dalton the buck. When Dalton saw the deer he dropped the phone, banging it on the deer stand floor. A nice learning opportunity presented itself as the buck looked straight at us in the stand. The buck was in full alert and you could see how the ears were just outside the antlers, which means he was not mature enough to be harvested; but he will be a nice eight to ten point next year. The very next second Dalton begins telling me "Look a deer, a deer" and as quickly as the deer arrived he was gone. Melanie now knows what the law means when it says you cannot harvest a buck that doesn't have at least a thirteen inch antler spread (antlers outside the ears.)

Shortly after the buck sighting, Dalton's little body battery waned and he took a nap. For the next hour and half Melanie and I got to do some great "catching up." I hadn't been able to take her hunting with me since she was 13. We talked about everything from the fall colors to her work. She works for an ophthalmologist here in Lufkin and she hates putting drops (needed to dilate) in eyes of children; the drops burn. That led us to a conversation about being a Momma - which she is now! And she is doing a great job, as she sat there with that baby on her lap for an hour and half and we whispered back and forth for the entire time.

This was one of the best "opening days" I've spent in the woods in years. And it was the first hunting season I got to start with Dalton. What an awesome start to our future "hunting reunions." Oh, and the hogs took the weekend off; they never showed. The only thing we killed this weekend was time.

This day, to me, I would like to explain in the infamous words of Victor Hemard with Hemard & Company, "was time well wasted."

**NOTE:** If you would like to submit a story to be considered for inclusion in *Field Notes*, please send it to Susie Shockley at [sshockley@tfs.tamu.edu](mailto:sshockley@tfs.tamu.edu).

## Website Features Tree Trails of Texas

More than 75,000 views have been recorded to date of the Texas tree trails website maintained by Urban Forestry Manager John Giedraitis.

*The Great Texas Tree Trail Guide* is an open project to create an online map of all the significant public trees in Texas – and the public, as trail creators, get to decide which trees are significant. It can be found at: <http://greattexastreetrail.org/>

If you've got a tree trail in mind that would be a good addition for the state map, contact Giedraitis at [jpg@tfs.tamu.edu](mailto:jpg@tfs.tamu.edu), and it will be included on the Great Texas Tree Trail site.

For more information about famous trees of Texas, please see: <http://famoustreesoftexas.tamu.edu/explore-county.aspx>.

## To Change or Not to Change? That is the Question.

– from “Leadership and the Profession: Will Forestry Leaders Adapt, Migrate or Die?” by Tom Davidson (forester, leadership consultant and author) in *The Forestry Source*, May, 2012, pg. 5.



“*It's not necessary to change. Surviving is not mandatory.*” This statement is attributed to W. Edwards Deming, who was considered the father of the total quality movement. He was instrumental in helping Japan's economy recover, beginning in 1950, by teaching top management how to improve design (and thus service), product quality, testing and sales (through global markets).

Tom Davidson, author of *The 8 Greatest Mistakes New Managers Make*, related this statement to forestry. He says that this statement “puts a fine point on an aspect of leadership that is timeless, critical for success, and familiar to most foresters. The corollary to the forestry profession is striking, because, like all organisms in nature, organizations and leaders have the same three choices: adapt, migrate, or die.” He then urges readers to join the conversation on how to make positive changes. Ways to do that include writing to congressmen and congresswomen, and joining local forest landowners associations and organizations like Texas Forestry Association or Society of American Forests. By working together, Mr. Davidson says, “we will all adapt better to a changing world and avoid the prospects of migration or obsolescence that were Dr. Deming's warning to us all.”

