Trinity-Neches Forest Landowner Association Newsletter

First Quarter, 2011

Next Meeting

Date: ***March 26, 2011***

Time: ***8:30 am***

Place: Arborgen Nursery (see map)

Inside

Planting Longleaf Pine for Wildlife and Profit

– Rusty Woods, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Pineywoods Forest Stewardship Biologist

History

The longleaf pine was once the dominant feature throughout the southeast covering nine states from Texas east to Florida and north to Virginia. Its range covered over 140,000 square miles and millions of acres. Fire determined where longleaf were found, and other southern pine species such as loblolly and slash were relegated to the wetter areas that burned less frequently, such as creek bottoms and around ponds and streams. By the mid twentieth century, 95 percent of the longleaf stands had been cut and converted to other species or other uses. Today, most of Texas' remnant stands are found in the southeastern counties on droughty, deep sand sites. While this is one of the sites where longleaf were historically found, they also had a variety of other sites and vegetation associations which includes longleaf-little bluestem savannah, which occur on sandy to loamy soils; longleaf-sandjack oak and longleaf-wetland savannah, which is characterized by clay pan soils that dry during droughty conditions and trap and hold water in wet conditions. The longleaf and jack oak community is considered a high priority for further protection, while the longleaf-wetland savannah is considered one of the rarest and also one of the most florally diverse communities of any ecoregion.

Establishment

Longleaf pines have an undeserved reputation of being hard to establish and slow growing. The fact is with today's improved containerized nursery stock and new planting techniques, many landowners are experiencing 90 plus percent survival rates, and new advances in herbicide applications are helping to shorten or bypass the grass stage altogether. Longleaf growth rates actually compare well to that of other southern pine species. On poor to average sites, longleaf will catch or surpass the growth rate of loblolly pine. On high index sites, longleaf often catch up to loblolly in height by age 15 to 20. When planting longleaf for wildlife, the recommended stocking is 550 trees/acre.

Prescribed fire can be introduced into the stand as early as two years after establishment. Prescribed burning serves many purposes in a longleaf stand including reduced competition from other woody vegetation, the consumption of leaf litter, and return of nutrients into the soil. Prescribed burning keeps browse plants typically used by deer "knocked back" and within reach from the ground, as well as being more tender and palatable. Prescribed burning, on a two or three year rotation, will restore the understory to the native fire dependant species that were once abundant and are readily used by many wildlife species including several declining state species of concern.

Benefits

Longleaf pines produce high quality wood products. A twenty year data set from Mississippi showed that longleaf pine stands brought a 10 to 20 percent premium over their loblolly counterparts. Longleaf stands produce more utility pole classed logs per acre than the average loblolly pine stand and also have a denser specific gravity than other southern pine species. This equates to more money in your pocket when selling a product based on weight. Longleaf are the most drought resistant, insect and disease resistant, and fire resistant species of all southern pines.

- ***Continued on Page 5***

How to Manage Longleaf Pine Stands

For those who might be interested in planting longleaf pines, here are some fact sheets that explain how to manage longleaf stands and web pages that might help when regenerating any type of forest.

Longleaf Management Information Sheet – Establishment and Early Management - http://texasforestservice.tamu.edu/uploadedFiles/FRD/Stewardship/Publications/Articles/LLP2.pdf

Longleaf Management Information Sheet – Sixteen through Twenty-nine Years of Age - http://texasforestservice.tamu.edu/uploadedFiles/FRD/Stewardship/Publications/Articles/LLP3.pdf

Longleaf Management Information Sheet – Mature Stand Management - http://texasforestservice.tamu.edu/uploadedFiles/FRD/Stewardship/Publications/Articles/LLP1.pdf

Texas Louisiana Longleaf Pine Taskforce – http://www.txlalongleaf.org/

Timberland Decision Support System (TDSS) – http://tfsfrd.tamu.edu/tdss/default.htm

Estimated Costs for Forestry Practices

Texas Forest Service provides guidelines regarding reforestation on its website at: http://txforestservice.tamu.edu/main/article.aspx?id=1691 .

Included on that webpage is a link to the newly updated "Forestry Practices Cost Estimate Sheet for 2010". To directly access this information, please go to: http://txforestservice.tamu.edu/uploadedFiles/FRD/Reforestation/Forestry%20Practices%20Cost%20Estimates%202010.pdf .

"In the end we will conserve only what we love. We will love only what we understand. We will understand only what we are taught."

