

Timber Tellings

Texas Forestry Association-Special News Update

March 26, 2020

On behalf of all Texas Forestry Association members, we want to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to Texas’ leadership in keeping Texans safe and healthy in the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak. As you know, the Forest Products industry supplies basic necessities ranging from diapers, toilet paper, paper towels, paper cups and plates to panels, lumber, transmission poles, pallets and packaging used to transport over 90% of all goods, foods, and medical supplies so desperately needed during these critical times.

We wholeheartedly agree with and endorse the federal guidance from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security entitled “Memorandum on Identification of Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers During COVID-19 Response” which includes the forestry industry, transportation, and materials in its list of critical industries that are recommended to remain operational in the event of any shelter-in-place order. In this situation, it is critical not only to keep our manufacturing assets operational (such as pulp and paper, lumber, transmission poles, and pallet mills), but other integral parts of the forest products supply chain such as our logging and trucking force that keep the manufacturers supplied with raw materials and stores stocked with products.

TFA also appreciates Texas Department of Agriculture’s Commissioner Sid Miller for issuing a “**Travel to and From Work Authorization**” for all sectors of Texas Agriculture. (AGRICULTURE CODE, TITLE 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS, CHAPTER 2. STATE AGRICULTURAL POLICY, Sec. 2.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter, "agriculture" means: (1) the cultivation of the soil to produce crops; (2) horticulture, floriculture, or viticulture; (3) **forestry**; or (4) the raising or keeping of livestock or poultry.)

Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce: Ensuring Community and National Resilience in COVID-19 Response. Version 1.0 (March 19, 2020)

THE IMPORTANCE OF ESSENTIAL CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE WORKERS

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) executes the Secretary of Homeland Security’s responsibilities as assigned under the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide strategic guidance,

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Market Report- November/December 2019

Product	Statewide Ave. Price		Previous Ave. Price		Price/ Ton Difference	
	Weight	Volume	Weight	Volume		
Pine- Sawlogs	\$25.81/Ton	\$206.48/MBF	\$28.27/Ton	\$218.72/MBF	-9%	↓
Pine-Pulpwood	\$7.92/Ton	\$21.39/Cord	\$7.79/Ton	\$20.92/Cord	2%	↑
Pine-Chip-n-saw	\$14.61/Ton	\$39.46/Cord	\$13.34/Ton	\$36.01/Cord	10%	↑
Mixed Hardwood- Sawlogs	\$33.96/Ton	\$305.66/MBF	\$34.76/Ton	\$325.21/MBF	-2%	↓
Hardwood- Pulpwood	\$13.25/Ton	\$37.11/Cord	\$12.13/Ton	\$33.97/Cord	9%	↑

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. The complete Texas Timber Price Trends can be viewed at <http://tfswb.tamu.edu/timberpricetrends>.

The Triple Nickles: A 75-Year Legacy

Jennifer Queen, U.S. Forest Service

It has been said that Black history is simply the missing pages of world history. Nothing could be truer. The Triple Nickles African American paratrooper unit left their mark, not only in Black history but, ultimately, in the history of the Army, the Forest Service and our great country.

On Feb. 29, the Triple Nickles will be awarded the Buffalo Soldiers Medal of Valor. The medal was created in Louisville, Kentucky, in 2014 by John Taylor Jr., a veteran and Buffalo Soldiers camp director. It was created to honor African Americans, living and deceased. The medal is presented and housed annually in Washington, D.C., at the African American Civil War Museum.

The 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion was a pioneering paratrooper unit of the United States Army. Instated in 1943 during World War II, the unit was given the unprecedented and undeniably dangerous job of jumping into forests that were set on fire by the nation's enemy at war. The unit was nicknamed the Triple Nickles because of its numerical designation and because 17 of the original 20-member "colored test platoon" came from the 92nd Infantry Division, or Buffalo Division.

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Members of the 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion at Pendleton Army Airfield are briefed before take-off during the wildfire in the summer of 1945. National Archives Photo/Eastern Washington University.

Websites of Interest

<https://texasforestinfo.tamu.edu/>

Check out these FREE landowner tools that can assist you in making land management decisions on your property.

