

Recommended Reading List for the Big Thicket/East Texas rev. 08/2015

Backwoodsmen: Stockmen and Hunters Along a Big Thicket River Valley

Author: Thad Sitton

A detailed social history of the back-country stockmen, hunters and woodsmen of the Neches River in southeastern Texas.

Big Thicket Legacy

Author: Compiled and edited by Campbell and Lynn Loughmiller

A compilation of folklore, Texas history, natural history and the relationships of people to their environment

Big Thicket Plant Ecology: An Introduction

Author: Geraldine Ellis Watson

Originally published in 1979, this book explores the ecology, geology and environmental regions of the Big Thicket National Preserve, located in East Texas. A classic for those new to the resources of the region.

Boyhood Memories

Author: Ken Pelt, Folk Artist

Ken is a well-known local resident and former Hardin County Commissioner. He presents his paintings as well as prose on the history of his family and growing up in the Big Thicket.

Conserving Southern Longleaf: Herbert Stoddard and the Rise of Ecological Land Management

Author: Albert G. Way

Stoddard's pioneering perspective on how southern natural resource managers can manage wildlife and forests. A must read for the land manager for longleaf forestry.

Ecology of a Cracker Childhood

Author: Janisse Ray

Ray' chronicles a life of growing up poor in a junkyard in Baxley, Georgia and her love for the longleaf pine forest.

Fat Lighter: Or Southern Longleaf Heritage

Author: Jonathan P. Streich

This book has a little bit of everything regarding the natural history, cultural history of the longleaf pine system. Lots of natural history and historical photographs included.

Giant Under the Hill: A History of the Spindletop Oil Discovery at Beaumont, Texas in 1901

Authors: Judith Walker Linsley, Ellen Walker Rienstra and Jo Ann Stiles

A history of the Spindletop discovery of oil with the Lucas Gusher in Beaumont, forever changing the course of the industrial course of America.

Land of Bears and Honey: A Natural History of East Texas

Authors: Joe C. Truett and Daniel W. Lay

A classic read on the people and natural history of East Texas. Some have compared this book to Aldo Leopold's Sand County Almanac.

Let The River Run Wild! -Saving The Neches

Author: Frances Edward Abernethy

Photography by Adrian F. Van Dellen and Friends

A beautiful collection of photographs of the wild and beautiful Neches River. Interesting and witty narrative from "Ab" Abernethy, an iconic figure in east Texas culture who makes the case to protect this last free river. This is an inspiring oversized book and great addition for your table/library.

Longleaf

Author: Roger Reid

Young adult fiction set in the Conecuh National Forest, south of Andalusia, Alabama.

Longleaf Pine

Author: W.G. Wahlenberg

Published in 1947, this is "the" book to read from the historical perspective on longleaf. If you ever find a copy of this book, hold onto it!

Looking for Longleaf: The Fall and Rise of an American Forest

Author: Lawrence S. Earley

A comprehensive study of the longleaf pine ecosystem, but it reads like a history book.

Nameless Towns: Texas Sawmill Communities 1880-1942

Author: Thad Sitton and James H. Conrad

Drawing on oral history, company records and other archival sources, Sitton and Conrad recreate the lifeways of the sawmill communities.

Nature Lover's Guide to the Big Thicket

Author: Howard Peacock

This guide provides tips on identifying plants and animals residing in the Big Thicket National Preserve's ten diverse ecosystems, suggests trails to follow and

provides descriptions of sights to see and recreational opportunities to enjoy. Also include photographs and checklists to help plan your trip.

Nature of the Forest: Temple-Inland's Timberlands in the Twenty-First Century

Author: David Baxter

With two million acres in four states, Texas, Louisiana, Alabama and Georgia, this book highlights the wildlife, special places and challenges forest managers face in the coming century.

