



# BIG THICKET BULLETIN

ISSUE 167



**BIG THICKET**  
ASSOCIATION

PARTNER IN PRESERVATION

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# THE TWO BIG THICKETS: *Political Pressure Continues...*

Captain Bruce Walker, BTA President

Continued political pressures threaten the very existence of the Big Thicket National Preserve; the current administration has recently questioned the Preserve's inclusion within the National Park Service. As members of the Big Thicket Association, we need to understand the history of the Preserve, the people who fought to preserve it, and their reasons for wanting the Big Thicket added to the National Park Service. At the time, inclusion of a place like the Thicket in the NPS was novel: "National Park" suggested an area of magnificent grandeur like Yellowstone, Yosemite, Grand Canyon, or the Great Smokies. Aesthetically, the Big Thicket pales in comparison. So, what were the motivating factors, pro and con?

\* "The Built Thicket: Preservation Ethics, Ecology, and Aesthetic Value in Southeast Texas", an essay by Timothy Grieve-Carlson, focuses on what he refers to as the two Big Thickets: 1) Ecological communities of non-humans and the biotic systems that support them, and 2) economic and power relations between groups of humans. The struggle to preserve the first happened in the arena of the second.

A 1972 hearing in Beaumont before the Congressional Subcommittee on National Parks and Recreation heard arguments for and against establishing the Big Thicket as a National Park. Cecil Reid, attending as the Executive Director of the Sportsman's Club of Texas, Inc., was against. In his opinion, enough land in Texas had already been set aside as National Forest. Reid then made the startling claim that the Big Thicket did not really exist, that there were no sizable tracts of virgin forest that had not been cut, and no living biologist working in the region "has ever seen an ivory-billed woodpecker". The Big Thicket, he claimed, only exists as a fantasy, as an imaginary place. "Emotional propaganda," he called it.

A different view was expressed by Senator Ralph Yarborough, who came out of retirement to speak to Congress on a subject close to his heart, noting in support of creating a Park that "the creation of the Big Thicket National Park is not primarily to benefit the plants, mammals, birds, reptiles, flowers and other wild living things there. The park is for the people, for the people's lives to be enriched by the wildness and beauty, and the closeness to God and nature."



Geraldine Watson at Senate hearings, February 1974 (Source: BTA files. Published in "Saving the Big Thicket", courtesy of the office of Congressman Charles Wilson.)

\* The Texas Gulf Historical and Biographical Record: The Journal of the Texas Gulf Historical Society and the Lamar University History Department, Volume 60: 2024

Yarborough's "enrichment for people" argument sits in tension not only with the disdain of Reid but also with the testimony of ecologists Paul Feeny and Thomas Eisner from Cornell University. They wrote, "we consider the Big Thicket to be of unique biological value. There is no question in our minds, or in those of many other scientists familiar with the area, that preservation of what remains of the natural flora and fauna of the Big Thicket would most definitely be in the Nation's best interest".

Rising from these competing interests and values, the "built Thicket" was signed into law in 1974. In 1993, philosopher, environmental activist, and BTA Past President, Pete Gunter, noted that "the Big Thicket National Preserve was the first addition to the National Park Service to be justified on the basis of biology alone. Though the Thicket may have had historical, recreational and aesthetic values the fundamental rationale was to be

ecology. This was a new idea: to save every moss, every fern, every fungus, every orchid, every vine, every insect...every native species and their interrelations, however subtle. Like most new ideas, it was ahead of its time. It was hard, at first, to grasp."

Grieve-Carlson notes that "a place does not need to be charismatic to be ecologically valuable," nor does its worth depend on a notion of unspoiled purity. It can be crucial for its own continued existence, on which ours depends. "Texans like Maxine, Lance Rosier, Geraldine Watson, and Ned Fritz drove awareness of this precious and uncharismatic bioregion to the highest legislative office in the country repeatedly, and their success in preserving what is left of the Thicket should not be dismissed." In the essayist's opinion, these conservationists are "frankly heroic."

# TAKE ACTION

**To learn more:** Sign up for updates and take action on these federal changes that are impacting our parks at [National Parks Conservation Association](#).