<https://www.learnplanacttexas.org/>

Need easy access to information to help keep your woods healthy? Find great resources all in one place!

<https://www.texasforestry.org/>

Lobbying on various forestry and environmental issues that directly affect you, publishing and sponsoring educational events are just a few of many things that Texas Forestry Association does. Find out more about what Texas Forestry Association does for you and why you should be involved!

<https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/>

Find a plethora of forest management resources and many people that can assist you in your forest management goals.

<https://tpwd.texas.gov/>

Find out more information on wildlife management, hunting and fishing regulations and much more!

<https://nrcs.usda.gov/>

Find out more information on natural resource conservation and federal programs in your area.

Calling All Jakes: Texas Turkey Hunters Should See More Young Toms This Spring

Texas Parks and Wildlife

AUSTIN – A great 2019 nesting season for wild turkeys means more young toms (or jakes) will be seen by hunters this spring. Jakes are typically more forgiving than older toms and create a prime opportunity for new turkey hunters to bag their first bird.

The spring season for Rio Grande turkey season got under way March 14-15 with a youth-only weekend in the South Zone, followed by a general season that runs March 21-May 3 and then culminates with a youth-only weekend May 9-10. In the North Zone, the youth-only weekend seasons are March 28-29 and May 23-24. The North Zone general season opens April 4 and runs through May 17. A special one-gobbler limit season runs April 1-30 in Bastrop, Caldwell, Colorado, Fayette, Jackson, Lavaca, Lee, Matagorda, Milam, and Wharton counties.

“If the current green conditions hold and weather does not turn hot too early, Texas can expect another year of turkey population growth,” said Jason Hardin, TPWD turkey program leader. “We currently have good soil moisture across much of Texas and just need a little more to keep us on track for another great year of recruitment.”

“With low harvest rates, most Rio Grande turkey hunters can expect to see some 4- and 5-year-old toms across most of the Rio Grande range. There are not going to be a lot of 2-3-year-old birds out there this spring,” said Hardin. “With the spring coming on strong, toms will pair with hens early in the season. But as those hens begin to initiate nesting activities around the middle of the season, the toms will turn on and readily come to calling.”

Eastern spring turkey hunting in the counties having an open season starts on April 22 and runs through May 14. Hunters are required to report harvest of eastern wild turkeys electronically to TPWD within 24 hours of harvest. Reports can be made through the TPWD My Texas Hunt Harvest App or online from the TPWD turkey page at www.tpwd.texas.gov/turkey. The app is available for free download from Google Play or the App Store. Hunters will be issued a confirmation number upon completion of the reporting process. Hunters still have to tag harvested birds.

The harvest reporting app can also be used as a tool for voluntarily reporting and tracking harvests of other resident game species, including Rio Grande turkey. With My Texas Hunt Harvest, hunters can log harvested game animals and view harvest history, including dates and locations of every hunt.

Texas Forestry Association-Special News Update-Continued

promote a national unity of effort, and coordinate the overall federal effort to ensure the security and resilience of the Nation's critical infrastructure. In accordance with this mandate, and in collaboration with other federal agencies and the private sector, CISA developed an initial list of "Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers" to help State and local officials as they work to protect their communities, while ensuring continuity of functions critical to public health and safety, as well as economic and national security.

IDENTIFYING ESSENTIAL CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE WORKERS

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

- Workers who support the manufacture and distribution of forest products, including, but not limited to timber, paper, and other wood products
- Employees engaged in the manufacture and maintenance of equipment and other infrastructure necessary to agricultural production and distribution

Transportation and Logistics

- Manufacturers and distributors (to include service centers and related operations) of packaging materials, pallets, crates, containers, and other supplies needed to support manufacturing, packaging staging and distribution operations

Since Governor Abbott has left shelter-in-place designation to local county and city officials, the Texas Forestry Association has provided you with the travel to and from work authorization, forestry critical infrastructure letter, and CISA guidance on essential infrastructure documentation for your personal use and for distribution to local officials should you need it. Visit https://www.texasforestry.org/news/special_news_update_from_tfa_covid_19 to get your copy of this documentation.

