Trinity-Neches Forest Landowner Association Newsletter

First Quarter, 2013

Next Meeting

Date: April 6, 2013

Time: 8:30 am

Place: Gus Engling Wildlife Management Area (map attached)

Inside

Low-Cost Habitat Improvements, Working with Wildlife – North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service, Marka A. Megalos, Edwin J. Jones, J. Chris Turner

Managing for wildlife involves the maintenance and enhancement of the food, water, and cover components necessary for healthy populations.

The smaller habitats that abound on private lands and in many backyards can be enhanced using a variety of improvement options. Wildlife improvements can be simple, inexpensive and fun for the whole family. The following low-cost habitat improvements will enhance food and cover for wildlife on private lands.

Protect Key Areas

Not all habitat components are created equal. Within habitats, there are a few special areas that are important for their ability to provide unique benefits necessary for wildlife. The availability of these areas may often be a limiting factor for wildlife species. The protection of key habitat areas is the easiest and least expensive way to enhance wildlife populations.

After key wildlife areas are protected, improve and enhance food and cover components by using the following low cost techniques:

- Promote tree, shrub, vine, and flower species that are beneficial to wildlife. Examples:

Trees	Oak	Black walnut	Dogwood
	Black cherry	Redbud	Maple
	Hickory	Beech	Pine
	Holly	Pecan	Persimmon
Shrubs	Blackberry	Smooth sumac	Waxmyrtle
	Strawberry bush	Elderberry	Blueberry
	Pokeberry	Wild plum	Sassafras
Vines	Trumpet creeper	Virginia creeper	Wild grape
	Honeysuckle	Greenbriar	
Flowers	Smartweeds	Sunflowers	Clovers
	Wild strawberries	Black-eyed Susan	Thistle
	Ragweed	Beggarweed	

- Broadcast fertilizer on honeysuckle during the growing season; burn or severely prune old, unproductive patches.
- Broadcast Japanese millet in damp areas prone to flooding.
- Transplant useful aquatic plants such as duckweed, bulrushes, smartweed, sago and panic grass in wetland areas where they are scarce or absent.
- Manage for herbaceous vegetation by disking, mowing, or a controlled burning where practical. Always check local regulations before burning.
- "Daylight" or remove trees shading access roads and logging decks to provide important browse, nesting, and brooding areas.

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Publications of Interest from the Real Estate Center (TAMU)

Hints on Negotiating an Oil & Gas Lease - http://recenter.tamu.edu/pdf/229.pdf

Rights and Responsibilities of Mineral Cotenants - http://recenter.tamu.edu/pdf/843.pdf

Understanding the Condemnation Process in Texas (with emphasis on pipelines). (Updated for 9/1/11 changes.) - http://recenter.tamu.edu/pdf/394.pdf

Texas Easements - http://recenter.tamu.edu/pdf/422.pdf

The Texas Deer Lease - http://recenter.tamu.edu/pdf/570.pdf

Wind Rights and Wrongs - http://recenter.tamu.edu/pdf/1856.pdf

Secrets for Negotiating Texas Groundwater Leases - http://recenter.tamu.edu/pdf/1593.pdf

Agroforestry – Diversified Income – The Center for Agroforestry, University of Missouri; and "Profitable Farms and Woodlands – A Practical Guide in Agroforestry for Landowners, Farmers and Ranchers; USDA National Agroforestry Center, Lincoln, NE; Forest Stewardship Briefings, December, 2012.

In simple terms, agroforestry is intensive land-use management combining trees and/or shrubs with crops and/or livestock. Agroforestry practices help landowners to diversify products, markets and farm income; improve soil and water quality; and reduce erosion, non-point source pollutions, and damage due to flooding.

There are five agroforestry practices:

- **Alley Cropping** – planting rows of trees at wide spacings with a companion crop grown in the alleyways between the rows. Some examples, corn, hay, sunflowers, or medicinal herbs.

