

Northeast Texas Forest Landowner Association Newsletter

Second Quarter, 2015

Next Meeting

Date: Saturday, May 2

Time: 10 am

Place: 80 Lantana Rd.
Lantana Activity Center
Gilmer, TX

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Famous Trees of Texas – Texas A&M Forest Service Centennial Edition - Gretchen Riley and Peter D. Smith,
<http://www.tamupress.com/product/Famous-Trees-of-Texas,8201.aspx>.

Famous Trees of Texas was first published in 1970 by the Texas Forest Service (now Texas A&M Forest Service), an organization created in 1915 and charged with protecting and sustaining the forests, trees, and other related natural resources of Texas.

For the 100-year anniversary of TFS, the agency presents a new edition of this classic book, telling the stories of 101 trees throughout the state.

Some are old friends, featured in the first edition and still alive (27 of the original 81 trees described in the first edition have died); some are newly designated, discovered as people began to recognize their age and value. All of them remain "living links" to the state's storied past.

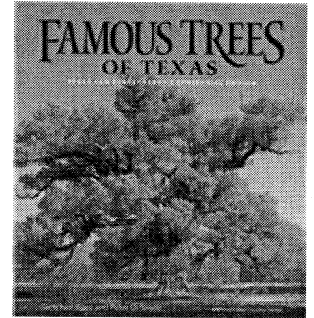
Gretchen Riley, a staff forester and the urban forestry partnership coordinator at Texas A&M Forest Service (TFS), College Station, Texas and Peter D. Smith, the urban forestry program manager at the Arbor Day Foundation in Nebraska and urban forestry program manager at TFS authored the new edition.

What Readers Are Saying:

"By virtue of their shade and endurance, trees are most likely to be identified with historic places or events. Thanks to books like the original *Famous Trees of Texas* and, now, *Famous Trees of Texas Centennial Edition*, the popularity of these trees and interest in protecting them continues to grow. From the Goose Island Oak near Rockport estimated to be 1,100 years old to the Austin Moon Tree that made a trip to the moon and back, these trees have captivating stories to tell that literally span both space and time." —Damon Waitt, Senior Director and Botanist, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.

"*Famous Trees of Texas* offers a compelling way to study the relationship between the state's history and its environment, in addition to celebrating the hundredth anniversary of the Texas Forest Service. The one hundred trees featured in this book--those that have survived--provide historic enlightenment as well as always appreciated shade. But even those that have fallen still make their presence felt through this volume." —Glenn Dromgoole, author and Texas book columnist

For more information, please see: <http://www.tamupress.com/product/Famous-Trees-of-Texas,8201.aspx>.



***Exhibit at the Bush Museum
Celebrates TFS's 100 Years of
Service*** - <http://tfsweb.tamu.edu/history>;
<https://plus.google.com/11385696728848605583/3/posts>



Texas A&M Forest Service is celebrating 100 years of service this year with a variety of special events and projects. A lot of planning and research has gone into developing things like its "Texas A&M Forest Service – History in the Making" exhibit at the George Bush Museum in College Station, open March 16 – November 8, 2015. (See: <http://bush41.org/exhibit/30> for the Bush Museum's announcement of the TFS exhibit.)

For you to see the results of some of these projects, TFS has a website illustrating what is going on at the museum and what several TFS employees had to say about the history of the agency.

You can see the installation of a life-size replica of an oak tree at the center of the TFS exhibit at the Bush Museum and view other historical content at:
<https://plus.google.com/11385696728848605583/3/posts>.

Oral history presentations are also on that website. Interviewees were former Directors Bruce Miles and Jim Hull, current Director Tom Boggus, Associate Agency Directors Bill Oates and Mark Stanford, and Dolores Stephens, who began working as a clerk for Information and Education moved on to top positions in the Fiscal and Director's Offices during her tenure with TFS.

Another TFS website (http://tfsweb.tamu.edu/history/featured_articles.aspx) is devoted to the history of TFS and its various program areas. New information will be added to this website throughout the year.

Photos from across the agency's history can be found at <http://tfsweb.tamu.edu/history/>.

***New Partnership Forms the Center for
Private Land Stewardship*** -

<http://twri.tamu.edu/publications/conservation-matters/2015/february/irnr-joins-partnership-to-establish-the-center-for-private-land-stewardship/>

The Texas A&M Institute of Renewable Natural Resources recently joined with the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation and the East Foundation to form the Center for Private Land Stewardship (CPLS).