**Contact Your Congressman: Find Who Represents Me – Texas**  
[Find Your Members in the U.S. Congress](#).

# NATIONAL PARKS



Field Research Station – W.J. Ledbetter

# ARE UNDER ATTACK!



# Big Thicket Association stays busy with Eco-Art Boats

Diane Thompson, BTA Executive Director, and Amy Pramuk, Ivory Bill deckhand and docent

On June 8, 2025, Neches River Adventures hosted an Eco-Art Boat experience on the Neches River, featuring local artist Tina Novelli. Participants enjoyed a unique opportunity to combine outdoor exploration with hands-on art instruction in a beautiful natural setting.

Tina led the group through watercolor painting techniques, providing both group demonstrations and individual guidance. Many attendees expressed appreciation for the chance to learn directly from her and for the supportive environment that encouraged creativity.

The event was a great success, with enthusiastic feedback and strong requests for future opportunities to learn from Tina. In response, Neches River Adventures is planning to invite her back this fall for another Eco-Art Boat, which may feature drawing or another painting medium.

Stay tuned for details about this upcoming class—and more chances to experience the intersection of art and nature on the Neches River!

After the July 4, 2025 Eco-Art Boat, deckhand and docent Amy Pramuk shared the following:

A Night of Beauty, Connection, and Reflection on the Neches River!

On July 4th, we had the profound honor of hosting an extraordinary group of young men from around the globe for their final evening in America—a journey through our precious ecosystems and rich cultural heritage aboard the *Ivory Bill*, the Big Thicket Association's eco-education vessel.

Captain Nick Huckaby's expert guidance through our ancient bayous revealed the intricate beauty of Southeast Texas waterways, while his gracious wife Lynn ensured we all stayed refreshed with fresh watermelon, pineapple, and water—essential

gifts in our humid summer climate. As the Beaumont's skyline glowed beneath cascading fireworks, a gentle rain began to fall. In that moment, we held both celebration and sorrow—joy for our shared experience and heartbreak for communities and families facing devastating floods and loss just hours away. Even nature seemed to acknowledge this duality, reminding us why conservation education has never been more vital.

These connections—between cultures, generations, and our natural world—illuminate exactly why programs like ours matter. Perhaps now more than ever.

## Be on the lookout for upcoming adventures:

- ✓ Halloween Ghost Ship Tour
- ✓ Christmas Cruise with Captain St. Nick



Tina Novelli, NRIB watercolor class. Image credit – Diane Thompson  
NRIB watercolor class. Image credit – Diane Thompson  
Fireworks over Beaumont. Image credit - Amy Pramuk  
NRIB friends. Image credit – Amy Pramuk

# Looking Back: Historical markers help keep the past alive

Dennis Durkee, BTA director

Texas is full of history. The Texas Historical Marker Guide, a smartphone app, lists 18,275 historical markers across the state. Every county in the state has multiple historical markers. Jefferson County has 156 markers, for example, and Hardin County has 41 markers.

But few tell the story of the Big Thicket National Preserve. The history of the Big Thicket – both the park and the region -- is full of important industrial and environmental milestones and is dotted with colorful characters. But there are few historical markers focusing on the preserve’s past.

There are three historical markers located within the boundaries of the preserve:

- In front of the Big Thicket Visitor Center north of Kountze, a marker honors Richard E. Jackson. “Because of his admiration for the Big Thicket, Jackson began leasing land in the region, which was threatened by development, timber activity and oil explorations,” the marker says. “Due to Jackson’s early initiative and vision in preserving the unique landscape he loved, a national preserve was finally created here in 1974.”
- In front of the Big Thicket Field Research Station in Saratoga, a marker salutes local legend Lance Rosier. The marker says in part: “Known as ‘Mr. Big Thicket,’ Rosier served as a bridge between the first East Texas Big Thicket Association (1929-1957), led by R.E. Jackson, another regional conservationist, and others to establish the second Big Thicket Association in 1964. Unfortunately, Rosier died in 1970, a few years before the realization of his dream to have the unique environmental area declared a national park. Today, his legacy lives on in the protection and continuing research of his beloved Big Thicket.”
- Deep in the Lance Rosier Unit south of Saratoga, a marker notes the location of Teel Cemetery. Alabama native Richard Teel settled the area in the 1850s and this is the family burial site. “Now located in the Big Thicket National Preserve, the cemetery is a tangible reminder of the area’s early permanent settlers,” the marker says.