- ***Continued on Page 4***

2013 Timber Tax Workshop

A Timber Tax Workshop, focusing on tax laws for 2012 will be held Tuesday, February 12, 2013, from 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. at the Lottie and Arthur Temple Civic Center, 601 Dennis St., Diboll, Texas.

This workshop will provide an understanding of timber tax including basics about timber taxation and the latest changes to tax laws and rules for 2012 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 the recent drought, wildfire or other casualties, this course can explain determination of allowable loss deduction and how to claim the loss.

Forest landowners, consulting foresters, accountants, attorneys, and others who work with forest landowners in matters pertaining to timber taxes will benefit from this workshop.

Dr. Harry L. Haney, Jr., nationally recognized expert with over 40 years of experience in timber taxation, estate planning and financial analysis, and Sharon Hersh with the Property Tax Assistance-Information Analysis and Security Area of the Texas Comptroller of Public Account's office will be the presenters.

Cost: $70.00 for workshop and workbook, catered lunch and refreshments. CEU's available – CFE (7 hours); CLE (6 hours), CPE (8 hours).

Call (979) 458-6630 to register by telephone or download a registration form at http://texasforestservice.tamu.edu/taxworkshop.

For more information, contact Dawn Ferguson at (979) 458-6630 or dferguson@tfs.tamu.edu.

Dr. Haney will address federal timber taxes quarterly in Texas Forestry Association's members' newsletter, ***Texas Forestry***. Members may submit federal timber tax related questions that may be addressed in these articles to info@texasforestry.org. See http://www.texasforestry.org for membership information.

Forestry Terminology 101 –

Texas A&M Forest Service:
http://tfsweb.tamu.edu/main/popup.aspx?id=187

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

Setting- the forest land area within an individual harvesting unit in which skidding is directed to one or more landings on a forest road

Shade Tolerance- a tree's capacity to develop and grow in the shade of and in competition with other trees

Shearing- a site preparation method that involves cutting brush, trees, and other vegetation at the ground level using tractors equipped with angled or v-shaped cutting blades

Sheet Erosion- the removal of a fairly uniform layer of soil removed from the soil surface by water runoff

Sheet Flow- runoff from a rainstorm intense enough to cause direct overland flow of water before entering a receiving stream

Shelterwood Method- a natural regeneration method in which the trees are removed in a series of two or more cuttings to allow the establishment and early growth of the new seedlings under the partial shade and protection of the older trees

Sidecast- the material or the act of moving excavated material to the side and depositing such material laterally to the line of movement of the excavating machine

Silvics- the study of the life history and general characteristics of forest trees and stands with particular reference to locality factors, as a basis for the practice of silviculture (SAF Interpretation)

Silvicultural Activities- all forest management activities, including intermediate cuttings, harvest, log transport, and forest road construction (EPA interpretation)

Silviculture- generally, the science and art of cultivating (i.e. growing and tending) forest crops, based on a knowledge of silvics; and more particularly, the theory and practice of controlling the establishment, composition, constitution and growth of forests (SAF Interpretation)

Site Index- a measure of site quality based on the height of the dominant and codominant trees of the stand at a specified age (usually 25 or 50 years)

Market Report, September – October, 2012

Product	Statewide Ave. Price		Previous Ave. Price		Price/Ton Difference
	Weight	Volume	Weight	Volume	
Pine-Sawlogs	**$24.42/ton**	**$188.46/mbf**	**$26.08/ton**	**$197.53/mbf**	**-6%**
Pine-Pulpwood	**$5.80/ton**	**$15.67/cord**	**$6.38/ton**	**$17.22/cord**	**-9%**
Pine-Chip'n'Saw	**$11.50/ton**	**$31.06/cord**	**$9.84/ton**	**$26.56/cord**	**+17%**
Mixed Hardwood-Sawlogs	**$27.33/ton**	**$260.02/mbf**	**$26.75/ton**	**$250.12/mbf**	**+2%**
Hardwood-Pulpwood	**$9.14/ton**	**$25.59/cord**	**$9.39/ton**	**$26.39/cord**	**-3%**

***** 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 Jadlowski 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 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.

