



CHINESE TALLOW INFESTATION
BY CHRIS EVANS, RIVER TO RIVER CWMA, BUGWOOD.ORG

Invasive Species Spotlight: Chinese Tallow

Chinese Tallow, a non-native ornamental tree valued for its fast growth, fall color and resistance to insects, can be detrimental to native plant species, including forests. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, Chinese Tallow has invaded the Southeastern Coastal Plain from South Carolina through Florida and westward all the way to Texas.

When Tallow invades, it can monopolize an area, creating a forest without native animal or plant species. Chinese Tallow can reach heights of 30 feet and thrives in swamps, but

is also drought-resistant making it hard to eradicate once it gets established.

How do you control or eliminate Tallow?

Aggressive seedlings continue to return even after burning, chopping and digging up roots. Tallow can be controlled through the intensive use of chemical herbicides, mowing or cutting.

For more information, log on to www.nwrc.usgs.gov, www.invasive.org or contact a natural resource agency in your state.



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Please send us your feedback and story ideas.

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FAMILY FORESTS

NEWS FROM GEORGIA-PACIFIC FOR FOREST OWNERS AND OUTDOOR ENTHUSIASTS

WINTER 2010



Tom Boggus, an interview with Texas Forest Service Director and State Forester focuses on Texas forestry, family forest owners and common issues faced by all private forest owners in the Southeast.

FORESTRY IN THE LONE STAR STATE



TEXAS, the second largest state in the union, is blessed with more than 261,000 square miles of prairies, mountains, deserts... and forests.

While typically associated with grazing lands and big ranches, Texas does have more than 60 million acres of forestland – the core 12 million acres of Southern pine and hardwood forests concentrated in the East Texas area known as the “Piney Woods,” and other less productive forest areas dominated by mesquite, cedars and post oak.

The Texas Forest Service (TFS), led by Tom Boggus, “provides statewide leadership to assure the state’s trees, forests and related natural resources are protected and sustained for the benefit of all,” as stated in the agency’s mission statement.

According to Tom, Texas is a strong private property rights state and that extends to forest ownership. Almost 90 percent of the state’s forests are privately owned.

FAMILY FOREST OWNERS IN TEXAS
Family forest owners – about 250,000 in East Texas and 240,000 in Central and West Texas – own 63 percent of the state’s commercial forests.

“Family forest owners are very important to the state and it’s a joy to work with them,” said Tom. “Over the years, it’s been rewarding to see landowners take advice from professional foresters, to watch them learn and to see the land really thrive under their attention.”

TFS supports private forest ownership and works one-on-one with landowners to provide forestry advice and technical assistance, and fire safety and suppression help. It also sponsors tax seminars, provides support for the Forest Stewardship Program and assists with 21 county forest landowner associations.

“We have a very active Forest Stewardship Program,” said Tom. “Similar to Tree Farm, to become certified forest stewards, landowners need a plan and proof of implementation.”



E.O. SIECKE STATE FOREST AND PARK IN EAST TEXAS
PROVIDED BY THE TEXAS FORESTRY ASSOCIATION



AUTUMN FOREST AT EAST TRAIL,
LOST MAPLES STATE NATURAL AREA, TEXAS
BY WING-CHI POON, USED UNDER A
CREATIVE COMMONS SHAREALIKE LICENSE

THE BIG ISSUES FACING TEXAS FORESTRY AND LANDOWNERS

Like most Southeastern states, the recent economic downturn impacted the state's economy, but in Texas, forestry and forest products were impacted more than other businesses – mainly because the industry in Texas has more emphasis on building products such as plywood and lumber rather than pulp and paper.



A PONDEROSA PINE STAND IN THE DAVIS MOUNTAINS OF WEST TEXAS
PROVIDED BY THE TEXAS FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

- In Texas, there are 25 million people. The highest velocity growth areas are known as Emerging Communities, areas of urban/wildland interface, which represent some 20 percent of the state's wood and wood fiber. The areas also are critical for wildlife and water quality. The average family forest landowner owns 17 acres in Texas.

- A priority is to make sure family forest owners, even those with smaller acreages who have never managed forests, understand the value of forest management.

- The logging community will have to adapt to smaller acreages and the industry needs to train smaller one-truck operators. A lot of that is happening now through The Sustainable Forestry Initiative Implementation Committee in Texas.

TFS and the forestry community are now working to develop strategies to address these and other priority issues.

THE FUTURE OF FORESTRY

"It's a brand new day for forestry now and I believe everything we're doing is going to make history – particularly in the next 10 to 15 years as we address many of these issues," concluded Tom. "But, our ultimate goal in Texas is to keep forests as forests."

