



David P. Lewis

Presentation,

“History of Mycology in Texas”

Collections of fungi in Texas date back to the 1840s. This presentation will tell the story of early collectors, what they found, and bring up to date mycological research that is continuing in Texas.

Bio

David P. Lewis, M.S., is a retired chemist and avid mycologist with a BS and MS from Lamar University, Beaumont, TX, where his master’s thesis was based on a study of East Texas mushrooms. David is currently a Research Associate with the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, IL, where 5000 collections of his fungi are deposited. He is a Research Associate with the Tracy Herbarium at Texas A&M University where 5500 of his fungi collections are deposited. From 2006 to 2018, he had been the Fungal TWIG (coordinator for mycologists) for the Big Thicket National Preserve All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory. He is past president of the Gulf States Mycological Society, has authored many papers related to mycology, and discovered several new species of mushrooms (four species are named for him). In 2009 he received The North American Mycological Association’s award for Contributions to Amateur Mycology, and in 2010, the R.E. Jackson Conservation Award from the Big Thicket Association. In 2021 he received the Mycological Society of America “Gordon and Tina Wasson award” for contributions to Mycology. With Alan and Arleen Bessette, he co-authored “Mushrooms of the Gulf Coast States- A Field Guide to Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida”. He and his late wife Patricia live on 60 heavily wooded acres in Newton County, Texas where they study plants, fungi and wildlife.