The most prominent state historical marker about the Big Thicket is the Richard E. Jackson marker in front of the Big Thicket National Preserve Visitor Center.





The creation of the national preserve is one of the most important environmental stories in Texas history. But there is not one definitive state historical marker that tells that story. Along with Jackson and Rosier, others such as Geraldine Watson played important roles in helping to preserve this special land. Historical markers are one tangible way to keep history alive for future generations.

*Historical markers within the preserve honor (from left) Richard E. Jackson, Lance Rosier and Teel Cemetery.*





*Max Harper*

# 2025 Big Thicket Association Awards

Mary Catherine Johnston, BTA Director

BTA’s free-to-the public Big Thicket Day on the Neches, Oct. 11, at Collier’s Ferry Park, Beaumont, will feature BTA’s annual membership meeting, at which BTA will present awards to three individuals who have served “above and beyond.”

## 2025 Thomas E. Lubbert Superior Achievement Award

This BTA award, named for the first superintendent of the Big Thicket National Preserve, recognizes a National Park Service employee of the Preserve with at least three years of service whose work exemplifies exceptional dedication over a sustained period. The 2025 recipient is Ranger Max Harper. According to Superintendent Wayne Prokopetz, “Max Harper represents the best of the National Park Service.” First recognized in 2018, his continued dedication merits recognition once again.

As the Park Ranger Paddle Coordinator, Max has enthusiastically expanded outreach opportunities to local communities beyond the preserve while teaching safety and a love of outdoor water sports.





*Sharon Odegar*

## Maxine Johnston Distinguished Service Award

The award, named for a woman who heroically pushed for creation of the Preserve, honors achievements, service, and volunteerism. The 2025 award goes to naturalist Sharon Odegar.

As a member of the Native Plant Society since 1990 and honored with the State's Benny J. Simpson Fellow of the Society Award, Sharon has served as President, Secretary and Treasurer of the Beaumont Chapter.

Through membership in Big Thicket Heritage Trust, serving over 20 years as secretary, she helped grow the Big Thicket National Preserve acreage.

As a member of the Beaumont Council of Garden Clubs since 1990, she served as President from 2001-2003. Before construction began on the Shangri La Botanical Gardens & Nature Center, Sharon identified native plants for preservation, digging and potting the original bulbs. She's volunteered at Shangri La since 2003. As a Beaumont Botanical Gardens volunteer, she raised funds and greeted visitors. She has been an active Orange County member of Texas Master Gardener since 1997. She's been a Texas Master Naturalist, Sabine-Neches chapter, since 2009.

Through countless tabling events, workshops, and presentations, Sharon has worked tirelessly to educate the public.

The Big Thicket Association recognizes Sharon's decades of service with this award.





*Elizabeth Waddill*

# 2025 R.E. Jackson Conservation Award

Fittingly, the 2025 honoree is Elizabeth Waddill. With the National Park Service currently under attack and with thousands of staff fired or pushed out, Waddill warns that, “Parks are being dismantled before our very eyes.”

Elizabeth Waddill is a proud native of Beaumont, TX, where she raised her family, and a graduate of TCU. She is the immediate past chair of the Board of Trustees for The National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA), a non-profit devoted exclusively to advocating for the National Park Service whose goal is to protect and enhance the NPS system for present and future generations. Representing NPCA, Waddill networks and organizes events to enhance outreach, strengthen projects, and promote environmental stewardship and civic engagement.

Waddill is a past President of the Magnolia Garden Club in Beaumont, which has supported a variety of NPCA projects in Texas, including funding for a State of the National Parks report and longleaf pine reforestation events for Big Thicket National Preserve. She is the former National Conservation Chair as well as the former Civic Improvement and Grants Chair for The Garden Club of America and is a 2018 recipient of The Garden Club of America’s Zone IX Conservation Award.

Elizabeth co-founded the EDAREN Foundation to serve education, arts, and environmental causes in Texas; EDAREN has been a major donor for the BTA’s Neches River Adventures Outdoor Education Program and also funded a Hurricane Harvey grant to the Big Thicket Natural Heritage Trust.