Baba Dioum (Senegalese environmentalist)

Websites of Interest

The benefits of prescribed burning - http://visitmyforest.org/ and http://goodfires.org/

Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) information - http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=ener&topic=bcap

List of individuals trained as Pro-Loggers - http://www.texasforestry.org/programs/logger-listing/

Texas Forestry Museum – Exhibits and upcoming events - http://www.treetexas.com/index.html

Did You Know?

- Forests provide raw materials, maintain biodiversity, protect land and water resources, and play a role in climate change mitigation.
- Forests cover a third of our planet's land.
- Forests influence climate change mainly by affecting the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.
- When forests grow, carbon is removed from the atmosphere and absorbed in wood, leaves and soil.

From http://www.greenfacts.org/en/forests/index.htm

Predictions of a Warmer, Drier Winter for the South-

Texas Interagency Coordination Center Situation Report, November 5, 2010.

NOAA has released its Winter 2011 Weather and Severity Outlook and indicates the presence of La Nina is expected to last through the spring, resulting in below normal precipitation and above normal temperatures for Texas. Southern Plains, Gulf Coast states and the Southeast are expected to have a warmer and drier than average winter, exacerbating drought conditions in these areas. All southern states are at risk of having above normal wildfire conditions starting this winter and lasting into the spring. The complete assessment can be found at http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2010/20101021_winteroutlook.html

Forestry Terminology 101 –

Texas Forest Service:

http://texasforestservice.tamu.edu/main/popup.aspx?id=187

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

Forest Stand- a group of trees similar enough to allow treatment as a single unit in a forest management plan

Forestry- the science, art, and practice of managing, and using trees, forests and their associated resources while sustaining these resources for this and future generations

Furrowing- a site preparation method involving plowing of a trench in preparation for reforestation

Grade- the slope of a road or trail expressed as a percent of change in elevation per unit of distance traveled

Growing Stock- all live trees in a forest or stand, including saw timber, pole timber, saplings, and seedlings

Gully Erosion- erosion process whereby water accumulates in narrow channels, and over short periods of time removes soil from this narrow area to substantial depths (one foot plus)

Habitat- the natural environment of a specific plant or animal containing all the necessary resources for the plant or animal to live, grow and reproduce

Hand Planting- the planting of tree seedlings with simple hand tools

Hardpan- a natural or man-made solid clay layer within the soil resulting in poor drainage and poor plant growth

Hardwood- a term describing broadleaf trees such as oaks, maples, ashes, and elms

Harvesting- the felling, loading, and transportation of forest products, roundwood or logs

Haul road- road used to haul wood products. May vary from paved to primitive but are permanent woods (tertiary) roads

Market Report – Sept. – Oct., 2011

Product	Statewide Ave. Price		Previous Ave. Price		Price/Ton Difference
	Weight	Volume	Weight	Volume	
Pine-Sawlogs	$28.36/ton	$231.35/mbf	$29.94/ton	$241.38/mbf	-5%
Pine-Pulpwood	$6.31/ton	$17.05/cord	$7.53/ton	$20.33/cord	-16%
Pine-Chip'n'Saw	$10.75/ton	$29.04/cord	$11.47/ton	$30.97/cord	-6%
Mixed Hardwood-Sawlogs	$28.15/ton	$256.86/mbf	$26.32/ton	$241.86/mbf	+7%
Hardwood-Pulpwood	$8.06/ton	$22.56/cord	$9.83/ton	$27.52/cord	-18%

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 Jadlowski at (979)458-6630. The complete Texas Timber Price Trends can be viewed at http://texasforestservice.tamu.edu/main/article.aspx?id=145 .

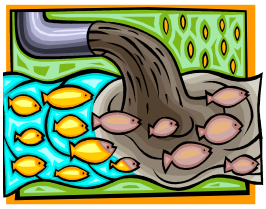
Conversion factors between volume and weight vary from sale to sale, so the differences in volume prices above may not equal differences in weight prices.

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 Scale used for board foot measurements.

Texas Watershed Steward Program – *The Texas Water Source (newsletter), November, 2010, (http://texasforestservice.tamu.edu/main/article.aspx?id=74&ptaxid=146&dtaxid=168&taxid=238)*



The Texas Watershed Steward (TWS) program is a statewide one-day educational program designed to improve the quality of Texas' water resources by educating and informing local stakeholders about their watershed, potential impairments, and steps that can be taken to help improve and protect water quality in their watershed.

