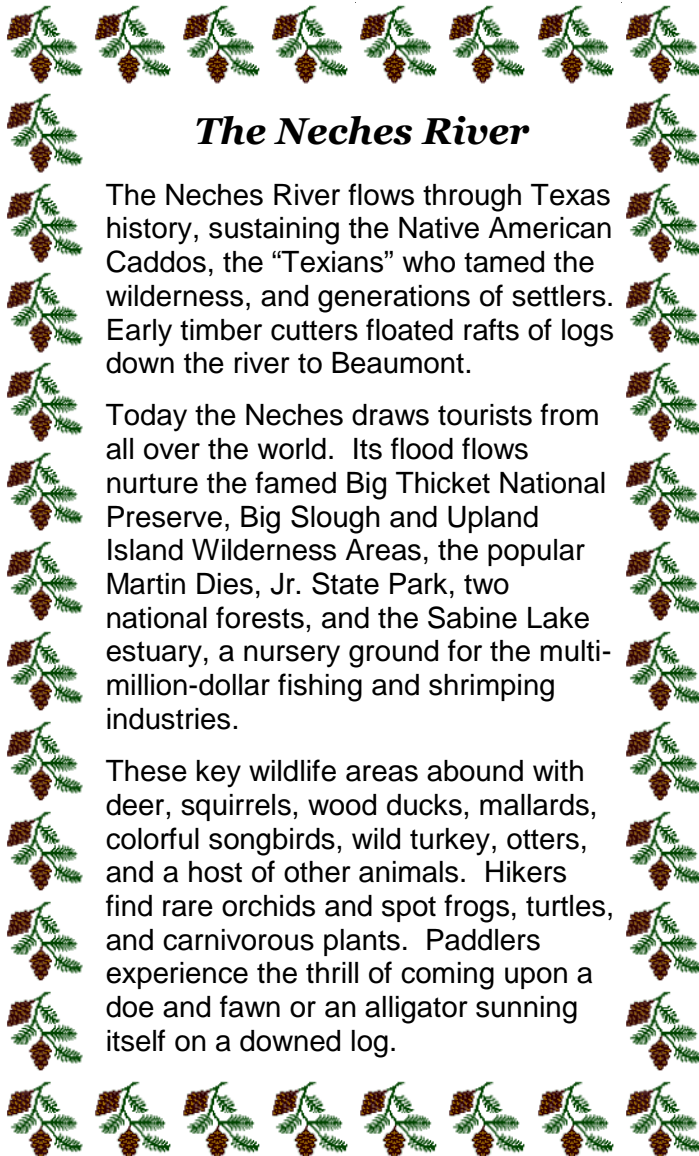


Enter your Neches Valley photographs in the *Life on the Neches* Photo Contest!

Texas Conservation Alliance and the Museum of East Texas invite you to submit photos to the *Life on the Neches* photography competition!

A hundred photographs submitted will be displayed at the Museum from March through May of 2009 and the top twelve winning photos will become part of a traveling exhibit that tours East Texas. Photographs may depict the river, its flora and fauna, bottomland forests, evidence of the region's history, economic benefits, life on the river, the Big Thicket National Preserve or other refuges, and river-based recreation found in the Neches River region.

This juried contest challenges you to capture the Neches – its beauty, history, bottomland forests, flowers, animals, or value to the East Texas economy. Just follow the rules below and join us in celebrating this beautiful river valley!



The Neches River

The Neches River flows through Texas history, sustaining the Native American Caddos, the "Texians" who tamed the wilderness, and generations of settlers. Early timber cutters floated rafts of logs down the river to Beaumont.

Today the Neches draws tourists from all over the world. Its flood flows nurture the famed Big Thicket National Preserve, Big Slough and Upland Island Wilderness Areas, the popular Martin Dies, Jr. State Park, two national forests, and the Sabine Lake estuary, a nursery ground for the multi-million-dollar fishing and shrimping industries.

These key wildlife areas abound with deer, squirrels, wood ducks, mallards, colorful songbirds, wild turkey, otters, and a host of other animals. Hikers find rare orchids and spot frogs, turtles, and carnivorous plants. Paddlers experience the thrill of coming upon a doe and fawn or an alligator sunning itself on a downed log.

Contest Rules

- Contestants may submit up to 5 photographs.
- Photos must be taken in the Neches River Valley or be of animals that occur in the Neches Valley.
- Photos may be 35 mm slides, 4'X6" prints, or a disk of digital images. No digitally manipulated photographs will be accepted.
- Deadline for submission is Monday, January 5, 2009.
- Address for submitting:
Museum of East Texas
503 N. Second Street
Lufkin, TX 75901
- Contestants whose photos are selected for exhibiting will be required to provide a *framed* copy of the photo.

To obtain a full prospectus, contact the Museum of East Texas at 936-639-4434 or metlufkin@gmail.com.