**Dr. Scott Solomon- Ants- Summary**

Dr. Scott Solomon of Rice University has a long history of collaboration with the Big Thicket National Preserve and then the Thicket of Diversity. He has coordinated mini-bioblitzes through environmental classes for many years and has been the recipient of several BTA research grants using Park Partnership and TCEQ funds. In 2019 Solomon received a significant National Science Foundation grant to study *Hymnoptera-* Ants. This project uses past ToD research to facilitate comparative studies on ants Pre and Post Hurricane Harvey. Kountze High School assisted with the collection of ants.

In 2013, $2759 was awarded for “*Student investigation of biological diversity in the Big Thicket*.” A No Cost Agreement on January 2014 extended the award. All funds have been expended.

In 2014, Solomon received approval for $5978.57 for “*Ant community dynamics in the Big Thicket National Preserve*.” He co-collaborated with Dr. Tom Miller, also of Rice University. A No Cost Agreement was signed April 2017. The project was finalized in October 2018. Outreach included 3 theses, a poster, and presentations at a Science Café and Kountze High School.

All BTA ToD projects are completed and financial records are in order.

As of July 2020 Taxa Tally for Ants has not been updated. Only the research by Dr. JoVonn Hill is reflected in the 2019 numbers. Dr. Solomon’s research needs to be added.

In 2019 Dr. Solomon received a significant award for Rice University from the National Science Foundation. He is using past ToD research to facilitate comparative studies on Hymenoptera-Ants Pre and Post Hurricane Harvey. Kountze High School assisted in the collection of ants. The effort is ongoing.

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