

Summary: Hinton and Meyer, Tardigrades (Waterbears)

Dr. Harry Meyer and Dr. Julianna Hunter of McNeese State University researched tardigrades. Through the Thicket of Diversity they have identified 9-10 species to date in the Big Thicket National Preserve with two new to Texas.

Echiniscus virginicus was found in the Big Sandy Unit. *Pseudechiniscus brevimontannus* and *Macrobiotus tonolii* were found in the Beech Creek Unit and are new to Texas. *Minibiotus intermedius* is sausage shaped and very common. It has a mouth and claws and is also found in the Beech Creek Unit.

Hinton participated in a Bioblitz at the Field Research Station in Saratoga and at Discover Life in America Conference at Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

A No Cost addendum was approved for travel expenses to an international symposium.

Data quality was weak. Mona Halvorsen made numerous requests for more specific data. Much of the findings for Big Thicket tardigrade research was found through publication googlescholar searches.

Submitted by: Mary C. Johnston, November 3, 2020

In 2026, ToD Chair Mary C. Johnston and Intern, Natalia Doiron, reviewed past records. The species count of 8 remains unchanged on the Tally 2026. The 8 species and their names are verified. An additional two species were noted in documents, but data was missing. As a result, they are recorded in the Historical Tally, not the official one. An email was shared with Dr. Meyer and Dr. Hinson in the spring of 2026 but no response has been received to date. The research is older and retirement or health may be the possible reason for the lack of communication.

It was noted that Dr. and Mrs. Alan Hinton donated over \$30,000 to the McNeese State University Foundation as an initial installment toward a \$150,000 pledge to establish the Juliana Hinton Scholarship in honor of Alan's mother Dr. Juliana Hinton. McNeese has requested approval to name the Frasch Hall Auditorium in Dr. Juliana Hinton's honor. Dr. Hinton's lifetime of research on many levels has been recognized.

Submitted by: ToD Chair Mary C. Johnston and Intern, Natalia Doiron, April 2026