

**2008 NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF TEXAS ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM
OCTOBER 16 – 19, 2008
BEAUMONT, TEXAS**



**Hosted by:
NPSOT Beaumont Chapter
NPSOT Houston Chapter
NPSOT Pineywoods Chapter
Louisiana Native Plant Society
Big Thicket Association**

***GO WILD IN THE
THICKET***

In October 2008 you have the opportunity to come and explore an amazing part of Texas, the Big Thicket National Preserve and associated areas. The existing units of the Big Thicket National Preserve are spread out over vastly different habitats. The Preserve with its associated areas is truly a biological crossroads. Within the units you can find habitats with soils that range from sand to clay, calcareous to acidic, dry to moist to flooded. You will also find uplands, bottomlands, slopes, seeps, oxbows, floodplains, creeks, rivers and lakes. This biological diversity includes 1300 species of flowering plants, 26 species of ferns and allies, 20 species of orchids, and four species of carnivorous plants.

Please join us for the NPSOT Annual Symposium in Beaumont, and come to the land of transitions and diversity, the Big Thicket.

For more information contact:

Gailon Hardin
ghardin@flash.net
817-475-0923

Peter Loos
cyrilla@inu.net
936-645-1933

Online registration: www.npsotreg.org

Symposium Agenda

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16

- 3:00 - 6:00 PM Open House at the Beaumont Botanical Gardens, Tyrrell Park Gardens
6088 Babe Zaharias Drive, Beaumont, Texas
Hosted by Beaumont Chapter, light refreshments
- 7:30 - 8:30 PM Symposium Headquarters (Beaumont Holiday Inn) Making the Big Thicket Bigger:
Expansion of the Big Thicket National Preserve; Julie Shackelford. Julie will share with us
recent and future efforts to expand the Big Thicket National Preserve including her work
with the Conservation Fund.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17

- 7:00 - 8:00 AM Breakfast
- 8:15 - 8:30 AM Welcome—Gailon Hardin and Peter Loos
- 8:30 - 11:30 AM Introduction to the Big Thicket – Dr. Ellen Cover and Dr. Robert Corbett
Exploring Geoendemic Plants of Texas – Dr. Alan Pepper
Break – Visit Silent Auction and Booths
Thicket of Diversity: Big Thicket ATBI – Dr. Dale Kruse
Pineywoods Native Plant Center: The first ten years – Greg Grant
- 11:30 – 5:00 PM Box lunch to go and field trips
- 6:00 – 7:00 PM Cash Bar and Social
- 7:00 PM Dinner and presentation – The Big Thicket – Dr. Pete A. Y. Gunter

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18

- 7:00 - 8:00 AM Breakfast
- 8:00 – 5:00 PM Vendors/Booths/Silent Auction
- 8:15 - 8:30 AM Welcome/Announcements
- 8:30 – 3:00 PM Birds of the Big Thicket and the Plants they Use – Glenn Olsen
Invasive Exotic Solution Management – Lisa Jameson
Ornamental Natives of the Big Thicket – Peter Loos
Break – Visit Silent Auction and Booths
Orchids of the Big Thicket – Joe Liggio
Big Thicket Mycology – David Lewis
Lunch
What does it take to recover a species: Trailing phlox - Wendy J. Ledbetter
Fire ecology and longleaf pine restoration in the Big Thicket - Deanna Boensch, NPS
Break - Visit Silent Auction and Booths
Flora of baygalls and bogs of West Central Louisiana and East Texas , Dr. Charles Allen
- 3:00 – 4:30 PM Membership Meeting
Board Meeting
Chapter Leader's Meeting
- 4:30 – 5:00 PM END Silent Auction
- 6:00 – 7:00 PM Cash Bar and Social
- 7:00 PM Dinner and Awards

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19

- 7:00 - 8:00 AM Breakfast
- 8:00 - 8:30 AM Hotel checkout
- 9:00 AM On your way home field trips

Field Trip Preparations: It's fall in the Big Thicket so clothing is determined by the weather of the day, it may be cool or it may be warm. A raincoat is always a good idea. Be sure to check the forecast for the area when it is time to pack. Everyone should wear proper footwear and bring plenty of water. Several of the field trips will not have well-marked trails so PLEASE stay close to your trip leader and group.

