



Matt Buckingham,

Naturalist, Photographer, and Protected Species Biologist

Presentation,

“An Overview of the Plant Communities of the Pineywoods”

This presentation will provide a broad overview of the varied natural communities present within the Pineywoods. It will also discuss current threats and conservation concerns.

Bio

Matt Buckingham is a naturalist, photographer, and protected species biologist based out of Lufkin. Matt has spent the last 20 years exploring the Pineywoods and studying and photographing the region's incredible biodiversity. Matt received a bachelors in wildlife management from Stephen F. Austin State University (SFA) in 2007. In 2011 Matt graduated from SFA with a masters in biology with an emphasis on ecology and evolutionary biology. For his thesis, Matt studied the bird communities of Iguazu National Park, Argentina. While in Argentina he met his wife, Carolina, who was studying monkeys at the time. Matt has a long history of working as a research biologist on a variety of projects including: the ecology of inland American alligators in the Pineywoods, migration ecology of Neotropical migrant songbirds along the Texas coast, nesting and population ecology of Snowy Plovers in the Texas panhandle, and developing population estimates and habitat preference models for secretive marshbirds in the Chesapeake Bay. Matt previously worked as a conservation biologist for Bayou Land Conservancy, a land trust in the Houston area. Currently Matt's work focuses on endangered species conservation, road ecology research, finding innovative ways to reduce impacts to wildlife from road construction activities, and developing solutions for wildlife/vehicle conflicts. Matt and Carolina currently live in Lufkin and spend as much time as possible exploring the Pineywoods around their home.