Elizabeth serves on the Board of Directors for the Lone Star Coastal Alliance, The Board of Trustees of The Fort Worth Botanic Garden, and The City of Fort Worth Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

BTA is proud to recognize the leadership of Elizabeth Waddill and her willingness to use her voice to fight to save our Parks and the world around her.



# Happenings in the Preserve

Megan Urban, Big Thicket National Preserve Chief of Interpretation and Education, and Public Information Officer

Big Thicket staff will start issuing hunting permits on Friday, August 29th. For those hunters who either turned in their harvest report card after April 1, 2025 or never returned it, they will not be issued a hunting permit until Friday, September 26th. Hunting starts on Saturday, September 27th. If you plan on recreating in areas that are open to hunting, we recommend wearing hunter orange and not putting fake antlers on your head!



Come plant with us on Saturday, December 6th in the Big Sandy Creek Unit. This will be the one and only planting event hosted by Big Thicket this year, due to previous years being cancelled due to winter weather on multiple occasions. Having one event in December will help get the grasses in before the colder weather and give them a better chance for survival. You can sign up for the event on [volunteer.gov](https://www.volunteer.gov).

Check out our website ([www.nps.gov/bith](https://www.nps.gov/bith)) for the fall program schedule, including guided hikes, night programs and paddle trips. This is a great way to learn more about your backyard National Park site!





# BTA Hosts Science Café on Texas Tough Trees, Shrubs & Perennials for a Changing Climate

Amy Pramuk

What an incredible evening at the Big Thicket Association Science Café! Dr. Dave Creech from Stephen F. Austin State University shared his expertise on Texas-hardy trees, shrubs, and perennials and the innovative ways they're helping us adapt to our changing climate. His passion for horticulture was absolutely infectious! From climate resilient native plants to sustainable gardening practices, we learned so much about how we can make our landscapes both beautiful AND environmentally smart. If you haven't visited the SFA Gardens yet, add it to your must-see list! It's a 138-acre wonderland that showcases exactly what Dr. Creech was talking about. And don't miss their plant sales - attend one and take something special home to start your own climate-friendly garden! There's nothing quite like adding locally adapted plants to your landscape. Events like these remind us why supporting local conservation and education is so important. Thank you, Dr. Creech.



Science Café on Trees – left to right: Dr. Creech, Diane Thompson, Bruce Walker. Image credit – Johnny Thompson  
Tree Giveaway. Image credit – Diane Thompson



# Water Bugs and Beetles Subject of New ToD Research

Mary Catherine Johnston, BTA Director, Chair of the Thicket of Diversity Committee

Dr. Paul Tinerella and his research assistant and daughter, Camille, visited Southeast Texas this summer to look for aquatic true bugs and aquatic beetles. Tinerella is a research entomologist and biodiversity and ecology research associate from North Dakota State University. Camille is a May 2025 graduate from the University of Arizona, in chemistry and environmental science. Fall 2025 she will begin a PhD program in Chemistry at the University of Massachusetts - Boston.

Tinerella’s interest in the Big Thicket was sparked in 2009 when he conducted his first species inventory through the Big Thicket Association’s Thicket of Diversity. In this project, Tinerella aspires to further his research and develop baseline species lists and up-to-date checklists. He anticipates examination, description, and publication of a number of unreported and undescribed species based on his previous work and the success of the 2025 trip. The research is of value as a number of water beetle species are established as bio-indicator taxa and are useful in integrated studies of pollution and environmental impacts.

Inventory sites included The Nature Conservancy lands along Village Creek and wetlands owned by the Big Thicket Natural Heritage Trust, being held for donation to the Big Thicket National Preserve (BITH). Potential funding and staffing cuts to the National Park Service created uncertainty in the ability of the Preserve to provide capacity support for research, especially that with climate change implications. The BITH was thus unable to partner in the project this time. The two environmental non-profits were able to offer similar and often adjacent lands to the Preserve for study. Tinerella appreciates the efforts of Shawn Benedict and Ellen Buchanan who facilitated access to the sites. All data collected will be inventoried following the protocols established by the National Park Service, and shared.

