

Trinity-Neches Forest Landowner

Association Newsletter First Quarter, 2014

Next Meeting

To be announced later in the year

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The Hardwood Handbook, An Illustrated Guide to Appalachian and Southern Lumber (Introduction) - Southeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association, <http://www.slma.org/hh.shtml>

Southeastern Forest Facts

The southeastern lumber industry relies on a renewable resource — trees — to make a variety of lumber products for shelter, furniture, industrial uses and other needs for the people of the Southeast, the nation and the world. Now, and even more so in the future, the world will look to the nation, and to the Southeast in particular, to meet the expanding demand for lumber and other forest products. Because of a vast forest of fast growing trees, advanced management, refined manufacturing techniques and excellent transportation facilities, we should be able to meet the demands for wood products domestically and for overseas consumption indefinitely.

Over 26 percent of the country's forested acres — some 194 million acres — is in the South. This land, and its timber resources, provide nearly half of the wood used in the pulp industry, almost a third of that used in the lumber industry and about two-fifths of that consumed in the veneer and plywood industry. The importance of the South as a source of timber has increased in recent years. Further, it appears that most of the expansion in the forest products industry will likely be based on the timber resources of the southeastern United States.

Forest Statistics of the United States, 1992, shows that the U.S. grows far more hardwood timber than is harvested each year. In fact, there are 82 percent more hardwoods now than there were 40 years ago. Total U.S. growing stock now amounts to over 336 billion cubic feet as compared to 180 billion cubic feet in 1952. Currently, the United States is growing almost twice as much hardwood sawtimber volume as is being used.

The Forest Products Industry as Environmental Stewards

Suppose America stopped harvesting its trees to make lumber and other wood products. Let's consider what effect this would have on our environment. What could we use as a building material for homes and furniture, or paper for books and stationery? Would we substitute steel, aluminum, masonry, or plastic products? Buy wood from other countries? Or do without?

If we substituted non-wood building products, the environment would be the clear loser. Those non-wood products are environmentally expensive. The supplies of ores and petroleum for their production are finite; once gone, they are gone forever. Wood, on the other hand, is a renewable resource from an endless succession of trees. Non-wood products require far more energy to manufacture than wood: nine times as much to make a steel stud as a wood stud for example. That further depletes finite supplies of fossil fuels and coal, not to mention greater pollution of the air and water while adding to the potential of global warming through the greenhouse effect.

Wood is reusable, recyclable, and biodegradable. Inorganic materials call for yet additional energy drains to recycle or otherwise dispose of them when use has been terminated.

- *Continued on Page 4.*

Emerald Ash Borer Not Yet Found in Texas –

***Ron Billings, Manager, Forest Health, Texas A&M Forest Service,
College Station, TX***

The emerald ash borer, an invasive pest of Asian origin, has been found killing native ash trees (*Fraxinus* spp.) in at least 18 states, including Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, Wisconsin, and West Virginia, as well as Canada. In 2013, two more states were added to this growing list: Georgia (near Atlanta) and Colorado (near Boulder). Because this beetle is readily spread by man's activities, like moving infested firewood to uninfested areas, the Texas A&M Forest Service (TFS) and various collaborators conducted an extensive survey in 2012 to check for the presence of the beetle in Texas. With additional funding from the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), the detection survey was repeated in 2013.



The TFS contribution to the 2012 EAB survey involved placing and monitoring 552 standard EAB detection traps in 56 counties in Texas, utilizing TFS field staff and Master Naturalist groups located in East, Central and South Texas. The EAB detection survey in other Texas counties targeted by APHIS was conducted by staff at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (218 traps) and Sam Houston State University (549 traps). A total of 1,319 large purple panel traps baited with EAB lures were deployed on ash trees in 84 counties.

The process of locating ash trees, installing traps, checking the traps twice, collecting possible emerald ash borers, removing the traps from the field, and reporting the data was a sizable job. Without the help of Master Naturalist groups, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Sam Houston State University, and Stephen F. Austin State University, this project would not have been possible. In 2013, the same collaborators put out 387 traps in 69 counties, primarily in East and Central Texas. The reduced number of traps and involvement of the same, experienced collaborators made the 2013 survey much easier.