Online registration: www.npsotreg.org

FRIDAY Field Trip Options (choose one):

1 Watson Preserve; Joe Liggio, Leader

Difficulty Rating: Easy

Joe will lead a tour around Geraldine Watson's wonderful property in the heart of the Big Thicket also known as the Watson Preserve. As you enter the property into a well-managed longleaf pine savannah full of Bracken fern and a wide variety of wildflowers, the trail leads you down onto the boardwalk and through the pitcher plant bog, which is full of numerous species of orchids and other bog plants. From there the trail loops to where the walk began. Along the way is where the baygall occurs full of shrubs such as *Cyrilla racemiflora*; leatherwood, *Ilex coriacea*; gallberry holly (the Gall in baygall), and more.

2 Roy E Larsen Sandyland Sanctuary; Bob Boensch, Leader

Difficulty Rating: Moderate

The Nature Conservancy's Roy E Larsen Sandyland Sanctuary has a little bit of everything that is the ecology and flora found in the Big Thicket. This sanctuary contains incredible diversity with over 600 species to be observed. You can find endangered species *Phlox nivalis ssp. texensis*; Texas trailing phlox, as well as the uncommon *Plantanthera chapmanii*; Chapman's yellow-fringed orchid. There are also a number of species where this is one of, or the only place, they can be seen in Texas. (Repeated on Sunday as field trip #1)

3 Sabine River NWR @ TxDot I-10 East Texas Welcome Center; Peter Loos, Leader

Difficulty Rating: Easy

This is an excellent example of Gulf Coast Riverine habitat with its Cypress-Tupelo swamp and fresh water marsh. First there will be a quick stop at the bridge "turn around" to see one of the few populations of *Ilex verticillata*; winterberry holly known to occur in Texas. From there we will travel to TxDot's Texas Welcome Center which has an ADA compliant Nature Trail Boardwalk loop that traverses a fresh water marsh home to a number of aquatic plant species and possibly an alligator or two.

4 BTNP's Pitcher Plant Trail; Sandi Elsik, Warren Pruess, Leaders

Difficulty Rating: Moderate

This field trip to the Turkey Creek Unit of the Big Thicket National Preserve will follow the boardwalk through the pitcher plant bog and then proceed off trail into Paul Harcombe's (Rice University) forest ecology research plots in the adjacent pine-oak-hickory forest. Further down slope, we'll see the forest change to beech-magnolia and finally to creek-bottom species. Focusing primarily on botany and ecology, the fieldtrip will also be birder friendly. The Rice University leaders will also point out effects of Hurricane Rita. **Limited to 20 participants**

5 Mushroom Foray: Big Thicket Mycology 101 @ Jack Gore Baygall Unit BTNP; David Lewis, Leader

Difficulty Rating: Moderate

If you're a fan of fungus, this is the trip for you! David will lead the group on a mycology foray to the Jack Gore Baygall Unit of the preserve where participants will help locate and identify mushrooms. This is a chance to see and learn about mushrooms of the Big Thicket and be a part of All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory (ATBI) biological inventory undertaking.

6 Doremus Wholesale Nursery; Ted Doremus, Mark Bronstad, Leaders

Difficulty Rating: Easy

This trip offers an opportunity to visit a wholesale nursery located in the heart of the Big Thicket that specializes in a number of Texas native plants but is normally closed to the public. Participants will have the opportunity to purchase plants so bring the wish list and the checkbook!

7 Marysee Prairie; Dr. Heinz Gaylord, Leader

Difficulty Rating: Easy

Join Heinz for an opportunity to see a remnant coastal prairie property on the way back. After years of battling the encroaching Chinese tallow and undertaking other restoration activities, this remnant is well on the way to recovery. Heinz has firsthand knowledge of the history and restoration activities having eradicated more than a few tallows from the site over the years.

