

FOREST STEWARDSHIP BRIEFINGS

Timber ◇ Wildlife ◇ Water ◇ Soil ◇ Best Management Practices ◇ Forest Health ◇ Recreation ◇ Aesthetics

A CENTURY OF EXCELLENCE

Information from TFA in Lufkin, TX

For more information:

- <http://www.safnet.org/statesocieties/fileuploads/Highlights.pdf>
- <http://www.texasforestry.org/>

The Texas Forestry Association (TFA) is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. It is one of the oldest state forestry associations in the nation.

In 1914, the Texas Forestry Association was organized in Temple, Texas, by W. Goodrich Jones. It was a non-governmental, non-profit, statewide, privately-supported organization to promote the economic development and utilization of the State's forest and related resources. Mr. Jones served as the organization's first president.

The Texas Forestry Association was initially organized by Mr. Jones primarily to work at obtaining public support for a forestry bill, which would call for the establishment of a state forestry department and employment of a state forester. Also in 1914, J. Girvin Peters of the USDA Forest Service (the federal agency) in Washington D.C., wrote "A Forest Policy for Texas" to help work towards the office of State Forester in Texas.

Through the efforts of W. Goodrich Jones (later known as the "Father of Forestry in Texas") and J. Girvin Peters, the office of State Forester was created by the Texas Legislature in 1915. This came with a \$10,000 appropriation for the first year of operation. The office became part of the A&M College of Texas. The State Forester was first in charge of the Department of Forestry, then the Texas Forestry Department, and finally the Texas Forest Service (now Texas A&M Forest Service).

All these events were the beginning of forest conservation in Texas. Today, the Texas Forestry Association, still guided by a conservation philosophy, has become

more than just an association of forest-minded landowners, businesses and professionals. It has reached far beyond the original concept of TFA in 1914, and today offers programs for almost every Texan interested in conservation, business, history, education, wildlife and more.

TFA's mission is:

- ◇ To promote an economic, social, and political climate that will advance forestry in Texas;
- ◇ Through education, political action, and public relations, promote the understanding and acceptance of forest conservation practices throughout the state;
- ◇ To serve the broad needs of the forest resource of landowners, producers, and consumers; and
- ◇ To enhance and perpetuate the Texas forest resource.

Go to TFA's website (see sidebar, second item) and explore the many programs and accomplishments of this forward-thinking organization!



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WINTER SAFETY TIPS

from Texas A&M Forest Service website

For more information:

- <http://tfswweb.tamu.edu/main/popup.aspx?id=18053>
- <http://ticc.tamu.edu/PredictiveServices/Preparedness.htm>

Significant rain this year could be a potential threat during the winter wildfire season. Residents are urged to take precautions as the cold weather begins drying the increased vegetation.

Rains earlier this year helped suppress wildfire threats by improving moisture levels across a majority of the state. However, this led to a rise in grassy vegetation, which can help spread fires if it becomes too dry.

Potential for fire is especially relevant in the western plains regions of the state, including the grass dominated areas west of a Wichita Falls to Abilene to San Angelo line. Strong persistent winds over this area could increase the chance of wildfires spreading.

“The concern is on dry and windy days,” said Tom Spencer, predictive services department head at Texas A&M Forest Service. “A fire could start and spread quickly in these dry grasses, damaging anything in its path.”

Awareness of conditions and extra care are highly recommended throughout the

winter months. Activities that could accidentally start a fire should be limited.

Several safety tips are advised for all Texans this holiday and winter season:

- Check for and obey burn bans and fireworks restrictions.
- When and where outdoor burning is allowed, keep the fire small, never leave it unattended, and remove leaves and other materials from the area surrounding the fire.
- Avoid lighting piles on windy days.
- Keep water nearby in case a fire starts.
- Avoid using fireworks, particularly aerial varieties, around buildings. Wind can carry hot fireworks onto roofs where leaves or other flammable debris may have accumulated.
- When using a burn barrel, top it with a meal screen or grill. Winds can carry embers over long distances.

For more information about daily fire weather forecasts and an updated fire danger map, visit the Texas Interagency Coordination Center web page (see sidebar).

TREE TIPS - CAUTION: STORM-DAMAGED TREES

from Texas A&M Forest Service website

For more information:

- <http://tfswweb.tamu.edu/main/popup.aspx?id=18052>
- <http://texasforestservice.tamu.edu/main/article.aspx?id=5252>

Winter storms in December left parts of northeast Texas with downed limbs and split trees. Texas A&M Forest Service reminds homeowners to be careful with damaged trees. Trunks and branches are heavy and should be considered dangerous until they can be brought to the ground. Even limbs as small as two inches can cause injury if they fall on someone.

“It is a common occurrence to have people survive storms and natural disasters only to be injured while cleaning up afterwards,” said Pete Smith, state urban forestry program manager.