During March and April of each year, field crews successfully set out all assigned traps and recorded pertinent information such as county, date trap was placed in the field, latitude and longitude of the trap, height of trap above ground, size of the ash tree where the trap was placed, and other information on field data sheets. Copies of these data sheets were sent to TFS, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, and Sam Houston State University for eventual entry into a national EAB database maintained by APHIS.

In late May and June of each year, field crews and volunteers inspected all traps, put out fresh baits and collected all insects that resembled EAB in size and/or color (EAB look-alikes). Collected insects were preserved in alcohol and sent to experts for initial screening. The traps were checked for beetles again in late August and early September, before being removed from the field. After each trap check, field data sheets were updated and submitted for entry into the APHIS national data base.

Fortunately, no EAB adults were found in either the 2012 or 2013 detection surveys. Whether the EAB detection survey will be repeated in 2014 will depend on availability of federal funding. In the meantime, if a landowner observes one or more dying ash trees (the only tree species this insect attacks), accompanied by distinctive signs of emerald ash borer attack (bark chips at the base of the tree, winding trails or galleries on the surface of exposed wood, and "D"-shaped emergence holes in the bark), please contact your nearest Texas A&M Forest Service office or the TFS Forest Health Department in Lufkin. More information on how to identify ash trees and recognize signs of EAB infestation is available on the TFS web page at <http://texasforests.tamu.edu>. Click on "Insects and Diseases", then "Insects" then "Invasives". Early detection is essential if we hope to avoid destructive losses of ash trees to this invasive pest in Texas.

Forestry Terminology 101 –



Texas A&M Forest Service:

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

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

Sustainable Forestry Initiative- an American Forest and Paper Association (AFPA) program started in 1994 and implemented as an industry standard in 1997 with a commitment to sustainable forestry that is open to public monitoring and evaluation

Thermal Pollution - a temperature rise in a body of water sufficient to be harmful to aquatic life in the water

Thinning - cutting or removing certain trees to reduce competition and allow the remaining trees to grow faster

Threatened Species - a species where the population is declining to dangerously low numbers but still has enough members to maintain or increase its population

Timber Marking - the process of designating trees to be cut by spraying each with a spot of brightly colored paint at its base and another spot at eye level

Timber Sale - activities dealing with the exchange of timber from one party to another. Common sale methods are (1) Lump sum- a specified area or volume of standing trees is sold for a cash price before cutting and (2) Unit Sale- the buyer pays a specified amount for each unit of timber cut

T.S.I. (Timber Stand Improvement) - the performance of practices such as pruning, thinning, and weeding to improve the quality of a forest stand

Tract - a parcel of land considered separately from adjoining land because of differences in ownership, timber type, management objectives, or other characteristics

Tree Crown - a collective term for the limbs, branches, and leaves of a tree

Tree Farm - a forest ownership where management practices are performed to promote the continuous production of products and services from the ownership



Market Report, Sept. – Oct., 2013

Product	Statewide Ave. Price		Previous Ave. Price		Price/Ton Difference
	Weight	Volume	Weight	Volume	
Pine-Sawlogs	\$20.86/ton	\$165.80/mbf	\$23.53/ton	\$188.22/mbf	-13%
Pine-Pulpwood	\$7.38/ton	\$19.89/cord	\$6.31/ton	\$17.03/cord	+15%
Pine-Chip'n'Saw	\$10.27/ton	\$27.72/cord	\$12.09/ton	\$32.65/cord	-18%
Mixed Hardwood-Sawlogs	\$27.65/ton	\$264.60/mbf	\$29.91/ton	\$269.21/mbf	-8%
Hardwood-Pulpwood	\$7.99/ton	\$22.38/cord	\$6.20/ton	\$17.36/cord	+22%

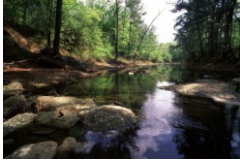
Texas Timber Price Trends is a bimonthly publication reporting average prices paid for standing timber in Texas. **This report is intended only as a guide to general price levels.** It should not be used to judge the fair market value of a specific timber sale, which may vary considerably due to many 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 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.