The center is designed to fill critical research, extension/teaching, and policy needs to further a vision of private land stewardship. It will be the hub of education for private landowners and the public. Activities will include land use forecasting, experiential learning, professional training and policy innovations. It will communicate and demonstrate the value of proper stewardship of private lands.

The goal is to advance private land stewardship and integrate the interest of landowners with community well-being.

Organizers of the Center expect that the founding organizations will be joined by others who also understand private land stewardship.

***Publication Focuses on Texas' Water
and Related Issues – Texas Water
Journal*** – Texas Water Resources Institute

Want to know what's going on in the world of Texas' water resources? Then take a look at ***Texas Water Journal*** - an online, peer-reviewed journal devoted to the timely consideration of Texas water resources management and policy issues from a multidisciplinary perspective. It integrates science, engineering, law, planning, and other disciplines. The Journal also provides updates on key state legislation and policy changes by Texas administrative agencies.

To access it, please go to:
<https://journals.tdl.org/twj/index.php/twj/issue/view/365/showToc>.

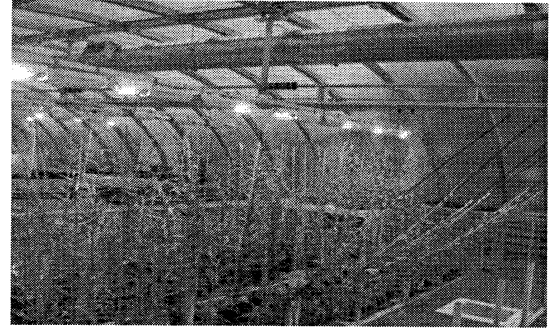
CT Scanning Shows Why Tilting Trees

Produce Better Biofuel - Hayley Dunning, Imperial

College London, March 11, 2015,

http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/newsandeventspggrp/imperialcollege/newssummary/news_11-3-2015-10-56-50

Imperial researchers have used medical imaging techniques to explore why making willow trees grow at an angle can vastly improve their biofuel yields.



Using micro-CT scans, the team showed that the trees respond to being tilted by producing a sugar-rich, gelatinous fiber, which helps them stay upright.

Willows are suitable for widespread cultivation as biofuels because they produce large quantities of accessible sugar, are fast-growing and can tolerate harsh environmental conditions, such as windy slopes and poor soil. In fact, trees grown in harsher conditions or polluted soil can even produce better biofuel because the sugar they produce is more accessible, requiring less energy to harvest it.

Growing the willow trees at a 45-degree angle simulates this natural stress, encouraging the trees to produce up to five times more sugar than plants grown normally. But exactly why and how this happens has not been clear until now.

Researchers at Imperial College London worked with experts at the Natural History Museum, the University of Surrey and Rothamsted Research Centre to use X-ray micro-computed tomography (CT scanning) to examine the willow's growth through high resolution 3D images.

This enabled them to see the changes in the willow at a cellular level and how they affected the plant's growth. They found that tilted willows prolonged the life of certain cells in order to produce a sugar-rich, or gelatinous, fiber to help them stay upright. The team were (sic) able to measure how much longer the cells needed to stay alive to produce the special fiber.

"It was difficult to see why the trees were releasing so much more sugar when stressed in nature or grown at an angle. Being able to visualize the differences occurring at a microscale, or cellular level, allowed an insight into the biology behind the macroscale effects on the whole tree," explains Dr. Nicholas Brereton, from Imperial's Department of Life Sciences.

"Willow is a great crop because it grows in really inhospitable places. It can add value to marginal land and is also useful for helping to clean up areas of polluted land," adds Dr. Brereton. "Our research will help the biofuel sector select and use growing sites and conditions where no other crops can survive."

The research was funded by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, and is published in *BMC Plant Biology*. The next step for the team will be to use even higher resolution CT scanning to investigate the gelatinous fibers in more detail. The aim will be to measure how much of the fiber is produced by different plants, which will help identify which species of willow are likely to be the world's best 2nd generation biofuel producers.

Texas' Land Values Changing –

<http://txlandtrends.org>

Texas working lands are undergoing a fundamental change, one that has implications for rural economies, national and food security, and conservation of water and other natural resources. Native landscapes are increasingly threatened by suburbanization, rural development and land fragmentation driven by rapid population growth.

Land Fragmentation

Average ownership size declined from 581 acres in 1997 to 521 acres in 2012. By the end of 2012, the USDA Census of Agriculture accounted for nearly 249,000 farming and ranching operations in the state, representing a 9 percent increase since the 1997 census.

The average land value within the top 25 fastest growing counties was \$5,266 per acre in 2012, compared to the state-wide average of \$1,573 per

acre. Changes in land value were closely tied to distance from major metropolitan growth areas.