Low-Cost Habitat Improvements – *Continued from Page 1.*

Providing Protective Cover

Animals depend on dense cover throughout the year for concealment, protection from predators and severe weather, and for resting and loafing.

Construct brush piles on your land to provide cover for ground-nesting birds, rabbits, and other small mammals. Here's how:

- Stack layers of 6" diameter logs at right angles to each other to make a base for the pile. Space logs within each layer 6-10 inches apart.
- Place tree tops, old Christmas trees, limbs, stones, or stumps on top of the base to complete the pile.
- Ideal piles are 4 to 8 feet tall and from 10 to 20 feet in diameter. Well-constructed brush piles can supplement natural cover for 10-15 years.
- Construct up to four piles per acre. On woods edges, one brushpile every 200 to 300 feet will provide adequate cover and travel lanes between food sources.
- Place piles along forest edges and in openings, field corners, or along streams and marshes.
- Situate brush piles in close proximity to food sources and other natural cover. Isolated piles will receive little use and may be detrimental to some wildlife species.

In addition to constructing brush piles, take the following steps to improve and create wildlife habitat:

- Thin unwanted trees and/or control burn to "restart" woody vegetation in fencelines and hedgerows. Periodic renewal maintains optimal wildlife cover.
- Construct and properly place artificial nest structures for birds, bats, and small mammals.
- Manage for new snaps by mechanically girdling or injecting selected trees with herbicide.
- Create temporary pools for breeding frogs and salamanders, songbirds, and other wildlife by digging out springs and potholes or by placing logs in low areas to pond flowing water.
- Open dense forest canopies with annual firewood cuttings or "daylight" logging and access roads.

Living Brush Piles

- Choose wide-crowned trees that are 6 to 8 feet tall; red cedar and holly provide excellent cover.
- In the spring of the year, make a cut in the trunk with a hand or chainsaw 3-4 feet above the ground opposite the intended location of the pile.
- Cut deep enough so that you can push the top over, leaving a connecting strip of bark and wood (hinge) to nourish the tree. Use a stake or stone to tie the top of the tree to the ground.
- Rework old piles every 5 or 6 years.
- Select trees with grape or honeysuckle vines nearby that will grow and cover the pile.

For a complete copy of this article, which includes references regarding specific procedures mentioned in the article and other wildlife articles, please see: http://library.rawlingsforestry.com/ncces/working_with_wildlife/habitat_improvements/www18.pdf .

Agroforestry – Diversified Income – *continued from Page 2.*

- **Forest Farming** – high-value specialty crops grown under the protection of a forest canopy. Some of the "crops" that can be produced in a forest include mushrooms, fruits and nuts, bee products, medicinal plants, and craft products.
- **Riparian Buffers** – living filters comprised of trees, shrubs, forbs, and grasses, including native plants. They protect the water quality of streams and lakes and are an effective tool for controlling erosion and providing food and cover for wildlife.
- **Silvopasture -** the intentional combination of trees, forage, and livestock managed as a single integrated practice. Perennial grasses and/or grass-legume mixes are planted between rows of trees for livestock pasture. The trees provide the animals shade in the summer and a windbreak in the winter.
- **Windbreaks –** planned and managed as part of a crop and/or livestock operation to enhance production, protect livestock and wind-sensitive crops, and control soil erosion. They can also provide excellent habitat for quail, turkey, song birds and other wildlife.

More information: http://www.centerforagroforestry.org. or http://nac.unl.edu/profitable_farms.htm.

Texas Forest Info Website – Benefits of the Resource, Seven Applications & Counting–

Texas A&M Forest Service website – http://www.texasforestinfo.com.

Can't see the forest for the trees? Now you can at www.texasforestinfo.com.

The Texas Forest Information Portal — accessible online at www.texasforestinfo.com — lets users identify where different trees and forests are located across the state and see the environmental benefits they provide.

Geared for landowners, natural resource managers, local community groups, educators and investors, the interactive website allows users to explore maps, query data and generate summary statistics and printable reports.