The program is sponsored by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service and the Texas State Soil and Water conservation Board (TSSWCB) and made possible through a clean Water Act §319(h) nonpoint source grant from the TSSWCB and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Active participation in local watershed management efforts is critical in addressing local water quality problems and concerns. The program is open to all watershed residents including homeowners, business owners, agricultural producers, decision-makers, community leaders, and other citizens. Check http://tws.tamu.edu for information on the free and very informative online workshops. Planned workshops: January 27 (Panna Maria, TX – Lower Cibolo Creek Watershed); March 24 (Orange, TX – Adams & Cow Bayous); March 29 (Bryan/College Station, TX – Carter/Burton Creek Watersheds).

Carbon and U.S. Forests – An Intricate Balance – *from USFS FPL Newsline, Vol. 9, Issue 4*

Understanding how changes in forest health affect the carbon cycle is essential to scientific efforts aimed at limiting the effects of global climate change.

A 2010 report published by the Ecological Society of America (ESA), "A Synthesis of the Science on Forests and Carbon for U.S. Forests," provides a detailed assessment of these issues.

Although future impacts of climate change are uncertain, this report provides clear evidence that all strategies will have risks, uncertainties, and tradeoffs.

The article offers several insights:

- Avoiding deforestation retains forest carbon and has many co-benefits and few risks.
- Afforestation increases forest carbon and has many co-benefits. Afforesting ecosystems that do not naturally support forests can decrease stream flow and biodiversity.
- Decreasing harvests can increase species and structural diversity, with the risk of products being harvested elsewhere and carbon loss in disturbance.
- Increasing the growth rate of existing forests through intensive silviculture can increase both forest carbon storage and wood production but may reduce stream flow and biodiversity.
- Use of biomass energy from forests can reduce carbon emissions but will require expansion of forest management and will likely reduce carbon stored in forests.
- Using wood products for construction in place of concrete or steel releases less fossil fuel in manufacturing. Expansion of this use mostly lies in the non-residential building sector, and expansion may reduce forest carbon stores.
- Urban forestry has a small role in sequestering carbon but may improve energy efficiency of structures.
- Fuel treatments trade current carbon storage for the potential of avoiding larger carbon losses in wildfire. The carbon savings are highly uncertain.

The report can be obtained free of charge online at http://www.fpl.fs.fed.us/documnts/pdf2010/fpl_2010_ryan001.pdf .

Tax Tips for Forest Landowners for the 2010 Tax Year - Updated to Reflect Recent Changes in the Law

This publication (written by Dr. Linda Wang and John Greene with U.S. Forest Service) as well as other forest taxation publications are available on the Texas Forest Service website: http://texasforestservice.tamu.edu/main/article.aspx?id=144

Planting Longleaf Pine for Wildlife and Profit – *cont. from Page 1.*

Also of particular interest for counties in Southeast Texas, a study conducted by Mississippi State University after hurricane Katrina, showed longleaf to have had the least impacts from damage and the least loss of value. Trees that were left leaning or blown over, that had root systems left at least partially intact, maintained their value for a much longer period of time.

Species	Type of Hurricane Damage (%)			
	None	Snapped	Leaning	Blown over
Loblolly	16.3	75.9	5.7	2.0
Slash	52.4	38.1	7.8	1.7
Longleaf	64.0	8.9	16.9	10.2

There are many cost shares available for landowners wishing to restore longleaf to their land. The Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) is a Texas Parks and Wildlife program that will pay 75 percent of the cost for stand establishment and maintenance. Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and Partners are cost share programs available from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) respectively that will cost share 50 percent or more of stand establishment and maintenance.

Longleaf are also the perfect choice for uneven aged timber management. Uneven aged management means, selectively cutting single trees or small groups of trees for harvest while allowing the remaining trees to regenerate seedlings in the newly created openings. This method of harvesting and regenerating trees not only is aesthetically pleasing, but ensures a continuous long term supply of wood products and revenue. This method may be the perfect choice for landowners who don't like the looks of the clear cut method of forest regeneration. Uneven aged management also creates biodiversity within the stand that help support numerous plant and wildlife species.

Wildlife

Perhaps one of the most satisfying benefits of restoring longleaf to its native range is the numerous benefits to wildlife. Properly managed stands of longleaf often take on a park like appearance with a grassy understory filled with native grasses, clovers, legumes, wildflowers, and forbs. Many of the native plants and associated animals can only thrive in this type of environment with ample sunlight and prescribed burning.

The typical commercial forest stand is stocked too densely for sunlight to penetrate to the ground, and is a virtual desert void of plants or wildlife once the canopy closes. There are a multitude of songbird species that are associated with this open pine/grassland habitat including Bachman's sparrow (*Aimophila aestevalis*); a species in decline and has been noted as a conservation priority in the State of Texas. Two game animals, the Bobwhite quail and Eastern Turkeys, use this habitat for nesting and brood rearing. Many reptiles and amphibians including the Louisiana pine snake (*Pituophis ruthveni*), also considered a conservation priority, make their home in these forests. Whitetail deer can readily be seen feeding in the understory of the forests, browsing on the early successional plants, kept young and tender by frequent fires.