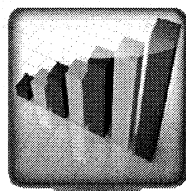
Working Land Loss

More than 54 percent of total land conversion occurred in the state's 25 fastest growing counties. During this period (1997-2012), approximately 590,000 acres were lost from the agricultural land base in these counties. The shift in ownership size or loss of larger ownerships through fragmentation may have potential implications for profitability and continued stability of working lands.

Population Growth

From 1997 to 2012, the Texas population increased from 19 million to 26 million residents, an increase of 36 percent or approximately 500,000 new residents annually. The majority (87 percent) of the population increase occurred within the state's top 25 highest growth counties.

The state's increasing population, particularly within or in surrounding urban centers, continues to have significant influence on the continued loss of working lands, changing ownership sizes, and land values.



Market Report, Jan. – Feb., 2015

Product	Statewide Ave. Price		Previous Ave. Price		Price/Ton Difference
	Weight	Volume	Weight	Volume	
Pine-Sawlogs	\$29.72/ton	\$229.64/mbf	\$28.17/ton	\$228.53/mbf	+5%
Pine-Pulpwood	\$9.21/ton	\$24.82/cord	\$9.73/ton	\$26.24/cord	-5%
Pine-Chip'n'Saw	\$16.71/ton	\$45.11/cord	\$14.90/ton	\$40.23/cord	+12%
Mixed Hardwood-Sawlogs	\$38.24/ton	\$364.15/mbf	\$38.00/ton	\$356.31/mbf	+1%
Hardwood-Pulpwood	\$15.74/ton	\$44.08/cord	\$10.68/ton	\$29.90/cord	+47%

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

Introduction to "Treasure" Hunting -

<http://texasforestservice.tamu.edu/main/article.aspx?id=18737>

What is geocaching?

Geocaching (pronounced "geo-cashing") is an outdoor treasure hunt using hand-held Global Positioning System (GPS) units. The geocachers hide and seek "treasures" which are waterproof containers that typically include a pencil, small notebook to serve as a logbook for finders, and several trinkets like key chains, small toys and buttons.

How do I start?

Geocachers hide the geocache and enter the coordinates (latitude and longitude) on a website. Others download the coordinates, enter them into their GPS units and head out to find the geocache.

What happens when I find a "cache"?

Once the cache is found, the finders enter their names and date into the logbook in the cache. The finders can then take an object from the cache while leaving something of equal or higher value. The finders replace the geocache in the same place where they found it so future geocachers can find it.

What does it look like?

Geocaches can range in size from a small film canister to bigger than a 5-gallon bucket. There are several different versions of geocaching.

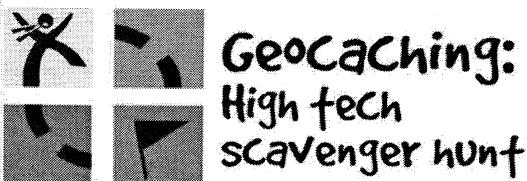
Where can I go?

With over 2.5 million geocaches worldwide, there is a good chance one is hidden near you. Visit <https://geocaching.com> to find out.

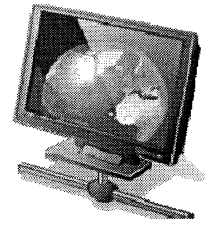
What should I know?

Guidelines for geocaching on Texas state forests can be found at <http://texasforestservice.tamu.edu/uploadedFiles/FRDSF/Education/Geocaching/TFS%20Geocaching%20Guidelines.pdf>.

Guidelines for geocaching in Texas state parks and recreational areas can be found at http://tpwd.texas.gov/spdest/activities/outdoor_recreation/geocache/.



Websites of Interest



Estate Planning for Texas Family Forest Owners -

http://txforestservice.tamu.edu/uploadedFiles/RDSF/Forest_Taxation/Estate_Planning/Estate_Planning.pdf

Seeing the Forest for the Trees -

Paleobotanists discover new fossil flora in Antarctica -

http://antarcticsun.usap.gov/science/contenthandler.cfm?utm_source=WIT022015&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=WeekInTrees&id=4117

Fungus Might Keep Tree-of-Heaven from Spreading in U.S. Forests -

http://northdallasgazette.com/2015/02/12/tree-of-heaven-in-u-s-forests/?utm_source=WIT022015&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=WeekInTrees

