**Summary- Dr. Thomas O. Powers- Nematodes**

Dr. Thomas Powers, University of Nebraska- Lincoln, is a nematode researcher who Mona Halvorsen recruited after attending Great Smoky Mountains Discover Life in America Conference. His credentials are most impressive.

Powers’ first ToD funded project for $10,000 “*Baseline Inventory of Freeliving and Plant-Parasitic Nematodes of the Big Thicket National Preserve*” was in 2013. Powers worked collaboratively with Ernest Bernard, University of Tennessee and traveled to Texas to collect specimens with a team. Mona helped plan, map and facilitate the trips. Powers’s time was limited so this assistance really boosted productivity. A no-cost extension for six months was filed in 2015. Powers turned in quality data and all required reports within the extended time period. He acquired approximately 676 specimens and was able to do initial identification. His initial research yielded at least 9 species new to science in the BITH. Additional DNA barcoding was necessary for full identification. He also presented a hands-on introduction to the biodiversity of terrestrial nematodes to personnel of BITH, the ToD and the general public at the Field Research Station on June 12-13, 2015.

Powers submitted a second research project, a continued nematode study in August 2015. It was approved in January 2016 and TCEQ mitigation funds were earmarked for payment. It was explained that TCEQ funds have restrictions and certain expenses, such as supplies, are not allowable. Expenses were modified. The project was approved for $9994 and expenditures, primarily for personnel and research tasks, followed TCEQ requirements. This quality project is now closed and approved funds have been expended.

The work of Dr. Thomas Powers is exceptional. His publication credits are extensive. The species in Table 1- lists potential nematodes New to Science!

**Submitted by Mary C. Johnston July 17, 2020**