When added together, the benefits of longleaf including the ecological, economical, aesthetic, and wildlife value, make planting longleaf a smart investment for enhancing your property's value.

Free Aerial Photos – *Chuck Coup, Staff Forester I, Water Resources, Texas Forest Service, Lufkin, TX*

Aerial photos are an excellent tool for planning forestry operations, especially when used in conjunction with topographic maps and soil surveys. They show the location of roads, towns, pipelines, lakes, wetlands, streams, and the arrangement of different land uses, and forest types across the landscape. They are useful for identifying existing road systems and cover type changes help to indicate drainage patterns or the presence of wetlands.

2010 aerial photos of Texas are now available on the Texas Natural Resource Information System (TNRIS) website. These photos were taken last year as part of the USDA's National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP) and provide the most current aerial view of the State. The photos are captured using color infrared (CIR) film. While natural color images display colors as they would appear to human eyes under normal conditions, a CIR image is set up to display the image with a red tone. This helps natural resource managers in determining the health of vegetation, distinguishing between land uses, and identifying surface water bodies.

The photos are available for free and can be downloaded at <http://www.tnris.org/datadownload/download.jsp>. To access the imagery, select the county you are interested in from the drop down menu and click search. That will bring up all the datasets for that particular county. Click "2010" under the NAIP Compressed County Mosaics to download the 2010 aerial imagery for that county. If you do not have Geographical Information System (GIS) software on your computer you will need to download and install LizardTech's free ExpressView Browser Plug-in (MrSID) for Windows <http://www.lizardtech.com/downloads/plugins.php> to open the .sid image file.

Calendar of Events

Feb. 11, 2011	Forest Pest Seminar - Back to the Basics, Angelina County Extension Office, Lufkin, TX. 8:30 – 2:00 p.m. A multi-county event about pesticides, regeneration pests and a state and federal pesticide regulatory update, sponsored by Texas AgriLife Extension Service. CEU's available (TDA, CFE, Pro-Logger)
Feb. 17, 2011	2011 Texas Timber Income and Property Tax Workshop, Lottie & Arthur Temple Civic Center, 601 Dennis St., Diboll, TX. 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Cost: $70/person ($30 for each additional family member, no workbook). Lunch and refreshments included. Contact Monica Jadlowski at (979) 458-6630 or mjadlowski@tfs.tamu.edu for more information. For registration information, please see: http://texasforestservice.tamu.edu/timbertaxworkshop.
March 22-23, 2011	TFA's spring Board Meeting/Seedling Giveaway at the State Capitol. You can find additional information and register to attend on the TFA website at http://texasforestry.org or call (936) 632-8733.
March 26, 2011	Texas Wildlife & Woodland Expo 2011. Lone Star College – Montgomery, 3200 College Park Drive, Conroe, TX. For more information: http://expo.tamu.edu/. Contact expo @tfs.tamu.edu or (936) 273-2261.

2010 Les Reeves Lecture Series:

SFASU, Nacogdoches, Texas, Agriculture Building, Room 110, 7:00 p.m. For more information, contact Greg Grant at (936) 468-1863 or grantdamon@sfasu.edu

Feb. 17, 2011	Kiki Fontenot, PhD - Students Dig It.... Gardening with Youth - Vegetable Community/School Garden Specialist, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, La. E-mail: kkfontenot@agcenter.lsu.edu . Phone (225) 578-2417 office.
Mar. 24, 2011	Alice Le Duc, Ph.D. - Pre-Columbian Horticulture – Department of Agriculture, Texas State University, San Marcos, TX 78666; Phone (512) 245-3330. E-mail: aleduc@duke.edu