Take caution when pruning small branches and leave the heavy chainsaw work to professionals. Look up for broken limbs that may fall, and look down to avoid fallen power lines. Any damage to limbs

within 10 ft. of power lines needs the attention of a professional arborist. They have the equipment, experience, and knowledge needed. They are usually listed in the telephone book under “Tree Service.” Ask if they are certified through the International Society of Arboriculture.

Be cautious of tree services soliciting door to door. A qualified arborist should have Workers’ Compensation insurance, liability insurance, and experience in the tree care industry. If their services include tree topping, beware. Tree topping is the worst treatment for trees because it reduces the amount of leaves the tree needs to recover from the storm on its own.

Check with city or county officials to see if they are providing assistance with disposal of tree debris from private property.

HCA - 2013 SUCCESS STORIES

The Hill Country Alliance (HCA) is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to raise public awareness and build community support around the need to preserve the natural resources and heritage of the Central Texas Hill Country. HCA has a diverse board of directors and advisers with experience and expertise in land stewardship, scenic protection, groundwater supply, county authority, subdivision rules, land planning, and more.

In 2013, the HCA Board of Directors grew from 12 to 15, and the volunteers associated with their advisory board, technical board, and issue teams grew to 167.

The **Water Team** grew to include 27 water experts in 2013. This team stays actively engaged in all water planning processes and current issues, with the coordinator attending and reporting on many of the key water planning meetings affecting the Hill Country region. The team submitted numerous position papers and comments regarding the State Water Plan, groundwater management, river basins, and infrastructure decisions.

HCA organized a **Pedernales Team** to allow partners such as land trusts, landowners, LCRA, TPWD, and others a chance to compare notes and collaborate on projects throughout the basin.

Through maps and educational materials, HCA is delivering the message that where

once we saw the term “watersheds” we now can see “**water catchments.**” [HCA encourages the use of the term “water catchment” over “watershed.” A water catchment area is home to a complete water-cycle system. The idea is to catch, conserve, and make wise use of all water in the system, rather than “shed” that water away as the term “watershed” implies.]

The **Land Conservation Team** has assembled data to create an “All Conserved Lands” inventory including public lands, parks, and easements. The inventory map they created will provide a way to measure success as the conservation movement grows in the Hill Country.

The **Night Sky Team** is engaged in regular communication about reducing light pollution in the Hill Country. The Team hosted 13 Night Sky educational programs throughout their 17 counties. In Junction, HCA support resulted in more than 101 city lights being retrofitted to more night-sky-friendly fixtures.

The fourth annual Rainwater Revival was a huge success in Boerne with 550 attendees, ten educational seminars, and about fifty exhibits. The **Rainwater Team** consists of 17 experts and advocates who are active in legislative and rule-making processes to make rainwater harvesting more accessible and feasible for homeowners and developers.

from Hill Country Alliance

For more information:

- <http://goo.gl/WtWq12>
- <http://www.hillcountryalliance.org>

CENTRAL TEXAS LAND CONTRACTORS WORKSHOP

January 24, 2014, there will be a Land Stewardship Workshop for Central Texas land contractors. Topics include:

- Protecting water resources
- Wildlife management - game/non-game/endangered species; habitat considerations; invasive species
- Pipeline safety
- Operational planning
- Incentive programs
- Field tour with stops covering erosion

control, riparian management, and wildlife management

Location: East Llano Annex Building, 8347 West FM 1431, Buchanan Dam.

Registration is free, but you need to register to hold your place. Space is limited to 30 participants. Deadline to register is January 17th. Lunch is provided.

Three CEUs are available for TDA Private Pesticide Applicators License and Society for Range Management CPRM.

For more information:

- Clint Faas at cfaas@texas-wildlife.org
- Register online: www.texas-wildlife.org/resources/events
- Register by phone: (210) 826-2904

Distribution of this newsletter is provided free of charge to professional foresters, state and federal agency professionals, county judges and commissioners, state senators and representatives, various forestry-related associations, and others. **PLEASE ADVISE US IF YOU WISH YOUR NAME REMOVED FROM OUR MAILING LIST.** This newsletter is also available on the web at <http://tfsweb.tamu.edu/main/article.aspx?id=1180>. If you would rather receive this newsletter electronically (by e-mail), contact us at the address, phone number, or e-mail address above.

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Editorial Board

- Rusty Wood, TPWD, Nacogdoches, Texas
- Joe Pase, TFS-Retired, Lufkin, Texas

TIMBER TAX WORKSHOP

- February 18, 2014 -

Pitser Garrison Convention Center
601 N. Second St., Lufkin, TX
7:45 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.

This workshop will provide basic information about timber taxation and the latest changes to tax laws and rules for 2013 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.

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

Registration fee is \$70 per person. Workbook, lunch, and refreshments are included. Cost would be \$30 for each additional family member (no workbook). Continuing education credits are available for foresters, loggers, and CPAs.

For additional information or questions, contact Dawn Spencer, Texas A&M Forest Service, College Station, at (979) 458-6630 or dspencer@tfs.tamu.edu. See the agenda and register online at: <http://texasforests.tamu.edu/taxworkshop>.



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