**Dale A. Kruse, President, Thicket of Diversity**

Dale Kruse served as President of the Thicket of Diversity; the Big Thicket Association’s effort to provide a comprehensive inventory of plants and animals in the Big Thicket National Preserve. Dale currently resides in College Station, Texas, where he has held the position of Curator at the S. M. Tracy Herbarium at Texas A&M University since 1999.

While serving as ToD President, he was also in the latter stages of completing a Doctoral degree at Texas A&M University in the Department of Ecosystem Science and Management. His specific research interests focus on the systematics, ecology, and biogeography mosses, liverworts, and hornworts (bryophytes). Although he primarily works in Texas and the southeastern United States, he has also conducted field research in central Scotland and northern Mexico. In addition, Dale is the co-leader of the Bryophyte TWiG; conducting the first comprehensive inventory of bryophytes in the Big Thicket National Preserve. Dale has also served as Co-PI in several NPS funded projects to include an inventory of the vascular plants on the Natchez Trace Parkway in Tennessee, Alabama, and Mississippi, and is also a member of the Texas Trailing Phlox Working Group.

He received several grants. Most significant was the three year funding through WNPA.