President's Message

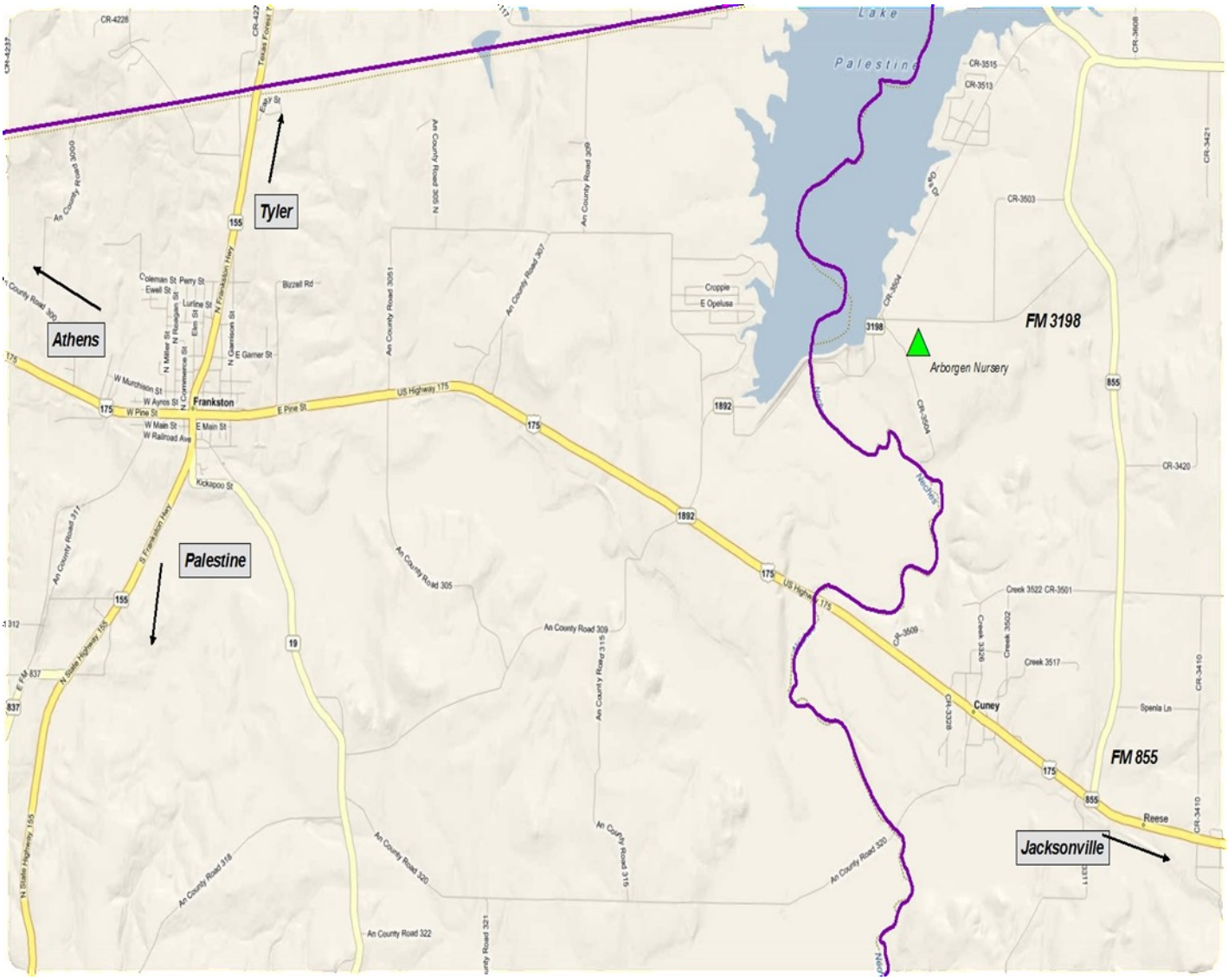
I am stepping into some large shoes, following Thom Karels, as your President of the TNFLA. I hope that I can do half as good a job that Thom has done in past years. We all hate to see Thom give up this position, but he now has bigger "fish to fry", as the new Texas Forestry Association President. We are fortunate to have such fine leadership for the TFA, as Thom and all the past Presidents. If you are not a member of TFA, please join so that we will continue to have a strong voice in the future of our forests and lands.

Remember February 17 for the Texas Timber Income and Property Tax Workshop. This will be held in Diboll, from 0800-1700, at the Lottie and Arthur Temple Civic Center. Cost is $ 30.00. Contact Monica Jadlowski (979) 458-6630 or mjadlowski@tfs.tamu.edu .

TNFLA Spring meeting will be held on 03-26-11 at ArborGen Nursery in Bullard, TX from 0830-1200 noon with lunch. Take US 175 west from Jacksonville about 8.7 miles, turn right on FM 855, travel 2.8 miles to County road 3198, turn left and the nursery will be 1 mile on left.

The Texas Tree Farmer of the Year award will be announced in early 2011 spring and we wish TNFLA board member Dr. Lee Roy Mathis the best of luck.

Phil Power
TNFLA President



Arborgen Nursery – 1235 FM 3198 Bullard, TX
March 26th, 2011 - 8:30 am registration

Texas Forest Service
1015 SE Loop 456
Jacksonville, TX 75766

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED