

Trinity-Neches Forest Landowner

Association Newsletter Fourth Quarter, 2011

Next Meeting

**TO BE ANNOUNCED
NEXT YEAR!**

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Texans on the Fire Line – from

*“Fiscal Notes”, September, 2011, Texas State Comptroller’s Office,
<http://www.window.state.tx.us/comptrol/fnotes/fnhome.html>.*



The tinder-dry conditions gripping Texas in 2011 have put firefighting and fire prevention efforts at the fore of public and political attention. At the end of June, the federal government acceded to Texas’ request for disaster status, in response to more than 3 million acres burned during the previous seven months.

Texas emergency response, including firefighting, is achieved through a complex patchwork of professional and volunteer resources comprising tens of thousands of men and women. And during the headline-grabbing wildfires that indiscriminately burn thousands of acres for days or weeks, it’s often volunteers who risk their lives to protect their neighbors’ property and homes.

Stretched Resources

At Possum Kingdom in Palo Pinto County, the “PK Complex” fire charred more than 126,000 acres over a three-week period before firefighters contained the blaze on April 28, according to Texas Forest Service (TFS) reports. More than 160 homes and two churches burned.

Mineral Wells Volunteer Fire Department (MWVFD) personnel were among the hundreds of firefighters deployed at Possum Kingdom.

“We pretty well had a truck out there every day for 12 to 14 hours or longer,” says Palo Pinto County Fire Marshal Steve Perdue, a retired schoolteacher who has served as MWVFD Chief for 15 of the 35 years he has been a firefighter. MWVFD is among 11 volunteer and combined volunteer and professional departments protecting Palo Pinto County.

“Everybody in this county was pulled down to just the bare basics of covering their home territory in terms of equipment and people,” Perdue says. “When I put three brush trucks on the PK fire, I had only one covering my area.”

The emergency also limited the volunteers’ ability to provide support for the city of Mineral Wells’ paid fire and emergency medical services (EMS). Chief Robin Allen says that the two departments share facilities, but have separate service responsibilities, budgets, equipment, leadership structure and training requirements.

“When a structure fire comes in, we are very lucky to have the volunteers to call on,” she says. “And part of our paid staff is considered volunteer when they are off-duty [and respond with the volunteers to calls].”

Being tax-supported, the city’s fire department is better situated to buy specialist equipment. Allen said her department responded to Chief Perdue’s request to deploy the city’s command center, a support trailer that could refill air tanks for firefighters tackling the many structure fires at the massive PK blaze.

Funding for Firefighting

The cost of fire prevention in Texas would be much higher without the efforts of almost 35,000 Texans who are members of the state’s 1,497 fully volunteer fire departments (VFDs) and 292 combined volunteer and paid departments. Those combination departments have about 6,200 paid firefighters, while the state’s 139 fully paid departments have more than 19,500 firefighters primarily focused on protecting the state’s municipalities, according to Texas Forest Service records.

- Continued on Page 5

Wildfire Salvage Operations – BMPs – *Hughes Simpson, Texas Forest Service, Water Resources Program Coordinator, Lufkin, TX*

The destruction caused by the 2011 Texas wildfire season has left many forest landowners searching for answers about what to do with all the burned timber. Salvaging this timber quickly and starting over may be the only option for many. While there is a sense of urgency to harvest the damaged timber, it is important to remember the long term benefits of using Best Management Practices (BMPs). Here are some things to keep in mind during these operations:

- **Seek assistance from professional foresters and certified Pro-Loggers.** Data collected by Texas Forest Service shows that trained professionals are more likely to implement BMPs during forestry operations.
- **Special care should be taken when operating in the Streamside Management Zone (SMZ) to minimize ground disturbance.** These zones act as the final filter before any sediment or debris reaches the stream. Haul roads, skid trails, and landings should be located outside of these areas. Stream crossings should be avoided or minimized. Trees and tops should not be felled across or pushed into streams.
- **Every effort should be made to protect and leave trees not severely damaged in the SMZ.** This is critical to prevent destroying the filtering and stream shading effects of SMZs. A residual density of 50 square feet of basal area should be left where possible.
- **Evaluate the regeneration potential of the SMZ.** If artificial regeneration is necessary, site preparation and machine planting should be avoided within the SMZ.
- **Follow BMP protocols for the rest of the tract and use common sense.** Despite the necessity to facilitate a quick harvest, BMPs should still be followed. Common sense will go a long way in keeping operators safe and preventing excessive damage to the site. Temporary erosion control may be utilized, but plans should be made to revisit the site as soon possible to shore up these measures.