Tinerella’s research, “Continued Biotic Survey: Aquatic True Bugs (Insecta: *Heteroptera*: *Nepomorpha*, *Gerromorpha*, *Leptopodomorpha*) and Aquatic Beetles (Insecta: *Coleoptera*) of Big Thicket Region, Texas, USA,” was performed with penalty monies from a Texas Commission on Environmental Quality enforcement action, through a grant managed by the Thicket of Diversity of the Big Thicket Association.



Photographs shared by Dr. Paul Tinerella



# Editor's Corner: Unruly, Wild, and Full of Life

Phoebe H. Dishman, BTA Director, Bulletin Editor

Dr. Ted Campbell, Beaumont native, historian, and longtime friend, recently spoke at my church. His subject was Holy Places. To my delight he included the Big Thicket. With his permission, here's what he said to our congregation:

"First, think about wild places, like the place where Jacob had his dream. Some holy places aren't marked by stained glass or stone walls. Some are marked by sky and water, trees, thorns, and other creatures. Think of the Gulf Coast: wide water under a wide sky. You stand there, and you're made small. And maybe that's the beginning of worship. Think of the Big Thicket, that legendary tangle of East Texas wilderness. A place that seems, at first, too wild to be sacred. But a Beaumont philosopher named Gordon Baxter wrote:

*The Big Thicket, the Tight Eye Thicket, the early settlers called it, and the explorers turned their trade routes to pass to the north or south of it... everything in it would bite you, or sting you, or stick you. So dense a man could not walk through it. And yet to some of us this great wilderness holds its charm, draws us in... Ole Archer Fullingim calls it the 'Holy Ghost Thicket.' Claims that when he is out and among it, he can speak in tongues...*

That's not just a tall Texas tale: That's pretty good theology. In places like the Big Thicket—unruly, wild, and full of life—we meet a God who isn't always tame, but is always present. And if the Spirit hovered over the waters in Genesis 1, then maybe the Holy Spirit still stirs in piney woods and coastal prairies and marshes, amid the pitcher plants and the baygalls and the bayous in the deep 'Holy Ghost Thicket.'"



"Holy Ghost, Looking Over Her Shoulder."  
Image credit - Phoebe Dishman



# BTA newsletters on the web

Penny Clark, BTA Director

Big Thicket Association newsletters spanning 304 issues and seven decades are now fully digitized and available to researchers around the globe totally free of charge. They are fully searchable so you can type in any name, word, or phrase and you will instantly see newsletters where the word or phrase was used. You may access them at <https://texashistory.unt.edu/explore/collections/BTAP>

Lamar University’s Special Collections recognized the historical importance of the newsletters, most of which are in the Big Thicket Association papers which were compiled by Maxine Johnston, and which document the determination of the Association in the long struggle to create a national preserve. It shows how the Association’s work did not end in 1974, but it brought new challenges and opportunities. The newsletters reveal the many people who have taken part in BTA and its work to preserve the environment and educate politicians and citizens of its worth.

The newsletters have had six different names over time, *Big Thicket Association*, *Big Thicket Association Bulletin*, *Big Thicket Conservationist*, *Big Thicket Reporter*, *Petals, Pine, and Print*, and *Big Thicket Bulletin*.

The BTA’s newsletters don’t show just the hard work of BTA members but also provide a wealth of information on Big Thicket folkways, history, fauna, and flora.

Lamar’s Special Collections realized that if these great treasures were not digitized they could not be made accessible to researchers for years to come as some are over 50 years old and printed on acidic paper which becomes fragile over time. Lamar chose to have the work done by the Portal to Texas History at North Texas University as they have approximately one million hits per month on their enormous web site. Lamar’s collections on the site have received over 250,000 hits! Please check out Lamar’s collections on the site which will give you a hint of Lamar’s fabulous Big Thicket holdings.



Big Thicket Bulletin, Number 39, July 1977





*Big Thicket activist Maxine Johnston with Thomas Lubbert at BITH's fiftieth anniversary. Image credit – NPS/Nathan Pattee*



## Thomas Lubbert

### BITH's first superintendent

Thomas Elmer Lubbert, lifelong steward of our nation's natural heritage, was born in Riceville, Iowa on September 16, 1938 and died in Riceville, Iowa on June 17, 2025, surrounded by loved ones.