8 Shangri La Gardens; Leader TBA

Difficulty Rating: Easy

A bus will pick you up while you munch on your lunch on the way to Orange. You will tour the formal gardens, go for a pontoon boat trip down Adams Bayou, view the 1200-year old Champion Pond cypress tree, land at an outpost and walk along a trail to see some of the natural areas. Hopefully the fragrant ladies' tresses will bloom for you, along with other fall flowers. When everyone is tired, your bus will return to Beaumont. **Additional \$10 fee payable at Shangri La Gardens**

9 Pontoon on the Neches: Explore the untamed natural river of Texas, the Neches River. Join Rangers on the pontoon boat that is operated by the Environmental Learning Resource Center of Lamar University. Dr. Richard Bothel, Director will conduct a two-hour exploration of the river, sloughs, and history of the Neches River. Meet at Riverfront Park dock in Beaumont. **Additional \$15 fee**

Difficulty Rating: Easy

10 SELF-GUIDED/ ON YOUR OWN OPPORTUNITIES: (Maps and trail guide handouts will be available)

- A) Sundew Trail
- B) Kirby Trail at the old BTNP Information Center
- C) Village Creek State Park
- D) Kirby State Forest
- E) Big Thicket Visitor Center

Online registration: www.npsotreq.org

SUNDAY Field Trip Options (chose one):

1 Roy E Larsen Sandyland Sanctuary; Bob Boensch, Leader

Difficulty Rating: Moderate

The Nature Conservancy's Roy E Larsen Sandyland Sanctuary has a little bit of everything that is the ecology and flora found in the Big Thicket. This sanctuary contains incredible diversity with over 600 species to be observed. You can find endangered species *Phlox nivalis ssp. texensis*; Texas trailing phlox, as well as the uncommon *Plantanthera chapmanii*; Chapman's yellow-fringed orchid. There are also a number of species where this is one of, or the only place, they can be seen in Texas.

2 Davis Hill State Park; Joe Liggio, Leader

Difficulty Rating: Hard

Davis Hill is one of the last remaining undisturbed salt domes on the upper Texas coast and is home to the state champion Durand oak as well as the uncommon shadow witch orchid; *Ponthieva racemosa* which should be in full bloom at the time of the trip. This unique site has numerous unusual species that will be seen as the walk starts at the edge of a Cypress-Tupelo swamp, then climbs up to an open "prairie" space before continuing on to oak dominated slopes, and circles to the vehicles through an oak-mixed hardwood bottomland habitat.

3 Anahuac Marsh Preserve; Glenn Olsen, Leader

Difficulty Rating: Easy

Looking for a birding opportunity in outstanding surroundings with an expert birder? Then this is the trip you are looking for. The preserve is an excellent example of Texas upper coastal plain ecosystem with a wide variety of not only plant but also habitat diversity allowing the sighting of numerous bird species.

4 Sundew Trail; Deanna Boensch, Leader

Difficulty Rating: Easy

Take a guided hike through a wetland longleaf pine savannah to observe carnivorous plants, native grasses, and wildflowers. Learn about the fire management history and fire dependant vegetation of the Hickory Creek Savannah Unit. Witness restoration work conducted by Big Thicket National Preserve in efforts to conserve the savannah's endangered ecosystem.

5 CC Road Savannah Preserve; Louisiana Nature Conservancy; Rick Webb, Leader

Difficulty Rating: Moderate

The trip takes place across the Sabine River in neighboring southwest Louisiana. This 468-acre preserve contains high quality longleaf pine savannah and an especially scenic series of ponds and beech-magnolia forest. CC Road Savannah also supports the only known population of the endangered American chaffseed; *Schwalbea americana* west of Georgia. This preserve is not open for public visitation, so our tour will be a real treat. We hope to have Rick Jacob, the representative for the Southwest Louisiana region of The Nature Conservancy, lead the tour.

6 Cook's Lake Canoe Trip; Lisa Jameson and Peter Loos, Leaders

Difficulty Rating: Moderate

Join Lisa and Peter for a leisurely paddle as they point out the plants and wildlife in the beautiful scenery of Cook's Lake. **Additional \$20 fee**

7 Rush Creek; Jeff Pittman and Randall Terry, Leaders

Difficulty Rating: Moderate

Join Jeff and Randall to tour an excellent stretch of one of the Big Thicket's numerous creeks. This site on Rush Creek is owned and managed by Hancock Forest Management who recognizes what a special place this is. The uncommon shadow witch orchid; *Ponthieva racemosa* should be in bloom at the time of this trip. Also of interest is a number of prehistoric animal bones found at this site.

8 Bryophytes at The Canyonlands; Dr. Dale Kruse, Leader

Difficulty Rating: Moderate

Join Dale for a trip to this unique habitat found in the Big Thicket region. As you explore the "canyons" looking for Bryophytes, opportunities abound to see other unusual plant species. Though there are no longer true pristine conditions in the Big Thicket, this is one of the few places that are as close as you can get. Be prepared to get your feet wet and bring your hand lenses or magnifying loop for this trip!

