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## FIVE NEW PRESERVES ARE ADDED

Since the last newsletter NAPA has added five new preserves to make a total of thirty-five throughout the state. And what wonderful additions these are! Each is unique in its own way. Here they are:

### WALKERS CREEK PRESERVE

This preserve is located in Reklaw, a few miles east of Rusk. Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Davis had often wished that they could preserve the beauty and diversity of the property in its natural state. They contacted NAPA and when we saw the site, we agreed 100% that it should never be disturbed. Diversity, yes! In a short afternoon walk we listed 39 species of trees and 36 species of herbaceous plants - this was in March before many of the forbs had made their appearance.

Mr. Davis says that he has counted five species of hickory (including one enormous shagbark we saw that was so tall it had to be photographed in two sections), five species of oak, basswood, blackgum, black cherry, hop hornbeam, American holly... the list goes on and on.

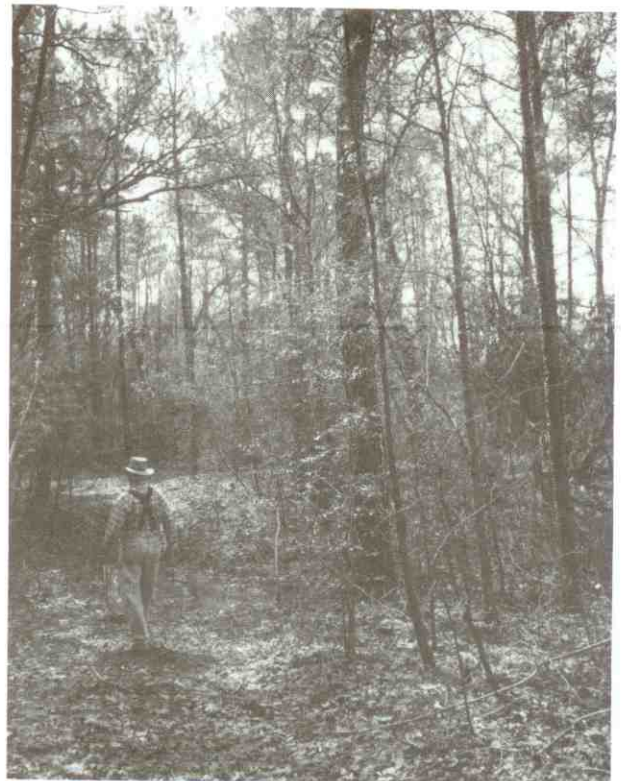
The area is drained by "wet weather" branches that are dry in mid summer, but the Angelina river is only about 750 feet east of the property line so wildlife remains on the site year round.

Along with the beauty of the vegetation, the topography is varied and interesting. There is a high bluff over one of the little creeks, a gentle hill up to a higher area, a rolling meadow, and a low section by another creek where there is much evidence that animals come for a drink.

Mr. and Mrs. Davis chose the name for the preserve for the fact that the old home of the

family for whom Walker County and the creek are named is just behind their land. We were surprised to discover that the town of Reklaw is Walker spelled backwards.

How blessed we are that Mr. and Mrs. Davis chose NAPA to watch over this lovely site!



Eugene Davis strolls down a path between the oak and hickory trees on the Walker Creek Preserve on a cool day in early March

### BEAR CREEK PRESERVE

At the January NAPA annual meeting, Ned Fritz and George Russell introduced the idea of establishing the Holy Trinity Scenic River. The name derives from the title given to the river by early Spanish explorers - La Trinidad Santisima.

### Bear Creek Preserve - Cont.

The goal is to preserve permanently twenty or more private or public forests along the banks of the Trinity from the Gulf to Fort Worth, leading to a state and federal designation as a Scenic River.

The plan was enthusiastically endorsed by the members present, and pledges of from \$1,000 to \$10,000 were made on the spot. With these funds and a large donation by an anonymous Dallasite, NAPA has purchased 232 acres of wetland hardwood forest at the confluence of Bear Creek in Walker County for \$132,000.

In Tarrant and Dallas Counties on the Upper Trinity, and in three counties near the Gulf, several Trinity forests are already under permanent protection, totaling more than 10,000 acres. Among these, are NAPA's James K. Allen Sanctuary in Fort Worth, our Gum Bayou Preserve near Liberty and the Russell Upland Hardwood Preserve. However, between these two stretches, more than a hundred miles of the Trinity is without permanent preserves. The middle Trinity stretch is where our main acquisition efforts will take place.



Native trees of the Bear Creek Preserve border the Trinity River

We aim to place at least 10,000 more acres under permanent preservation. Two additional tracts further up the river can be purchased for \$200,000. In order to do this, we need your help. Your tax deductible gift will establish you as a savior of the Holy Trinity Scenic River. NAPA will erect bronze plaques with the names of donors of \$1,000 or more

### NEW HUNT COUNTY PRESERVE

As we are getting this newsletter ready to go to the printer, we have been notified that NAPA is the recipient of a land donation from the estate of Louise Hanes. The land was left to an organization that would protect it. On the advise of the Attorney General, the County Judge chose NAPA. The 114 1/2 acre site is located in Hunt County on the waters of Pecan Creek about 20 miles Northeast of Greenville.

Is it lovely? We will let you know in the next newsletter!!

### RUSSELL UPLAND PINE/HARDWOOD FOREST

A Codicil to the wills of Kenneth L. Russell and Marjorie H. Russell and George H. Russell and Suzanne B. Russell of Huntsville has left a conservation easement on this magnificent 950 acres to NAPA. This will also be a part of the preserved land along the Holy Trinity Scenic River.

Several NAPA members who attended the Texas Committee On Natural Resources Annual Meeting held last October at George Russell's country conference center had the opportunity to walk through part of this upland forest of pines and hardwoods that have gone uncut for 100 years. The size and diversity of the trees, the richness of the understory trees, shrubs and flowers, the abundance of vines and fungi made this an experience long to be remembered. There are also alligators, red fox, white-tail deer, Bald eagles, White pelicans, and a wealth of other birds and animals along the shore of Lake Livingston and uphill westward.

Napa and the State of Texas will forever honor and praise the Russell family for finding and preserving this truly magnificent site.