Tree Injection Workshops – Protecting Trees from Insects and Disease

Texas Forest Service, in cooperation with the Texas Chapter International Society of Arboriculture, is offering a half day workshop on new technology for injecting trees against insect and disease pests. The workshop, to be held at six different locations, will begin at 9:00 a.m. and run until 2:30 p.m. A catered lunch and field demonstration of injection equipment are included. Fee: \$15 per person (includes lunch and refreshments).

Target audience includes certified pesticide applicators, foresters, forestry technicians, arborists, private landowners. CEUs from TDA, TSAF and ISAT will be provided.

To RSVP, contact Harold Read, hread@tfs.tamu.edu or (936) 639-8170. **Mention which workshop location you plan to attend.** Pay at the door or mail check payable to Texas Forest Service to Harold Read, Texas Forest Service, P. O. Box 310, Lufkin, TX 75902-0310. ISAT members can register online at <http://www.isatexas.com>.

Workshop dates:

- October 18 – **Conroe**, AgriLife Extension Office, 9020 Airport Road
- October 25 – **Midland**, Martin Luther King Rec. Center, 2300 Butternut Lane
- October 26 – **Austin**, LBJ Wildflower Center, 4801 La Crosse Ave.
- October 27 – **Dallas**, Whitehurst/Education Building, 17360 Coit Road
- October 28 – **Overton**, AgriLife Extension Center, 1710 N. FM 3053

Native American Proverb – Tell a Story

"**Tell me the facts** and I'll learn.
Tell me the truth and I'll believe.
But **tell me a story** and it will live in my heart forever."

Telling stories about our experiences about, in and with the forest may instill a love for the forest in others. Let's make it a point to tell our stories so that future generations may gain an appreciation for it and help perpetuate the forests we know, love and need.



Forestry Terminology 101 –



Texas Forest Service:

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

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

Mulch- a natural or artificial layer of plant residue or other materials covering the land surface which conserves moisture, holds soil in place, aids in establishing plant cover, and minimizes temperature fluctuations

Mulching- providing any loose covering for exposed forest soil, using organic residues, such as grass, straw or wood fibers to protect exposed soil and help control erosion

Multiple Use- refers to shared use of managed forests for many benefits, such as wood products, wildlife, watershed benefits, recreation, forage, aesthetics, or clean air

Natural Stand- a stand of trees resulting from natural seed fall or sprouting

Non-point Sources- sources of water pollution which are:
(1) induced by natural process, including precipitation,

seepage, percolation, and runoff; (2) not traceable to any discrete or identifiable point; and (3) best controlled through the utilization of Best Management Practices, including planning and processes techniques

Nutrients- mineral elements in the forest ecosystem such as nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium usually in soluble compounds that are present naturally or they may be added to the forest environment as forest chemicals, such as fertilizer

Old-growth Forest- a forest that has never been changed by management or harvesting

On the Stump- standing, uncut timber

Ordinary High Water Mark- the mark on the shores of all waters, which will be found by examining the beds and banks and ascertaining where the presence and action of waters are so common and usual, and so long continued in all ordinary years, as to mark upon the soil a distinct character

Organics- particles of vegetative material in the water which can degrade water quality by decreasing dissolved oxygen and by releasing organic solutes during leaching

Market Report – July/August, 2011

Product	Statewide Ave. Price		Previous Ave. Price		Price/Ton Difference
	Weight	Volume	Weight	Volume	
Pine-Sawlogs	\$24.91/ton	\$191.05/mbf	\$22.66/ton	\$175.09/mbf	+10%
Pine-Pulpwood	\$5.49/ton	\$14.80/cord	\$5.47/ton	\$14.77/cord	0%
Pine-Chip'n'Saw	\$8.99/ton	\$24.28/cord	\$9.05/ton	\$24.45/cord	-1%
Mixed Hardwood-Sawlogs	\$26.34/ton	\$240.94/mbf	\$25.99/ton	\$235.49/mbf	+1%
Hardwood-Pulpwood	\$5.96/ton	\$16.74/cord	\$5.42/ton	\$15.22/cord	+10%

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.

