

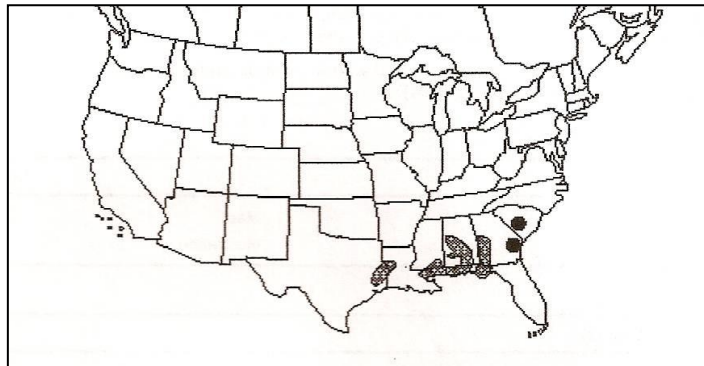
*Big Thicket Association  
 Big Thicket Natural Heritage Trust  
 Magnolia Garden Club  
 Native Plant Society of Texas (Beaumont)  
 Nature Conservancy  
 Newton Garden Club  
 Outdoor Nature Club  
 Others Pending*



# **PARTNERS TO PRESERVE PYRAMID MAGNOLIAS**

Texas conservationists have an opportunity to acquire a 296-acre tract with several populations of the rare pyramid magnolia [*Magnolia pyramidata*]. Texas has several small populations in Newton and Jasper counties. Other populations exist along the coastal plain in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina and Texas.

*Flora of North America* states that the magnolia is "very local and nowhere abundant." The Center for Plant Conservation indicates that the tree is threatened, but that there is no formal management plan.



## **GIFT FORM**

\_\_\_\_ I will help ensure the protection of the pyramid magnolia with a contribution.  
 \_\_\_\_ I will save \_\_\_\_ acre(s) at \$1,000 per acre

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

My check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed. *GIFTS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE*

Make check payable to: Big Thicket Association Land Fund, and mail to:  
 P.O. Box 198, Saratoga, TX 77585

## BACKGROUND



The Big Thicket Association was incorporated in 1964 as a non-profit organization (501-C-3) and led efforts to establish the Big Thicket National Preserve. Through the years, the Association has worked for appropriations to acquire land, to build facilities, and to expand the Preserve, that now includes 106,000 acres. At present, BTA partners with the Preserve on an All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory, entitled Thicket of Diversity.

Beyond the Preserve, the Association supports efforts to fund and to expand state and national parks, wildlife refuges, and private preservation projects. On the cultural front, our publication project, the "Temple Big Thicket Series," has published five books. BTA is actively in eco-tourism programs.

Because of the dwindling populations of pyramid magnolias across the Southeastern States, BTA has made efforts to encourage protection of populations in Newton and Jasper counties. We sponsored two recent field trips and conducted an incomplete species inventory on the 296-acre property. We now have the opportunity to acquire this tract.

### Questions / Answers

**Funds Needed:** The initial goal is to raise \$250,000. BTA has pledged \$10,000 to begin the campaign. Groups and individuals will be asked to contribute to the fund at any level or to "Save-An-Acre." **Contributed funds** will be placed in a Big Thicket Association special account, and the Association will provide information to partners on progress of the project.

**Fund Sources:** Partners will appeal to their members and to conservation friends for support. Club projects in several colleges will attempt to recruit student advocates at \$5 each. All gifts are tax deductible.

**Management:** The conservation easement will be held by a land trust, and a management plan will be drafted by the partners participating in the project.

**For more information, contact:** BTA President Bruce R. Drury, 409-892-9108 (bdrury@gt.rr.com); Maxine Johnston, 936-262-8522 (maxine@mxjohnston.com); or Dr. Carl Knight, Eastfield College, 3737 Motley Drive. Mesquite, TX 75126 / 972 860-7152 (carlknight@dcccd.edu)



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