***Did You Know This
about Water*** – from
American Forests website-
[http://www.americanforests.org/
discover-forests/forest-
facts/water/](http://www.americanforests.org/discover-forests/forest-facts/water/)

Forests are key to clean water. Trees' hair-like root fibers help filter groundwater by absorbing nutrients and potential contaminants. The leaves and branches slow the movement of rain to the ground, allowing it to soak in slowly, while roots stabilize the soil so it doesn't wash away. Mature trees reduce the costs of stormwater controls and drainage systems by filtering and slowing down the water before it washes pollutants into streets, down drains and into our rivers. Freshwater also feeds lakes and streams that we enjoy for recreation in forests and parks, and is a critical habitat for fish and wildlife.

Did you know?

- Seventy percent of the Earth's surface is covered in water. About 2.5 percent of the Earth's water is freshwater. Less than one percent is in the form of groundwater.
- More than half of the country's drinking water originates in forests. Approximately 180 million people depend on forests for their drinking water.
- A single front-yard tree can intercept 760 gallons of rainwater in its crown, reducing runoff and flooding on your property.
- On average, a mature tree can absorb 36 percent of the rainfall it comes in contact with.

***"We will be known forever by the
tracks we leave behind."***

- Dakota Indian Proverb



The Hardwood Handbook – continued from Page 1.

Contrary to popular opinion, we are not running out of trees by harvesting so many of them. Each American does use the equivalent of a 100 foot, 18 inch diameter tree every year for wood and paper products. But 6 million trees are planted every day, which works out to nine trees for every American. Countless additional seedlings are regenerated naturally on managed lands. As a result, more wood is grown each year in the U.S. than is harvested and/or lost to disease, insects and fire. Growth exceeds harvest by 33 percent. It is no surprise, then, that the nation has more trees today than it had 70 years ago.

Forests are oxygen factories and greenhouse exchangers. Growing just one pound of wood in a vigorous younger forest removes 1.47 pounds of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and replaces it with 1.07 pounds of life-sustaining oxygen. Carbon dioxide accounts for about half the world's greenhouse gases, which traps solar rays. An old forest reverses the process, removing oxygen and emitting carbon dioxide.

As long as America continues to plant and regenerate new trees for wood products, the environment will be the big winner. So in a very real sense, wood products are the most environmentally responsible building material available.

Appalachian and Southern Hardwood Lumber

Everyone is familiar with fine furniture manufactured from high-quality white oak, red oak, ash, walnut and cherry lumber which is grown and manufactured in the southeastern region. The unmatched warmth and traditional good looks of this furniture are unmistakable.

Although furniture manufacturing often takes the limelight in regard to hardwood lumber, many other categories consume vast amounts of hardwood lumber. For instance, billions of board feet of lumber are used each year in shipping (containers, wooden pallets, blocking and bracing). Wood pallets alone account for over 5 billion board feet of lumber within this category annually. Nearly a billion board feet of hardwood lumber is used annually to manufacture millions of railroad crossties which are used in new construction and the maintenance of existing track.

Finally, millions of board feet of hardwood lumber are used each year in the manufacture of fine hardwood flooring, trim, paneling, and timbers.

Estate Planning Options for Family Forests – NE area, USFS, State & Private Forestry, <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/stewardship/estate/estate.shtml>

While sixty percent of the public believes the Federal government owns most of America's forests, the fact is that families and individuals own two-thirds of our woodlands. They deserve our thanks, because their forests provide great, unheralded public benefits beyond the personal meaning of owning forestland.

However, our country's private forests are at a critical turning point; one sixth of America's family owned acres of forests are expected to change hands in the next five years. More than 60 percent of current forestland owners are age 55 or older and about half of them have already retired. Without proper estate planning, forced liquidation of family forests or severe disruption of planned forest management activities is a distinct possibility.

