

Summary: Larry Brown, Tracheophytes (Vascular Plants)

Larry Brown's research with vascular plants is recognized for its expanse and longevity. He began his research long before the establishment of the Thicket of Diversity and achieved results through collaboration with other researchers as evidenced by his publications.

Brown co-published papers with Michael MacRoberts, of LSU's Biology Department, who collected with a NPS permit but did not submit raw data to ToD. At this time, ToD has copies for 3 papers with inventory work broken down by Big Thicket National Park unit. There are at least ??-

Mary C. Johnston recalls that Brown had limited technology skills and would submit a single paper copy of his publication rather than a digital one. Mona Halvorsen expressed agony over interpreting data into a usable format for the Taxa Tally. She was also given historical data from the 90's. She did extrapolate information, and Brown's research was shared with NPS. In 2010, NPS published a comprehensive document on vascular plants in the BTNP. I believe it incorporated Brown and Harcombe's research.

Brown was funded \$900 for Publication costs but a record of payment from ATBI is not clear. In early days of ToD, NPS made some payments directly. It is not in ToD's Quicken record from establishment through 2010. Brown was funded for Survey of the Vascular Plants of the Big Thicket built on Paul Harcomb's Rice University research from 2003. \$2000 was approved Aug. 20, 2007. At the time, Linda Brindle was ToD Director. It was paid Sept 6, 2007 for supplies and travel. A copy of this proposal was not located. It is mentioned in the text of the next proposal.

Proposal of a Continuation of an ATBI grant 2008-09 was approved Oct 10, 2008 for \$2212. It was paid in two installments from Centennial Challenge funds.

A Proposal of a Continuation of an ATBI grant 2010-11 for \$2150 was approved.

Brown's orchid species list provided the best quality data information. This helped verify Joe Liggio's observations.

Brown does break down vascular plants by unit and is documented in publications. This data could be helpful in a future comparative study on presence or absence of vascular plants.

Other vascular plant researchers, Jason Sinhurst and Edwin Bridges were approved for \$1895 in April 2008. However, this project was cancelled. Sinhurst did do some work in the Big Thicket under a NPS permit.

Brown received the Charles Leonard Weddel Lifetime Achievement award in 2002 in the field of Texas Invasive Plants was recognized by the Big Thicket Association in 2012. He passed away July 2020. The Mercer Arboretum has spent many volunteer hours digitizing his records and

labeling his collections. Larry Brown was a “walking plant encyclopedia” and will be greatly missed.

Submitted by Mary C. Johnston, Nov. 14, 2020