From the moment he graduated from college to the day he retired, Lubbert's 36 years with the National Park Service were marked by quiet strength, steady commitment, and deep love for nature. His career took him to parks across the country, among them Glacier, and Grand Canyon National Park. His final posting was at NPS headquarters in Denver, Colorado, where he served as project manager overseeing construction efforts at parks, monuments, and preserves nationwide.

First superintendent of the brand-new Big Thicket National Preserve, he served there thirteen years, from 1973 to 1986. During his term he laid a strong foundation based on planning studies and baseline research. Management

policies and minerals regulations were drafted. Despite lack of development funds, several trails were opened for public use, as well as the Information Station on FM 420.

In retirement, he tended his garden and continued the family tradition of trips, traveling with his wife Erma, visiting as many NPS locations as possible while enroute to family or friends. They often chose scenic detours just to "check the box," though it was never really about the list; it was about being present, appreciating nature, sharing each moment together, and maintaining relationships.

In 2003 the BTA established the Lubbert Superior Achievement Award, which recognizes a Big Thicket National Preserve employee with at least three years of service whose performance is outstanding, whose contributions to the Preserve are significant, and whose work exemplifies exceptional dedication over a sustained period.

When BITH celebrated its fiftieth anniversary last fall, Lubbert and Erma joined us for the occasion.



*Thomas Lubbert, BITH superintendent. Image credit - NPS*

*Thomas and Erma Lubbert, left, with current BITH superintendent Wayne Prokopetz and NPS Deputy Regional Director Lance Hatten, enjoying BITH's fiftieth anniversary. Image credit - NPS*





# SAVE THE DATES

## Neches River Adventures

Tour the Neches River's backwater channels into the Big Thicket National Preserve and the Port of Beaumont aboard the *Ivory Bill*. **Private Charters** continue year-round and **Saturday Public Tours** resume March 22nd (fees apply). **Environmental Education Field Trips** resume in March (free to all qualifying area schools).

## Public Lands Day

September 27. Theme for this year's celebration: Together for Tomorrow.  
<https://www.nps.gov/bith/planyourvisit/calendar.htm>

## Eco-Art Boat: Swamp Tour Safari with Tim Pylate, Naturalist

October 5th, Sunday, 4:30p-6:30p, aboard BTA's Neches River Adventures' *Ivory Bill*. Presentation by internationally known naturalist Tim Pylate, Armand Bayou Executive Director. Pre-Registration required, fees apply. Limited space available. Registration to open soon.

## Big Thicket Day on the Neches

October 11th - Collier's Ferry Park on the Neches  
Free family friendly event - Exhibitors and vendors, activities for children, live musical entertainment, a keynote speaker, and lunch. Plus, free *Ivory Bill* boat tours.

## Eco-Art Boat: Art Class on Oil Pastels

October 19th, Sunday, 4p-6p, aboard BTA's Neches River Adventures' *Ivory Bill*. Art class on oil pastels by Tina Griesenbeck Novelli. Pre-Registration required, fees apply. Limited space available. Registration to open soon.

## Eco-Art Boat: Get Wicked in the Thicket, Halloween Ghost Ship

October 30th, Thursday, 4:30p-6:30p, aboard BTA's Neches River Adventures' *Ivory Bill*. Costume Contest, Ghost Stories, Snacks, & Drinks. Pre-Registration required, fees apply. Limited space available. Registration to open soon.

## Science Cafe: Houston SPCA's Wildlife Center

November 3rd, Monday, 6pm, El Viejo Tony Mexican Bar and Grill: The Houston SPCA's Wildlife Center of Texas. The only trauma and wildlife rehabilitation center in the Houston area that treats all injured, sick, or orphaned native Texas wildlife species. Free event, no registration required.