One of the main threats to preserving private forests is simply lack of communication within families about estate planning. Without discussion, family forests are left at risk for conversion to house lots or other uses when the land changes hands.

Schedule a family meeting: The first step to ensuring the personal and family legacy of your land is to talk about its future. Ask "What will the family legacy look like?" Talk with co-owners, heirs, or whomever the legacy will involve.

Once discussion starts, consider doing some homework to learn what options are available to meet your needs. There are several options forest landowners can use for estate planning. The more common choices are listed below. Some owners and families combine and customize these options to construct a plan that fits their unique goals and situation: do nothing, family partnerships, sell or give the forest to heirs before death, land trust, will, a limited liability company, conservation easement, public landholders. A detailed discussion of each of these can be found at:

<http://www.na.fs.fed.us/stewardship/estate/estate.shtml>.

For more information on this topic, please see **Preserving the Family Woods: Tools to Help Guide Transfer to the Next Generation of Landowners** -
http://na.fs.fed.us/pubs/stewardship/preserving_family_woods_lr.pdf.

Websites of Interest



Forest Pests (insects, diseases, invasives, etc.) -
<http://texasforests.tamu.edu/main/article.aspx?id=1168>

Forest Taxation (income tax, estate tax, property tax) -
<http://texasforests.tamu.edu/main/article.aspx?id=139>

Estate Planning for Forest Landowners: What Will Become of your Timberland? -
http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/gtr/gtr_srs112.pdf

Tax Tips for Forest Landowners for the 2013 Tax Year -
http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/ja/2013/ja_2013_wang_003.pdf

Ensure Sustainability with a Timber Sale Contract -
<http://www.forest2market.com/blog/ensure-sustainability-with-a-timber-sale-contract>

Around the World



From American Forest Foundation website -
<https://www.forestfoundation.org/> (see "Here's Your Week in Trees")

Biological corridors help plants adapt to climate change (study) -
<http://blog.cifor.org/2017/biological-corridors-help-plants-adapt-to-climate-change-study#.Uo-5bMTktFM>

Forests can recycle water to cope in drought -
<http://planetearth.nerc.ac.uk/news/story.aspx?id=1541&cookieConsent=A>

...Can a great green wall of trees stop China's spreading desert? -
http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/let-a-billion-trees-bloom-can-a-great-green-wall-of-trees-stop-chinas-spreading-desert/2013/11/22/12908e0e-2d13-11e3-b139-029811dbb57f_story.html

Weird Forests Once Sprouted in Antarctica -
<http://news.discovery.com/earth/plants/weird-forests-once-sprouted-in-antarctica-131104.htm>

Calendar of Events

February 18, 2014 Timber Tax Seminar, Pitser Garrison Convention Center, 601 N. Second St., Lufkin, TX, 7:45 a.m. – 4:45 p.m. Focus is on federal timber income tax with a refresher on local timberland property tax incentives.

March 22, 2014 Texas Wildlife & Woodland Expo, Lone Star College – Montgomery, SH 242/College Park Drive, Conroe/The Woodlands, TX, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. For more information, please see <http://expo.tamu.edu>.

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.

February 15, 2014 Vegetable Gardening 101 for the Whole Family, Dawn Stover, Greg Grant, Kerry Lemon. 9:00 a.m.- Noon. \$20/SFA Garden members, \$25 non-members, \$40 participant and family.

March 22, 2014 Azalea Symposium. Tim & Matt Nichols, Mr. Maple.com. “Heat Tolerant Maples for the South”. 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. \$35/SFA Garden members, \$40/non-members. Lunch is provided.

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.

February 13, 2014 Jay White, Texas Gardener – “Weed-free Organically” – jswhitewaco@gmail.com.

March 13, 2014 Dawn Stover and Greg Grant with an introduction by Dave Creech – “Upcoming Plant Sale Preview: Picking the Best of the Best.” – dawnstover@sfasu.edu, ggrantgardens@yahoo.com, dcreech@sfasu.edu.