Save the Date - 2012 Texas Timber Tax Workshop - Dr. Yanshu Li, Forest Economist, Texas Forest Service, College Station, TX

Time & Location: Friday, February 17, 2012, 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Lottie & Arthur Temple Civic Center, 601 Dennis St., Diboll, Texas

Many landowners continue to pay more than their fair share of taxes on their timber income. Even forest landowners who use accountants need to understand how timber expenses and income are taxed, since some tax preparers are not well versed in special tax treatment for forestry.

Knowing the tax laws will give you an advantage in planning your forest management activities.

The daylong workshop will provide an understanding of timber tax including basics about timber taxation and the latest changes to tax laws and rules for 2010 tax return preparations. Topics will focus on federal timber income tax issues for private forest owners with a refresher on local timberland property tax incentives. Participants will gain a clear understanding of commonly misunderstood timber tax issues.

For individuals who have had timber losses due to wildfires and other casualties, this course can explain who can take a casualty loss deduction, determination of allowable loss deduction and how to claim the loss.

The workshop is designed for forest landowners, consulting foresters, accountants, attorneys, and others who work with forest landowners in matters pertaining to timber taxes.

Speakers:

Dr. Deborah Gaddis Gunter

She is a retired Mississippi State University Extension Tax Specialist in Forestry. A former industrial forester, Debbie has been teaching landowners, tax preparers and foresters about forest taxation since 1999. She is the author of the Timber Tax Fundamentals Short Course and numerous tax articles and publications. She has lectured across the United States on the subject of forest taxation. Currently she is Visiting Assistant Professor at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale Department of Forestry.

Dr. Yanshu Li

Forest Economist, Texas Forest Service, College Station, TX

Continuing Education Credits

The workshop qualifies for Continuing Education Credits: CFE (Foresters) 7.0 hours, CLE (Loggers) 6.0 hours and CPE (CPAs) 8.0 hours.

For more information, please contact Monica Jadowski at (979) 458-6630 or mjadowski@tfs.tamu.edu. Online updates and registration will be available on the Texas Forest Service website (<http://texasforestservicetamu.edu>) at a later date.

Texas Ag/Timber Laws and Forms Available Online – Texas Forestry Association Newsletter, September 23, 2011.

The Texas Comptroller's office has developed a web page that provides important information regarding new laws for the agricultural and timber industries. Included are up-to-the-minute details about House Bill 268, which requires commercial producers to have an Ag/Timber Registration Number for sales tax exemptions on eligible purchases beginning Jan. 1, 2012.

In addition to other items, the site offers the following new downloadable application and forms.

- (1) AP-228 Application for Texas Agricultural and Timber Exemption Registration Number
- (2) 01-924 Texas Agricultural Sales and Use Tax Exemption Certification
- (3) 01-925 Texas Timber Operations Sales and Use Tax Exemption Certification

The online application for an Ag/Timber Registration Number and other new and updated publications, rules, FAQs, etc., can be found at <http://www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/agriculture/index.html>.

Websites of Interest



****NEW* - Texas Taxes for Agriculture and Timber Industries -***

<http://www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/agriculture/>

Tax Tips for Forest Landowners, 2011 -

<http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/loa/tax.shtml>

Conducting a Simple Timber Inventory –

<https://utextension.tennessee.edu/publications/Documents/PB1780.pdf>

A Management Guide for Invasive

Plants in Southern Forests (132 pages – long down-load time) - <http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/36915>

A Field Guide for the Identification of Invasive Plants in Southern Forests (information on this subject is more

easily downloadable than the previous website) -

<http://wiki.bugwood.org/Archive:IPSF>

Texans on the Fireline – cont. from Page 1.

While some state and federal grant funding is available for fire departments, most fire protection is funded at a local level through taxation or donations.

Funding for fire protection varies widely across the state, although the proliferation of VFDs serving rural communities, particularly in sparsely populated regions, means that almost all areas across the state have at least basic firefighting equipment — and firefighters willing to use it.

And that's despite the fact Texas has no legal requirement for cities or counties to provide fire protection, according to Russell Gallahan, a regional economic development specialist for the Comptroller's office. State law permits cities and counties to provide fire protection and either levy a tax to pay for it or contract with an emergency services district (ESD), and/or fire department, he adds.