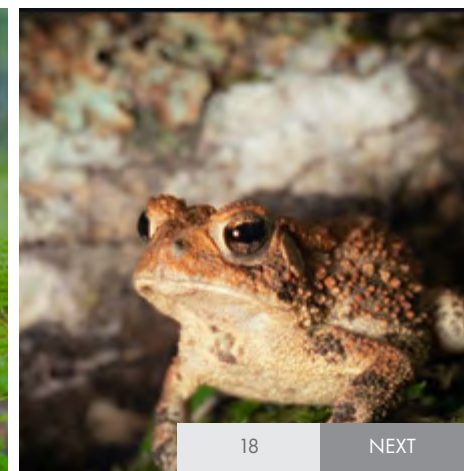
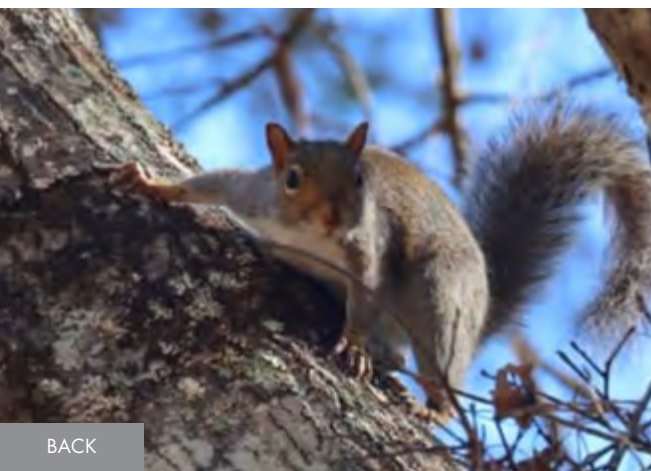




# BIG THICKET ASSOCIATION

PARTNER IN PRESERVATION

**#BIGTHICKET**







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## BIG THICKET BULLETIN

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Big Thicket Association  
[www.bigthicket.org](http://www.bigthicket.org)*

### Web Sites

Big Thicket Association  
[www.bigthicket.org](http://www.bigthicket.org)

Big Thicket Natural Heritage Trust  
[www.bigthickettrust.org](http://www.bigthickettrust.org)

Big Thicket National Preserve  
[www.nps.gov/biit](http://www.nps.gov/biit)

Conservation Fund  
[www.conservationfund.org](http://www.conservationfund.org)

Gulf States Mycological Society  
[www.gsmyco.org](http://www.gsmyco.org)

National Audubon Society  
[www.goldentriangleaudubon.org](http://www.goldentriangleaudubon.org)  
[www.houstonaudubon.org](http://www.houstonaudubon.org)

National Parks Conservation Association  
[www.npca.org](http://www.npca.org)

Native Plant Society of Texas  
[www.npsot.org](http://www.npsot.org)

Nature Conservancy  
[www.nature.org/texas](http://www.nature.org/texas)

Neches River Flood Planning Group  
[www.nechesfloodplanning.org](http://www.nechesfloodplanning.org)

Outdoor Nature Club, Houston  
[www.outdoornatureclub.org](http://www.outdoornatureclub.org)

The Portal to Texas History  
[www.texashistory.unt.edu](http://www.texashistory.unt.edu)

Sierra Club Golden Triangle Group  
[www.sierraclub.org/texas/golden-triangle](http://www.sierraclub.org/texas/golden-triangle)

Texas Black Bear Alliance  
[texasblackbear.weebly.com](http://texasblackbear.weebly.com)

Texas Conservation Alliance  
[www.TCAtexas.org](http://www.TCAtexas.org)

Texas Master Naturalist Association,  
Sabine Neches Chapter  
[www.txmn.org/sabine](http://www.txmn.org/sabine)

Village Creek State Park  
[tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/village-creek](http://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/village-creek)

## Big Thicket Association Mission

The purposes for which the Big Thicket Association is organized are

- » To work for the preservation of the flora, fauna and historical culture of the Big Thicket area
- » To promote the conservation of natural resources and natural history of the Big Thicket area, and education for same
- » To maintain and perpetuate, so far as possible, the many species of trees, plants and animals found in the Big Thicket area, and to do whatever else may be done to preserve for posterity the abundance of flora and fauna and natural beauty with which this area has been endowed
- » To promote and to fund research contributing to knowledge of the Big Thicket area
- » To publish or support publication of cultural and scientific Big Thicket literature
- » To promote the welfare of the Big Thicket National Preserve

For more information about the Big Thicket Association and upcoming events, please click here to visit us online.

## Follow Us



Thanks to Penny Clark and Lamar University Special Collections, BTA Bulletins from BTA's inception forward are now available online through The Portal to Texas History, a digital repository hosted by the UNT Libraries. Go to [texashistory.unt.edu](http://texashistory.unt.edu), then search on Big Thicket Association Bulletins, for a fascinating look at our history.