Timber Theft

Texas A&M Forest Service

Timber theft is a crime that affects everyone. With the price of timber rising and more absentee landowners in Texas, timber theft is on the rise. While timber and landowners initially feel the monetary loss, everyone loses because trees are taken without methods in place to ensure new forests for the future.

Many timber theft cases involve absentee landowners who are more vulnerable because they aren't around to protect their property. In these cases, the thief is often long gone by the time the crime is discovered.

Another method of theft involves timber buying contracts. There are a number of scenarios, but the most common is that the contract is never fulfilled by the buyer.

To help you avoid these and other timber theft tactics, Texas A&M Forest Service offers the following advice:

- Have someone you know and trust report any cutting or trespassing on your land immediately.
- Have a [Bill of Sale](#) before any cutting begins and never sign a contract without checking references of the buyer.
- For the best price insist on getting bids for your timber.
- Mark all property lines to assure cutting on adjacent property does not encroach on yours.
- Most importantly, if you do not know the timber business, find [someone who does](#) to help you determine volumes, current prices and potential bidders.
- To learn more about timber theft prevention and applicable laws, read the [Timber Theft Laws in Texas brochure](#).

To report suspected timber theft or suspicious activity call the TFS Timber Theft Hotline 1 (800) 364-3470.

The Triple Nickles: A 75-Year Legacy-Continued

Hence, the nickname Buffalo Nickles, symbolized by three buffalo nickels joined in a triangle. The unit's 75-year legacy intersects with USDA Forest Service history in a very special way.

At a time when the Army traditionally relegated Black service members to menial jobs, the Triple Nickles succeeded in becoming the nation's first Black parachute infantry test platoon, company and battalion.

Major James C. Queen—my grandfather—dedicated his life to fighting forest fires as a 555 paratrooper during the war. While serving, he was stationed at Fort Bragg, Fort Benning and other bases, where he underwent extensive training despite the many forms of discrimination that often hindered Black soldiers from advancing through the ranks. Despite the roadblocks, in 1994 Queen went on to become the first African American inductee into the Ranger Hall of Fame for his leadership during the Korean War.

A Washington, D.C., native, and the son of a secretary and a factory worker, Queen entered the army at the age of 18 with only a high school education. Nicknamed “Big Jim” for his towering 6’5” height, he enrolled in the Reserve Officers’ Training Corps, where he earned the rank of junior colonel for Washington, D.C., by the time he graduated high school.

After retiring from the army in 1964, Queen went on to become assistant principal of H.D. Woodson High School in Washington, D.C., and later began writing the history of the first Black airborne company to fight in Korea—the 2nd ranger infantry.



555th Parachute Infantry Battalion parachuting into a forest in Oregon to fight a wilderness fire caused by the Japanese balloon bombs. Smoke from the fire can be seen in the lower right. May 1945. USDA/Forest Service photo

“War Department studies indicated that they didn’t believe Black troops could become paratroopers, Queen said. “Just like they didn’t believe Black soldiers could become airmen...they just didn’t think we could do it.”

My grandfather lived a life colored with dignity, perseverance, love and determination in service to family and country. His body now rests next to my grandmother, Phyllis Queen, in Arlington National Cemetery, where he was buried with full military honors. Major Queen, like innumerable other paratroopers of color, proudly served his country and carried out tremendously dangerous work without the full respect, resources and support given to other troops. Many of their contributions to American infrastructure are still yet to be fully told.

The Triple Nickles was a skilled mix of former university students, top-notch professional athletes and veteran non-commissioned officers. Unlike other divisions of the army, the Triple Nickles did not deploy overseas during World War II. Instead, in 1945, the unit was secretly assigned to a series of firefighting missions in the Pacific Northwest Region. This special assignment, called Operation Firefly, saw the Triple Nickles transferred to Pendleton, Oregon. While there, the unit was trained by the Forest Service to become the first military smokejumpers in U.S. history.

That spring, the Triple Nickles parachuted into U.S. forests to battle wildfires that were set ablaze by incendiary balloons the Japanese were delivering across the Pacific Ocean. The Triple Nickles went on to operate in all the northwestern states. When the battalion was finally deactivated in 1947, their impact was undeniable.

