



Dr. James E. Van Kley

Professor, Department of Biology, Stephen F. Austin State University

Presentation,

“Introducing 'Plants of the Pineywoods Part 1'.”

We introduce "Plants of the Pineywoods-Part 1". Written by James Van kley and beautifully Illustrated by Bruce Lyndon Cunningham, it covers the herbaceous native and naturalized eudicotyledons (largest of flowering plant groups) along with the herbaceous magnoliids and the waterlillies (Nymphaeiids) of the Pineywoods of eastern Texas and western Louisiana. Filling a major gap in earlier treatments, it marks the first time that there has been comprehensive coverage of the entire flora for this region in a local-level manual. Other publications including 'Flora of East Texas vol. I' (Diggs et al. 2006) cover most remaining plant groups). A second volume, currently in progress, will treat the ferns, lycophytes, & monocotyledons and a proposed third volume will cover the woody plants. The manual provides an important resource for scientists, naturalists, land mangers, recreationists, and others who wish to identify the native plants around them. It is available at <https://forester-artist.com/>.

Bio

James E. Van Kley was born in Chicago, IL and grew up in Grand Rapids MI, USA where where he attended Calvin University. He continued his education with an MS in Biology from Central Michigan University and a PhD in Forest Ecology from Purdue University. In 1993, he took his current position at Stephen F. Austin state University (SFASU) in the east Texas Pineywoods. He teaches a variety of both undergraduate and graduate courses in areas including general biology, botany, local flora, plant systematics, plant ecology, and wetland ecology and he has authored several publications in his field of plant ecology. His research interests can be broadly summed up as "What grows in the woods and why". They include description and analysis of the natural vegetation and ecosystems of the Texas Pineywoods and the impact of invasive

species such as giant salvinia on local wetland ecosystems, changes over time in permanent plots in local forest ecosystems, and floristic botany. Dr. Van Kley is curator of the herbarium at SFASU (ASTC) and of the SFASU Biology Conservatory (live plant) Collection. He also maintains the 'Pineywoods Plants Digital Gallery' (a photographic documentation of the local east Texas flora) along with several other related galleries. Beyond academia, his interests include exploring Nature, botanical photography, playing music, gardening, mountain biking, hiking, canoeing, and other outdoor activities.