

6th Big Thicket and West Gulf Coastal Plain Science Conference

Abstract Submission Guidelines

1. All abstracts should be submitted as MS Word documents via email to BigThicket2015@gmail.com. Please put something about abstract submission in the subject line.
2. Use Times New Roman 12 pt font for all sections of the abstract.
3. Presentation title should be bolded and all caps.
4. Author's names should appear in all caps. When authors are from different departments or institutions, please use a number in superscript after each name that corresponds to the author affiliation. If all authors have the same affiliation, no number is needed (see sample abstract).
5. The abstract body should not exceed 300 words.
6. At the top of the abstract submission, please indicate "oral presentation" or "poster presentation" as appropriate.
7. Example Abstract:

Oral Presentation

ROOST SELECTION BY RAFINESQUE'S BIG-EARED BATS AND SOUTHEASTERN MYOTIS IN EAST TEXAS.

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Abstract: Bottomland hardwoods throughout the southeast United States represent the ecological range for two bat species of concern: the Rafinesque's big-eared bat and the Southeastern myotis. The Pineywoods eco-region of east Texas is the western extent of the range for both species. Our objective was to identify characteristics of cavity trees and surrounding habitat that influence diurnal roost selection in east Texas. During the summers of 2008-2009, we located 17 new roosts within cavity trees in 7 study areas across the region. We compared characteristics of roost trees with randomly selected cavity trees in the areas using univariate analysis of variance. There was no difference in roost characteristics between the two bat species ($p = 0.84$). Both species showed an affinity for roosting in trees of the genus *Nyssa*, with 67% of diurnal roosts in *Nyssa aquatica* and 29% in *Nyssa sylvatica*. These two species comprised approximately 15% of available trees with cavities in the area but over 90% of roost trees. Our results indicate that characteristics of the individual trees, including diameter at breast height, interior cavity dimensions, number of entrances into the cavity, and the distance of the cavity entrance from the ground were the most significant variables impacting roost selection. Characteristics describing a tree's location on the landscape (e.g., distance to a permanent water source, distance to the closest habitat edge, and distance to a man-made structure) also influenced roost selection, but characteristics of the stand around the tree (e.g., canopy closure, stem density) appeared to have minimal influence. These data will be used to identify areas likely to contain suitable roosting sites for these species and prioritize future conservation efforts.