That impact is recognized in the Forest Service Headquarters in Washington, D.C., with a conference room in their name located in the building’s promenade. Photos and descriptions of the men from the first iteration of the company adorn the walls. One paratrooper, the late Richard Williams, whose photo also hangs in the conference room, will be honored this year with a post office named after him in Columbus, Georgia. The commemoration is scheduled for March 18.

Upcoming Events

Wildlife Tax Valuation Webinar Workshop- Friday, April 3, 2020 from 8am-2pm- This workshop will be held online. Biologists will provide a general overview of the wildlife tax valuation, wildlife management plan development, and applicable management practices. Visit <https://tpwd.texas.gov/forms/wildlife/wildlife-tax-valuation-workshop-registration> to register for this event.

Purple Paint Markings

The purple paint and markings you see on Texas fence posts, gates and trees indicate “No Trespassing”. The law was added in 1997 to the Texas Penal Code regarding Criminal Trespass, and was created to allow Texas landowners an alternative to posting “No Trespassing” and “Posted” signs. A purple paint marking at a property line and a “No Trespassing” sign both give the same legal property protection to landowners, but without the cost of signs or having to frequently replace them. For large properties purple markings are much less expensive than posting signs especially when considering there can be miles of fencing. Also, purple paint markings are much less likely to be vandalized or become targets to shoot at.

Texas Penal Code 30.05, Criminal Trespass, provides for the use of purple paint to mark property boundaries. One of the Codes definition of notice is the placement of identifying purple paint marks on trees or fence posts on the property, and specifies that the purple marks must be: 1) Vertical lines no less than 8 inches long and no less than 1 inch wide. It is common practice to paint an 8 inch band entirely around the tree or fence post that is being used as a marker, 2) The bottom of the marking must be between 3 and 5 feet above the ground, 3) Placed in a location that is easily visible to a person approaching the property and 4) Distance between purple markings should be no more than 100 feet apart when passing through wooded property and no more than 1000 feet apart on open land.

Although not required when using purple paint markings, posted signs are still recommended at all access points and at gates. The original rule passed in 1997 had a requirement that landowners also post a sign on the property explaining that the purple markings meant no trespassing. That requirement for posting an explanation sign expired after one year in 1998 and is no longer necessary.

Purple markings should be taken just as seriously as posted signs, and you should not trespass on anyone’s land. Always contact the landowner if there is a reason you need to enter the property. Trespassing is a Class B misdemeanor in Texas and if the trespasser is carrying a firearm, that becomes a Class A misdemeanor. Both are punishable by fines and imprisonment.

At the February 8, 2020, NETFLA meeting, game warden Heath Taylor from Camp County advised that the **best things landowners can do** to help game wardens is to use purple paint markers, have posted signs and a fence to mark property boundaries. He also advised that if you have trespassers on your property, do not confront them. Report it to your County Sheriff who will contact the County Game Warden.

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NETFLA WEB SITE:

www.netxforest.org

Next Meeting: The May 16 Meeting Has been Postponed Due to the COVID-19 Virus

The health and well-being of every member is our first priority. The meeting will be rescheduled in **July or August** if conditions permit. We still plan on having Texas A&M Forest Service Law Enforcement presenting the Program. The primary topic addressed will be "Timber Theft". The goal of the program will be to inform landowners of new regulations for selling timber in Texas, examples of how timber is being harvested without the landowner receiving full compensation, and best practices for minimizing the risk of theft.

The date and location of the meeting will be communicated in the July Newsletter. Please do what you can to protect your health.

October/November 2020 Program:

The Board is exploring several topics including pine seedling genetics, a tour of the Hixon lumber mill in Gilmer, feral hogs and an update of the proposed Marvin Nichols Reservoir for this meeting. Please contact a board member if you have an issue that you would like addressed at a future meeting.

NETFLA Contact and Membership Dues Information

Thank you for your NETFLA membership in past years. We hope that Newsletters, Programs and Quarterly Meetings have provided you with useful information that has helped you manage your timber property. We encourage you to continue your membership. Membership dues are \$15.00 per calendar year. If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2020, you can renew at a meeting or mail your check to: **NETFLA, P.O. Box 343, Daingerfield, TX 75638-0343.** Thank you.

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