

Biology 208 Field Trip

Big Thicket, East Texas

March 24-26, 2006

The Big Thicket National Preserve consists of nine land units and six water corridors encompassing more than 97,000 acres. Big Thicket was the first Preserve in the National Park System established October 11, 1974, and protects an area of rich biological diversity. A convergence of ecosystems occurred here during the last Ice Age. It brought together, in one geographical location, the eastern hardwood forests, the Gulf coastal plains, and the midwest prairies. On December 15, 1981, the Preserve was designated an International Biosphere Reserve by the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Man and the Biosphere Program.

Trip Schedule

Friday, March 24 – We will LEAVE UT from the van parking area (Parking Garage 1) at 3:00p (start loading gear earlier than this). For a list of suggested items to bring, see the attached sheet. Please be punctual so we can get out of Austin as soon as possible. We will head directly for the Big Thicket Field Station in Saratoga. Once at the field station we will unload gear and start preparing dinner. We will stay at the field station which has beds, so there will be no need to pitch tents. There will be mattresses and pillows, but no towels. I recommend you bring a light sleeping bag to throw on top of the mattress. After dinner we can do some night driving or hang out at the field station (you may want to bring a board game or cards).

Saturday, March 25 – Alarms should be set for no later than 7:30 for showers, etc... We will eat breakfast and get out to the field by 9. After a brief exploration we will start our experiments. Bring sunscreen!

noon – we will eat lunch and visit the pitcher plant bog.

afternoon – back in the field to continue our field work.

evening – dinner, enter data in computes, talk about the data, board games, cards.....

Sunday, March 26 – We get up at 7:30a and have breakfast. We will take a look at and discuss the survivorship data collected at Oakwood cemetery. We will try and leave for Austin sometime in the morning.

If time permits we will visit a Pitcher-Plant and or Sundew Bog.

Suggestions for What to Take Along

Please pack light; we all have to fit into three vans, including our bags! We'll pack all our things under seats and in the back.

Field clothing, sleeping bags or a blanket are a must! Do not bring tents.

A small **daypack**, which would allow easy movement and is large enough to carry water, camera, binoculars, field guide(s) and notebook, is highly recommended.

Suggestions for things you may want to bring:

Sleeping bag/pillow

plate and silverware

Towel and wash cloth (these will not be provided)

Insect repellent (YOU WILL WANT THIS)

Water bottle

Hat

Sunscreen lotion

Camera

Sunglasses

Field notebook/pen

Flashlight

Binoculars

Field guide(s)

Toothbrush/toothpaste

Soap, shampoo, and other toiletries

A few snack items; e.g. chips, crackers, etc..

Closed-toed shoes

Cost of the Trip:

Nothing. You may want to bring a small amount of cash for one or two stops (lunch on Sunday).