Paddling the Wild Neches

Author: Richard M. Donovan

With the goal of keeping the Neches River flowing free, East Texas native and riverman Richard Donovan takes readers canoeing down 200-mile stretch of the Upper Neches River.

Realms of Beauty: The Wilderness Areas of East Texas

Author: Edward C. Fritz

Explores the wilderness areas in East Texas and features 55 color photographs of these special places.

Saving the Big Thicket: From Exploration to Preservation 1685-2003

Author: James J. Cozine, Jr.

A classic account of the region's history and a play-by-play narrative of the prolonged fight for the establishment of the Big Thicket National Preserve in 1974.

Sawdust Empire: The Texas Lumber Industry, 1830-1940

Authors: Robert S. Maxwell and Robert D. Baker

A comprehensive story of logging, lumbering and forest conservation.

Tales From the Big Thicket

Author: Francis E. Abernethy, Editor

A collection of stories about the Big Thicket and its people, including the Alabama-Coushatta Nation, the Civil War, and legendary families.

Texas Natural History: A Century of Change

Author: David J. Schmidly

Schmidly compares the 1905 Vernon Bailey Report of the status of mammals in Texas to the state of mammals in 2002.

The Art of Managing Longleaf: A Personal History of the Stoddard-Neel Approach

Authors: Leon Neel with Paul S. Sutter and Albert G. Way

Neel, a colleague and successor of Herbert Stoddard, documents the management system that not only protected Greenwood Plantation, but other woodlands in the Red Hills of Georgia.

.

The Big Thicket of Texas: A Comprehensive Annotated Bibliography

Author: compiled by Lois Williams Parker

This was the first comprehensive annotated bibliography on the Big Thicket- a through record of publications about this extraordinary region.

The Big Thicket: A Challenge for Conservation

Author: Peter Gunter

Dr. Gunter described the history and rich diversity of the region and calls for immediate action on the part of conservationists and politicians to protect the remaining Big Thicket lands and waterways.

The Big Thicket Guidebook: Exploring the Backroads and History of Southeast Texas

Author: Lorraine G. Bonney

At 850 pages this book provides great detail on all things Big Thicket. Fifteen tours with maps are included.

The 35 Best Ghost Towns in East Texas and 220 Other Towns We Left Behind

Author: Bob Bowman

Includes fascinating stories about the region's most famous forgotten communities- many of them tied to early sawmills.

The Texas Legacy Project: Stories of Courage and Conservation

Author: Edited by David Todd and David Weisman

This book holds stories from more than sixty people who provide personal reminiscences and first-hand accounts of efforts to protect and conserve land and wildlife for public health and for a voice in media and politics.

The Art of Managing Longleaf: A Personal History of the Stoddard-Neel Approach

Authors: Leon Neel with Paul S. Sutter and Albert G. Way

Neel, a colleague and successor of Herbert Stoddard, documents the management system that not only protected Greenwood Plantation, but other woodlands in the Red Hills of Georgia.

The Grail Bird: the Rediscovery of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker

Author: Tim Gallagher

Gallagher, one of the first people to have observed the controversial sighting of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, thought to have been extinct for nearly sixty years.

The Red-Cockaded Woodpecker: Surviving in a Fire-Maintained Ecosystem

Authors: Richard N. Conner, D. Craig Rudolph and Jeffery R. Walters

Three of the leading experts on the Red-cockaded woodpecker offer a comprehensive overview on all that is currently known about the woodpecker's biology and natural history and the ecology of the fire-maintained forests it requires for survival.

The Southern Forest: A Chronicle

Author: Laurence C. Walker

Walker chronicles the constant demands that people have made on forest resources in the South and the difficulties foresters face in balancing competing interests in the forest.

Treasures of the Longleaf Pine Naval Stores

Author: Carroll B. Butler

With 111 photographs, 138 illustrations and text, the author takes the reader through the history of this remarkable industry and its people.

Compiled by Wendy J. Ledbetter, Forest Mgr., TNC