**[Jerry Cook](http://www.shsu.edu/~bio_www/jcook.html), Sam Houston State University**

Jerry Cook’s leadership included being the first president of the Big Thicket All Taxa Biological Inventory, now called the Thicket of Diversity.

Jerry served as the Associate Vice President for Research and a biology professor at Sam Houston State University.  Prior to this appointment, he served as a program director at the National Science Foundation.  Jerry conducted research on the ecology and systematics of the insect families Formicidae and Strepsiptera, some of which parasitize ants.

The Cook Lab includes three graduate students, two of which are working on ant projects.  Other activities of Jerry Cook include: Associate Editor of the Southwestern Naturalist and Proceedings of the Entomological Society of Washington, Executive Director of the Institute for the Study of Invasive Species, and Curator of Entomology at the Sam Houston State University Natural History Collection.