9 SELF-GUIDED/ ON YOUR OWN OPPORTUNITIES: (Maps and trail guide handouts will be available)

- A) Watson Preserve
- B) Pitcher Plant Trail
- C) Kirby Trail at the old BTN Information Center
- D) Village Creek State Park
- E) Kirby State Forest
- F) Big Thicket Visitor Center
- G) Shangri La Gardens (Entry fees apply)

Online registration: www.npsotreg.org

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OCTOBER 16 – 19, 2008
BEAUMONT, TEXAS
REGISTRATION FORM**

Online registration: www.npsotreg.org

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____ City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone (day) _____ (eve) _____ (Fax) _____

Special Meal Requirements: Vegetarian Y N Kosher Y N

Friday Field Trips (choose one) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

If Friday Field Trip #4 chosen (2nd choice) 1 2 3 5 6 7 8 9 10

Sunday Field Trips (chosed one) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Complete Conference Package: (Early Bird Special) \$195 _____

After October 10 \$245 _____

(Includes Friday breakfast, lunch, dinner,
Saturday breakfast, lunch, dinner,
Sunday breakfast and proceedings)

Single Day Options:

Friday morning session with lunch, field trip and proceedings \$ 50 _____

Saturday conference with lunch and proceedings \$ 50 _____

Optional Items:

Fee for Friday field trip #8 Shangri La Gardens - Fees apply at Shangri La

Fee for Friday field trip #9 Pontoon on the Neches \$ 15 _____

Fee for Sunday field trip #6 Cook's Lake canoe trip \$ 20 _____

Additional proceedings \$ 10 _____

Extra Friday night dinner: number _____ \$ 25 _____

Extra Saturday night dinner: number _____ \$ 35 _____

Conference t-shirt: number _____ \$ 15 _____

S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ XXL _____ XXXL _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

Do you have a utility vehicle you are willing to use for fieldtrip transportation? Y N

Will you be attending the Saturday night dinner? Y N

Will you be staying at the Holiday Inn Beaumont Plaza? Y N

Check _____ Mastercard _____ VISA _____ DISCOVER _____

Credit Card Number _____ Expiration(MM/YY) _____ Sec Code _____

Name Exactly as on Card _____

Billing Address for Card _____

Signature _____

**Make checks payable to and mail to: NPSOT, PO Box 3017, Fredericksburg, TX 78624
Fax form with credit card payment to: 866-527-4918**

Native Plant Society of Texas
PO BOX 3017
Fredericksburg, TX 78624-1929

GO WILD In The Thicket

Experience the wondrous diversity of the Big Thicket. This is an opportunity like none you've been offered before--a chance to explore the **richest ecosystem in the country**.
October 16, 17, 18 & 19, 2008 **Online symposium registration: www.npsotreg.org**

Host Hotel: Holiday Inn Plaza, 3950 I-H 10 South at Walden Road, Beaumont, TX 77705
Phone: 409-842-5995, www.holidayinn.com/beaumont-plaza,
Ask for Native Plant Society of Texas rate.

Double or King \$90

Corporate Suite (King & sleeper sofa) \$100

Executive Suite (2 rooms - bedroom & sitting room) \$110 plus tax

Overflow Hotels:

Comfort Suites - 5955 Walden Road, Beaumont, TX 77707, Phone 409-840-6001,
\$110.00 plus tax. Ask for Native Plant Society of Texas rate.

LaQuinta - 5820 Walden Road, Beaumont, TX 77707, Phone 409-842-0002
\$125.00 plus tax

Book rooms as soon as possible because they tend to fill up.

Chapter Display Space: Let us know how much space you need - 1/2 table or full table.
Contact: Ellen Cover, Phone: 409-880-8257, email: eccover@my.lamar.edu,
Dept. of Biology, PO Box 10037, Beaumont, TX 77710

Silent Auction: Be generous. This fundraiser contributes to NPSOT scholarships and is organized by the Houston Chapter.

Please contact: Linda Knowles, Phone: 281-558-3710, email: dknowlespe@aol.com

Beaumont Chapter Contact:

Sharon S. Odegar, Phone: 409-886-1877, email: odegar@att.net,
6 Stradford Dr., Orange, TX 77632