ABOUT TOM BOGGUS

How did a self-professed "desert rat," who grew up in the West Texas town of Fort Stockton, become interested in forestry? It was a summer trip to the Pacific Northwest at the age of six, including visits to a national forest and a plywood mill, that sparked Tom's lifelong vocation.



TOM BOGGUS

Tom studied forestry at Baylor University and Stephen F. Austin State University and recently celebrated 30 years with the TFS. For much of his career, he worked closely with family forest owners, administering the private forestry and urban forestry programs for TFS. He was named Director of the Texas Forest Service in February 2010.

Texas, along with other forested states, recently completed a Statewide Forest Resources Assessment to comply with the State and Private Forestry Redesign element of the 2008 Farm Bill. "This is not the same as a forest inventory, but more of a look to define the big issues that will guide the management and use of forest resources in the state," explained Tom. (See "What You Should Know About Statewide Assessments.")

According to Tom, nothing in the Texas assessment really surprised him, but he was surprised by the commonality of issues across the South. These included population growth and urbanization – issues that impact almost everything, from small family forest owners and industry to wildlife, water quality and broader conservation goals.

Tom shares a few insights on a few of the priority issues – population growth, urbanization and sustainability of forest resources in East Texas.

Forestry Assessment

What You Should Know about Statewide Assessments

In 2010, state forestry agencies completed a Statewide Forest Resource Assessment and Strategy as mandated by the 2008 Farm Bill.

Why was the 2008 Farm Bill important for family forest owners?

It recognized the critical role of non-industrial private forestlands in providing public benefits including timber, water quality and supply, wildlife habitat and other benefits. It provided new guidance on how forestry agencies and programs will identify and prioritize national, regional and state forest management goals.

Why were the 2010 state assessments required?

In order to update forest conditions and trends in each state, and to prioritize rural and urban forest landscape areas and issues. National priorities are: conservation of working forest landscapes; protection of forests from

threats; and enhancement of public benefits from trees and forests.

How does this impact family forest owners? The assessments will be used to determine federal, state and other funding for various forestry programs, and encourage collaboration between federal and state agencies. In the past, the Farm Bill and the State and Private Forestry Program of the U.S. Forest Service have provided funding for the Conservation Reserve Program, natural disaster relief and other programs that provide assistance to private landowners.

For more information about the Statewide Forest Resource Assessment and Strategy in your state, contact or log on to the website of your state forestry agency or log on to the Association of State Foresters website, <http://www.stateforesters.org>, which includes links to most state plans.

Georgia-Pacific Honored by Forest Landowners



FLA'S SCOTT JONES PRESENTS THE AWARD TO GEORGIA-PACIFIC'S DEBORAH BAKER

The Forest Landowners Association (FLA) honored Georgia-Pacific as its 2010 Corporate Member of the Year. Georgia-Pacific's investment at the corporate level helps FLA support landowners, enhance programs and be a more effective advocate for private landowners.

Georgia-Pacific Plan Addresses Endangered Forests and Natural Hardwood Stands

Georgia-Pacific has practiced and promoted sustainable forestry for many years. Recently, the company clarified its position around conservation of endangered forests and special areas, and maintenance of natural hardwood forests.

Georgia-Pacific is taking a scientific approach to identify and map endangered forests and special areas, working with Dr. Liz Kramer, director – Natural Resources Spatial Analysis Laboratory at the University of Georgia. As these rare and unique forest areas are identified, Georgia-Pacific has committed not to procure wood or wood fiber from these areas.

Additionally, Georgia-Pacific has committed to protect truly natural stands of hardwood trees in its operating areas by not sourcing wood or fiber from any natural hardwood sites that were converted to pine plantations (as of July 2008).

Georgia-Pacific has begun initial identification and mapping in the Mid-Atlantic region. The entire process will take several years to complete.

"Our Forest Protection Policy was a logical next step in our commitment to the practice and promotion of sustainable forestry in our wood procurement operations and interaction with forest landowners," said Deborah Baker, vice president – sustainable forestry, environment and outreach. "It addresses issues of increasing interest to our customers, consumers and forest landowners."

For more information about Georgia-Pacific's Forest Protection and Sustainable Practices Policy, visit Georgia-Pacific's Sustainable Forestry website at <http://www.gp.com/aboutus/sustainability/forestry/index.html> or contact your local Georgia-Pacific procurement office.

“Our Forest Protection Policy was a logical next step...”



BOTTOMLAND HARDWOODS STAND IN SOUTH CAROLINA
By Paul Bolstad, University of Minnesota, Bugwood.org