BIG THICKET ASSOCIATION
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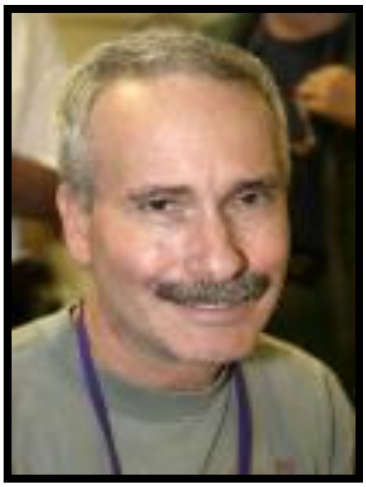

Dr. Michael Pogue,
US Department of Agriculture

Subject: Big Thicket Noctuidae- Lepidoptera, Butterflies and Moths

Dr. Michael Pogue is a Research Entomologist with the Systematic Entomology Lab, Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. His research interests include the systematics and biodiversity of the family *Noctuidae* or owlet moths, which are in the order (Lepidoptera) or butterflies and moths. From 1994-97 Ed Knudson and Charles Bordelon accumulated a moderate sized series of *Schinia varix*, a new species, first recognized in 1944 along road and trail margins within or adjacent to the Big Thicket National Preserve. It was also collected in other areas of Texas and Oklahoma in mature beech-loblolly pine forests, pine savannahs, baygall berry bogs and oak hickory areas. The paper describing the new species was submitted by the three researchers to Zootaxa in 2003 (Knudson et al., Zootaxa: 382:1-7; http://www.mapress.com/zootaxa.list/list2003.html).

Pogue continued researching the Noctuidea and conducted studies in October 2010 in the Turkey Creek and Hickory Creek Savannah Units and in May 2011 in Lance Rosier, Big Sandy, Jack Gore Baygall, Lower Neches River Corridor, and Turkey Creek Units of the Big Thicket National Preserve. A total of 660 specimens including 100 species have so far been collected. The purpose of the study was to generate species richness data and augment a list published by Knudson and Bordelon of the Lepidoptera of Big Thicket National Preserve. GIS analysis will determine if there are species that are restricted in habitat use and where these habitats are located within the Preserve.

The data gathered by Dr. Pogue at the Big Thicket National Preserve will be compared with studies at Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Tennessee and North Carolina and Valles Caldera National Preserve, New Mexico. The effort is part of the Thicket of Diversity All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory project managed in partnership with the Big Thicket National Preserve and the Big Thicket Association. Work by researchers is compiled and stored in a US Park Service database as a tool for resource managers.

Varixholo

Sphinx Moth