Is Wood Part of the Ecosystem? -

<http://gowood.blogspot.com/2015/01/is-wood-part-of-ecosystem.html>

Where Does Lumber Come From? -

<http://gowood.blogspot.com/2013/07/wood-science-101-10-where-does-lumber.html>

Real Firewood Stacking -

<http://gowood.blogspot.com/2012/12/real-firewood-stacking.html>

Guide to 2015-2019 Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) Standards -

<http://www.sfiprogram.org/sfi-standard/guide-to-2015-2019-standards/>

Charter of the Forest vs. Magna Carta -

http://www.kentnews.co.uk/news/the_charter_of_the_forest_influential_partner_of_historic_magna_carta_1_3993416?utm_source=WIT032015&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=WeekInTrees

Calendar of Events

- April 25, 2015 Texas Outstanding Tree Farm Tour, 12058 FM 19, Frankston, Texas. 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. FREE, but **please RSVP by April 17** (name, mailing address, number attending) to Texas Forestry Association, (866) TXTREES, (936) 632-8722 or tfa@texasforestry.org.
- May 15, 2015 Sawmill Sampler, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Texas Forestry Museum, 1905 Atkinson Dr., Lufkin, Texas. Sample life in a sawmill town through food, live music, and different venues. Call the museum to buy your tickets in advance. Advance tickets: \$8.00 adults, \$5.00 children. Adults \$10.00 at the door. (936) 632-9535. E-mail: info@treetexas.com. Website: <http://treetexas.com>.
- Garden Seminars, Theresa and Les Reeves Lecture Series.** Ina Brundrett Conservation Education Building, Pinewoods Native Plant Center, SFASU, 2900 Raguet Street, Nacogdoches, Texas. Refreshments/social, - 6:30 p.m.; lecture at 7:00 p.m. followed by a plant raffle. For more information, please send e-mail to sfagardens@sfasu.edu.
- May 14, 2015 “Can I interest YOU in an Aroid?” David Leedy, horticulturist, retired, Ft. Worth, Texas – djileedy@sbcglobal.net.
- June 11, 2015 “Gardening for Food or Beauty: Why Not Both?” Tim Hartmann, Extension Program Specialist, TAMU, College Station, Texas, Timothy.Hartmann@ag.tamu.edu.

Membership Dues Reminder

Our Association constitution states “the membership dues shall be \$15.00 per year (or any part of a calendar year) and shall be payable at the first regular meeting of the year. If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2015, please mail your check to NETFLA, PO Box 642, Mt. Vernon, TX 75457. You can also renew your membership at the May 2 meeting.

NETFLA Officers

President:

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gjweiss@windstream.net

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(903) 797-2345
twarca@yahoo.com

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Director of Titus County:

Open

Director of Upshur County:

Kenneth Stewart
(903) 843-2174

Director of Wood County:

Larry Hoffman
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FAX (903) 569-2908

TFS Foresters for our area:

Kelby Wolf, Pittsburg Office
(903) 856-7181
Brian Pope, Gilmer Office
(903) 734-7007

NETFLA WEB SITE:

www.txforest.org

May 2015 Program: "Agriculture/Timber Taxation Valuations"

Sarah Curtis from the Upshur County Appraisal District will present a program on Agricultural and Timber land valuations on **Saturday May 2**. As many of you know, applying for and obtaining an "agricultural/timber use" valuation can reduce property taxes significantly in comparison to property taxes paid on "market" valuations. Learn more about what you can do to ensure that you are receiving the maximum benefit allowed under this exemption.

Please note that the meeting will be at the Arnold's **Lantana Activity Center, 80 Lantana Rd., Gilmer**. The physical location is about 1 mile north of the Gilmer Civic Center just off US Hwy 271. It is on the east side of US Hwy 271 and visible from the highway.

August 2015 Program: "Mill Tour"

We are planning a tour of the Phillips Saw Mill and Phillips Forest Products near De Kalb followed by a visit to the Phillips Forest Products Furniture Store in Hooks. The tour date will be finalized and published in the next Newsletter.

November 2015 Program: "Growing Timber"

We are planning to have a Consulting Forester address issues on growing timber in Northeast Texas. Topics will include thinning and harvesting, site preparation and replanting, and answering your questions.

NETFLA Contact and Membership Dues Information

Membership dues are \$15.00 per calendar year. If you have not yet renewed your 2015 Membership, or if you would like to become a member, mail your check to: NETFLA, PO Box 642, Mt. Vernon, TX 75457.

Contact: Blanche Handy-Sparks (903) 860-2507, bhandy@peoplescom.net

Northeast Texas Forest Landowners Association
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