

Big Thicket Plant Ecology

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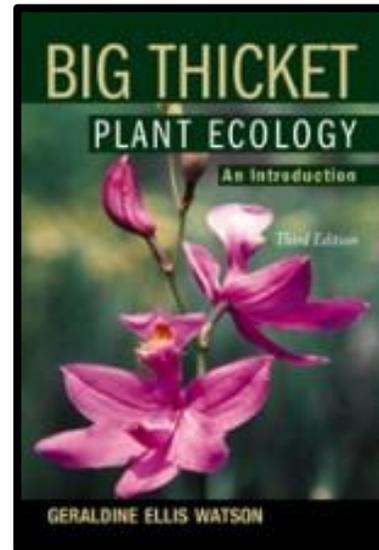
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REVIEW: Big Thicket Plant Ecology: An Introduction Journal of the Botanical Research Institute of Texas 1(1)

This small volume is the starting point for anyone interested in the biology of the Big Thicket--an expanded and updated edition of the original from 1975. Included are discussions of the definition of the "Big Thicket," geological history, plant communities and succession, and descriptions of the subdivisions ("units") of the Big Thicket National Preserve. Good maps, diagrams and photos.

REVIEW: Big Thicket Plant Ecology December 17, 2006, The Brazosport Facts

Review by Marie Beth Jones

This third edition of Watson's 1979 publication offers an overview of the plant biology, ecology, geology and environmental regions of the Big Thicket. Black and white photos of various sections of the Big Thicket, as well as maps and drawings illustrate the text.

It's a book for those interested in both the area and its plants, which vary from longleaf pines and tupelo swamps to savannah wetlands and hardwood flats.

Watson, a native of Tyler County, lives on a private nature preserve in East Texas. She worked as a plant ecologist and park ranger for the National Park Service for 15 years, and is the author of *Reflections on the Neches*, which was also published by the University of North Texas Press.

REVIEW: Big Thicket Plant Ecology: An Introduction
Southeastern Naturalist, Vol. 6., No. 1

This third edition is updated from the 1979 original. Details the botanical history and ecology of the East Texas ecotone known as Big Thicket, a landscape only partially protected as a National Preserve. Describes different plant communities that converge in this unique place. Includes descriptions of each of the Big Thicket National Preserve units (geographically separate protected areas in the larger Big Thicket area). Ends with brief description of human use and impact. Includes black and white photos and many maps and illustrations. Useful for anyone interested in the Big Thicket region.

S.O'M.

REVIEW: Big Thicket Plant Ecology
Port Arthur News

Big Thicket Details Review by Darragh Doiron, Port Arthur News

I've talked to local men who gather palmetto-hardwood for Palm Sunday fronds at a church near you. The soils of the palmetto flats in the Pine Island Bayou watershed were deposited by the Trinity River during the late Pleistocene or early Holocene epochs, according to Geraldine Ellis Watson in *Big Thicket Plant Ecology: An Introduction* from University of North Texas Press. Our local woodsmen and women ought to love this resource.

REVIEW: Big Thicket Plant Ecology
East Texas Historical Association

Review by F.E. Abernethy

Ecology is the study of nature's big picture, of all the plants and animals and how they get along in the soils and the weathers of their environment. Geraldine Watson's *Big Thicket Plant Ecology* (University of North Texas Press) shows how that relationship exists in southeast Texas' Big Thicket. Watson recognizes that three Big Thickets exist: the traditional bear hunter's Thicket along Pine Island

Bayou; the ecological Big Thicket that occupies the basin between the Trinity and Sabine rivers; and the Big Thicket National Preserve that consists of 96,200 acres of related plant and wildlife areas set aside by the national government as a public preserve. Watson relates the ecology of these three areas and shows how soils and climates all came together to create a unique environment, one friendly to all kinds of life, from dry land cacti to swamp land bladderworts. Ecologies came together in the Big Thicket to create a biological crossroads of plant life.

**REVIEW: Big Thicket Plant Ecology: An Introduction
Spring 2007, Wildlife Activist, No. 58**

Originally published in 1979, Geraldine Ellis Watson's *Big Thicket Plant Ecology* is back in print. This updated edition explores the plant biology, ecology, geology, and environmental regions of the Big Thicket National Preserve. The Big Thicket of East Texas at one time covered area of nearly 5,500 square miles. The impacts of humans have reduced its size and changed its character greatly. After decades of research, Watson concluded that the Big Thicket was unique for its biological diversity, due mainly to interactions of geology and climate. The Big Thicket National Preserve was created to preserve the best of what remains. The preserve covers 84,550 acres in nine widely separated units. The book is divided into four chapters that cover keys to understanding the Big Thicket, the ecological Big Thicket, the Big Thicket National Preserve, and man in the Big Thicket. *Big Thicket Plant Ecology*, illustrated with many black and white photographs and a number of useful maps, is interesting reading and an important reference work for the region.

FHB

**REVIEW: Big Thicket Plant Ecology: An Introduction, 3rd Ed.
September 2007, University of North Texas Press Titles appearing in
SciTechBook News**

Watson, a former National Park Service plant ecologist/ranger who lives on her private nature reserve in East Texas, offers an in-depth introduction to the uniquely diverse ecology of the Big Thicket National Preserve. She also traces the history of ongoing preservation efforts. Illustrations include geographical and geological maps; a diagram of the interrelationships of Big Thicket plant communities; and B&W photos of flora and habitat including thickets (natural and unnatural), pine savannah wetlands, the grass pink orchid, palmetto hardwood flats, and cypress-tupelo swamps. The book was originally published in 1979. (Annotation ©2007 Book News Inc. Portland, OR)



Grass Pink Orchids and Pitcher Plants at Watson Native Plant Preserve

Geology, climate and time shaped a Texas biological crossroads. This thoughtful analysis explains the region's ecology and plant associations and its changing face from human impact. It provides details on units now protected in the Big Thicket National Preserve and challenges future conservation efforts.

Mary C. Johnston, Big Thicket Association President 2011-12