"Texas forests provide significant economic and ecological benefits to the people of Texas," said Tom Boggus, director and state forester of Texas A&M Forest Service. "This innovative tool will help inform and educate Texans about our valuable forest resources and help ensure they are available to enjoy now and in the future."

The portal serves as a clearinghouse for readily-available, easily-accessible information about trees and forests in Texas. Now, the site offers seven applications: *Timber Supply Analysis, Forest Distribution, Forest Values*, *Economic Impact and Timber Decision Simulator, Forest Action Plan and Forest Products Directory* - all of which can be customized by geographic area using data derived by the Forest Inventory and Analysis Program, as well as other resources.

Timber Supply Analysis estimates the timberland area, as well as timber volume, growth and removals. *Forest Distribution* features tree distribution and biomass. *Forest Values* estimates the economic value attached to certain environmental benefits that forests and trees provide. *Economic Impact* summarizes the economic impacts of the forest sector in East Texas for 2007 and 2009. The *Timber Decision Simulator* is a web-based decision tool for non-industrial private forest landowners and others who are interested in timberland investment and management. *Forest Action Plan* is a mapping tool for assessment and strategy. And the *Forest Products Directory* has an interactive mapping tool displaying locations of forest products industries in Texas.

Future applications still in the planning stages include those featuring urban tree canopy and Texas Tree Trails, both of which will be geared to people seeking information about trees in urban and residential areas.

The portal was developed by the Texas A&M Forest Service Sustainable Forestry Department.

Websites of Interest

Invasives Watch (Caddo Lake and others): The Great Raft Invasives Program (GRIP) is an effort to provide public information and education about giant salvinia and other invasive aquatic species in the lakes that were created by the historic log jam on the Red River known as the Great Raft, and in other lakes and streams connected to or affected by them. Information about the Great Raft and Invasives Watch can be found on this website. - http://www.invasiveswatch.org/site/Home.aspx

Your Role in Fire-Adapted Communities, how the fire service, local officials and the public can work together - http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/fire_adapted_communities.pdf

2012 Timber Tax Tips - www.timbertax.org or http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/loa/tax.shtml

National Alliance of Forest Owners (focusses on forest owner awareness and advocacy on Capitol Hill) - http://nafoalliance.org

Coping with Feral Hogs - http://feralhogs.tamu.edu/

Understanding the Condemnation Process in Texas: help in negotiating gas pipeline easements - http://recenter.tamu.edu/pdf/394.pdf

Southern Pine Council: information and tools for using southern pine - http://www.southernpine.com/

Encyclopedia of Forestry: for persons not familiar with forestry, including the general public and students through graduate work, teachers, journalists, and professionals who want a brief summary of a subject outside their area of expertise - http://www.encyclopediaofforestry.org

Calendar of Events

March 7, 2013	**GeoCaching**, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Expert Geocacher Brent Kitchens will present at the W.G. Jones State Forest Environmental Classroom, 1328 FM 1488, Conroe/The Woodlands. For kids/families. Basics in navigation to specific GPS coordinates to find a geocache container; how to build your own geocache. Limited seating. Contact Debbie at jonesstateforest@tfs.tamu.edu to reserve your spot. FREE.
March 23, 2013	**Texas Wildlife & Woodland EXPO** 2013, Conroe/The Woodlands, Texas. For more information please see http://expo.tamu.edu.
April 4, 2013	**Birding Basics**, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Biologist, noted photographer and author Mark Klym with Texas Parks & Wildlife Department will present the ultimate in backyard birding. W.G. Jones State Forest Environmental Classroom, 1328 FM 1488, Conroe/The Woodlands. Learn how to create an oasis for birds right in your own backyard. Learn where to go to see birds, and how to use and purchase the right equipment. Limited seating. Contact Debbie at jonesstateforest@tfs.tamu.edu to reserve your spot in the class. FREE.
April 6, 2013	Trinity-Neches Forest Landowner Meeting! See attachment!

Return Address
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