## Websites of Interest



**Ready, Set, Go: Wildfire Action Plan** - [http://texasforests.tamu.edu/uploadedFiles/FRP/New\\_Mitigation/Safety\\_Tips/novrsgranch2.pdf](http://texasforests.tamu.edu/uploadedFiles/FRP/New_Mitigation/Safety_Tips/novrsgranch2.pdf)

**Texas Interagency Coordination Center (TICC)** – provides fire prevention and fire activity information - <http://ticc.tamu.edu/>

**Web Soil Survey, Texas, 2012** - <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>

**National Tree Benefit Calculator**, environmental and economic values of trees – <http://www.treebenefits.com/calculator>

**East Texas Forestlands, 2011, (Report)**, results of 2011 Forest Inventory - [http://texasforests.tamu.edu/uploadedFiles/Sustainable/econdev/Publications/Reports/ETXCondition\\_s2011Report.pdf](http://texasforests.tamu.edu/uploadedFiles/Sustainable/econdev/Publications/Reports/ETXCondition_s2011Report.pdf)

**East Texas Forestlands, 2011, (Appendix)**, appendix to report on the results of 2011 Forest Inventory - [http://texasforests.tamu.edu/uploadedFiles/Sustainable/econdev/Publications/Reports/ETXCondition\\_s2011Appendix.pdf](http://texasforests.tamu.edu/uploadedFiles/Sustainable/econdev/Publications/Reports/ETXCondition_s2011Appendix.pdf)

**ForWarn** - satellite based forest disturbance monitoring system for the conterminous United States. Delivers new forest change products every eight days and provides tools for attributing abnormalities to insects, disease, wildfire, storms, human development or unusual weather - <http://forwarn.forestthreats.org/>

**PAPER because** - (Domtar) why paper is good – <http://www.paperbecause.com>

**Bacteria Count at Texas Beaches** - <http://texasbeachwatch.com/>



**Water Conservation Tips** - <http://www.takecareoftexas.org/water-conservation-tips/>

**Federal Income Tax on Timber: A Key to Your Most Frequently Asked Questions** (2011) - <http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/loa/tax.shtml>

### *Calendar of Events*

- August 10, 2012 Estate Planning & Taxation Workshop for Forest Landowners, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., SFASU's College of Forestry, East College St. at Raguet St., Nacogdoches, TX. Cost: \$35.00. Lunch and workbook included. For more information or to register, please see <http://www.texasforestry.org> or call Texas Forestry Association at (936) 632-8733. Information can also be found on the Texas Forest Service website at [http://tfsweb.tamu.edu/uploadedFiles/FRD/Forest\\_Taxation/2012\\_EstateTaxPlanningWorkshop.pdf](http://tfsweb.tamu.edu/uploadedFiles/FRD/Forest_Taxation/2012_EstateTaxPlanningWorkshop.pdf). Sponsored by TFA, Texas Forest Service and Texas Forest Landowners Council.
- September 19-23, 2012 Texas State Forest Festival, George H. Henderson Exposition Center, 1200 Ellen Trout Dr., Lufkin, TX. Contact Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce at (936) 634-6644 for more information or see <http://www.texasforestfestival.com/>.
- September 22, 2012 Tree and Leaf Identification in East Texas, Trey Anderson. (9:00 a.m. – noon). Pineywoods Native Plant Center, 2900 Raguet Street, Nacogdoches, TX. Strategies to rescue, restore and renew the environment. Planting techniques, drip irrigation, climate change friendly plants, improved native plants. Cost: \$15.00 for SFA Gardens members, \$20.00 for non-members. See <http://sfagardens.sfasu.edu> or call (936) 468-1832.
- October 4, 2012 TREEmendous Celebration, Texas Forestry Museum fund raiser. Dinner, live and silent auctions. Lufkin Civic Center, 601 N. Second St. Begins at 5:30 p.m. Cost: \$50/person. Sponsorships available for \$500, \$750 and \$1,000. Contact the Museum for more information at (936) 632-9535 or via [info@treetexas.com](mailto:info@treetexas.com).
- October 6, 2012 Fabulous Fall Festival Plant Sale, Pineywoods Native Plant Center, 2900 Raguet Street, Nacogdoches, TX. Opens at 9:00 a.m.

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