Since 2007, moreover, the Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System (TIFMAS) has provided a voluntary assistance system that allows fire departments to call for help from other areas of Texas when they need it; says Texas Forest Service spokeswoman Linda Moon.

"In the first six months of 2011, 354 fire trucks and 918 firefighters— constituting 142 fire departments — have participated in the mutual aid response effort," she says.

Firefighting Network

Although fire protection is each community's responsibility, the Legislature has long recognized the contribution departments can make outside their own service areas, and the need to help firefighters obtain better equipment.

"One of the main duties and roles the TFS plays is to build the capacity of others," Moon says. "With fire, that [involves] talking with a lot of communities and building the capacity of first responders, volunteers and fire departments."

Since 2002, the Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program has funded more than 1,400 fire trucks, more than 50,000 sets of protective gear and more than 38,000 places in training courses.

Mineral Wells VFD obtained a brush truck this way, very helpful for a department of its size, Perdue says.

"[Our] other three trucks are a 1976 and a 1984 held together with Band-Aids and baling wire, and a tender we bought seven years ago on a 'sweetheart deal,'" he says.

"[Neighboring] Parker County was buying 23 [trucks]; we tagged on with them and got what should have been a \$210,000 vehicle for \$185,000. We're paying \$15,500 every year on a bank loan for it. It will be paid in nine more years."

"Local fire departments are the first responders," Moon says. "When their capacity is exceeded because fires are too big or

are threatening homes and communities, the state steps in to help. And once the state's resources are exceeded, we pull in federal help."

Beginning this year, the TIFMAS program has been allocating trucks to communities around the state in exchange for their departments' assistance in responding to large fires.

Joe Florentino is the Texas Forest Service's TIFMAS coordinator, as well as fire chief in the North Texas town of Little Elm.

"We're setting up a cadre of departments that can send personnel, typically for a seven-day response," he says.

TIFMAS delivered 16 brush trucks in the first six months of 2011, each costing about \$100,000. According to Florentino, the first eight trucks delivered in February were used extensively during the spring fire season; some departments were surprised by how quickly they were called upon to hold up their end of the arrangement.

Local VFD's will gladly accept donations, or, if you wish you may make tax deductible donations to the VFD Emergency Assistance Fund. Information can be found at:
<http://texasforests.tamu.edu/main/article.aspx?id=13348&terms=donate%20to%20vfd> .

Visit the Texas Forest Service website for ongoing updates on Texas wildfires at
<http://txforests.tamu.edu>.

ROAD TRIP? Current Exhibits at the Texas Forestry Museum -

<http://www.treetexas.com/>

- ***If These Woods Could Talk: The Thompson Lumber Company in East Texas, 1908.***
Photographic exhibit tells the story of a typical day at one of this company's 3 East Texas sites.
- ***Money Trees: the Economic Impact of the Forest Products Industry in East Texas:***
Visitors learn about the amazing number and variety of products that have been manufactured from East Texas trees, from turpentine to toilet seats.
- ***Paper Quest & Recycling: Lost and Found:***
Two-part colorful and interactive exhibit helps visitors discover how paper is made and what happens to paper after it is placed in the recycle bin.

The museum is located at 1905 Atkinson Drive, Lufkin, TX. Hours are 10-5, Monday – Saturday. For more information, please call (936) 632-9535.

Calendar of Events

February 17, 2012 Texas Timber Tax Workshop, 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Lottie and Arthur Temple Civic Center, 601
Dennis St., Diboll, TX. For more information, contact Monica Jadowski at (979) 458-6630 or
mjadowski@tfs.tamu.edu. Online registration available later at <http://texasforests.tamu.edu>.

2011 Les Reeves Lecture Series, SFASU, Nacogdoches, Texas, Agriculture Building, 1924 Wilson Drive, Room 110, 7:00 p.m. Come
early for refreshments. For more information, contact Greg Grant at (936) 468-1863 or grantdamon@sfasu.edu

November 17, 2011 Keith Johansson, Metro Maples, Fort Worth – **A Maple for Every Spot – the abridged version –**
metromaples@yahoo.com

For future events, please see: http://ag.sfasu.edu/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=33&Itemid=27.

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