



Summary Information

Title: The Richard Donovan Collection

Collection Number: 2015:002

Creator: Richard Donovan

Collection Dates: 1994-2014

Extent: 4 cubic feet

Language: English

Collection Abstract: Donated by the creator, Richard Donovan, this collection records his efforts to preserve the Neches River and the forests of East Texas. It includes correspondence with fellow conservationists, media, elected officials, and concerned citizens, speeches he has given across the state, awards he has received for his conservation efforts, and articles he has written for area, state, and national publications. The collection also documents his 1999 Neches River canoe trip and the book that followed that trip, entitled *Paddling the Wild Neches*. This series includes correspondence with editors, publishers, reviewers, and readers, drafts, publication paperwork, and photographs. The majority of the collection consists of published articles.

Repository:

The History Center

102 N. Temple

Diboll, TX 75941

936-829-3543

www.thehistorycenteronline.com

Author/Processing Information: Processed by Louis Landers and Emily E. Hyatt, June 2015.

Biographical/Historical Note: A life-long resident of Angelina County, Richard Donovan has spent his life in the forests and river bottoms of East Texas. He spent his childhood and young adulthood hunting and fishing in the creeks and Neches River bottom, the beginning of a lifelong love for the natural world in general and East Texas's Neches River, specifically. Professionally, he worked for Diboll's Temple-Inland and owned a real estate agency, but always advocated for conservation, against pollution, and for preserving the unique ecosystems in East Texas. Mr. Donovan was inspired by a 1997 newspaper article about future water needs in Texas that would necessitate three more dams on the Neches River, thus ruining forever the surrounding forests and their resident wildlife, and in 1999 he set off on a canoe trip down the length of the river. His trip was closely followed by media throughout the area and following the trip he adapted his diary into a book published by Texas A&M University Press entitled *Paddling the*

Wild Neches, published in 2006. Mr. Donovan is a member of many conservation organizations, including the Sierra Club, Texas Conservation Alliance, Friends of the Neches River, and Friends of the National Forests in Texas.

Collection Scope and Content: Donated by the creator, Richard Donovan, this collection records his efforts to preserve the Neches River and the forests of East Texas. It includes correspondence with fellow conservationists, media, elected officials, and concerned citizens, speeches he has given across the state, awards he has received for his conservation efforts, and articles he has written for area, state, and national publications. The collection also documents his 1999 Neches River canoe trip and the book that followed that trip, entitled *Paddling the Wild Neches*. This series includes correspondence with editors, publishers, reviewers, and readers, drafts, publication paperwork, and photographs. The majority of the collection consists of published articles that range in topic from local history, forest conservation, river protection, awards, book events, reservoirs and water conservation, use of public lands, political views, and letters to the editor, among others.

Arrangement: The collection is divided into 7 series: Forest Conservation, Saving the Neches, Paddling the Wild Neches, Speeches and Articles, Local History, Personal, and Publications. Within each series, correspondence is the first sub-series, followed by other relevant items. The last series, publications, is divided by size, with small publications and newspaper clippings first (arranged chronologically), and large newspaper-sized publications in 3 oversize boxes (arranged chronologically).

Subject Terms

Topics

- Neches River (Tex)
- Conservation
- Environmentalism
- Texas A&M University Press
- Forestry
- Forest Conservation

Personal Names

- Donovan, Richard
- Donovan, Gina

Locations

- Neches River (Tex)
- Angelina County (Tex)

Access and Use

Access Restrictions: There are no access restrictions.

Acquisition Information: Richard Donovan donated the collection to The History Center in January 2015.

Custodial History: Collection was created by Richard Donovan and donated by creator to The History Center.

Citation: The Richard Donovan Collection, 1929-2014, 2015:002, The History Center, Diboll, TX

Related Material:

Magcohar Photograph Collection, 1940's-1970's, 2012:009, The History Center, Diboll, TX

Gina Donovan Collection, 1990's-2010's, 2014:013, The History Center, Diboll, TX

Dunkin's Ferry Collection, 1844-1950's, 2013:043, The History Center, Diboll, TX

Neches River Collection – Texas Conservation Alliance, 2012, 2012:011, The History Center, Diboll, TX

Albert Holmes Neches River Collection, 2000's, 2009:011, The History Center, Diboll, TX

Michael Banks Neches River Collection, 2000's, 2009:037, The History Center, Diboll, TX

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Bibliography:

Donovan, Richard. *Paddling the Wild Neches*. College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 2006.

Collection Inventory

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- Folder 8 Local History: U.S. Government Thrift Card, Lizzie Spell, Dunkin, Tx
- Folder 9 Local History: Angelina National Forest Heritage Tours
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- Series V:**
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- Folder 15 Speeches and Articles: Lufkin Rotary, December 2014
- Folder 16 Speeches and Articles: *God and Nature*

- Folder 17 Speeches and Articles: Airstream Harbor, 1/10/2014
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- Folder 22 Speeches and Articles: Lufkin Daily News, various dates
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- Folder 23 Publications: Bayou Banner, March 2004
- Folder 24 Publications: Big Thicket Reporter, May-June 2008
- Folder 25 Publications: Big Thicket Reporter, March/April 2010
- Folder 26 Publications: Big Thicket Reporter, October, November, December 2012
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- Folder 41 Lufkin Daily News, May 1929, "Tom Cunningham kills Charlie Morris at Neches River"
- Folder 42 Lufkin Weekly, May 24, 1929, "Tragedy occurs Sunday near Neches River Bridge" May 20, 1934 Cunningham given two year Sentence
- Folder 43 "Lufkin Daily News, May 20, 1929, Tragedy occurs Sunday near Neches River Bridge"
- Folder 44 Lufkin Daily News, May 4, 1944, "Zavalla child hit by car"
- Folder 45 Lufkin Daily News, Mar. 10, 1954, "Zavalla Defeats Huntington (70-60)"
- Folder 46 Diboll Free Press, July 29, 1965, "Pineland survived ghost town title, became lumber capitol" by Vivian Clark
- Folder 47 Lufkin Daily News, Oct. 3, 1999, "Lufkin man bringing attention to backwater ways of Neches River" by Zach Maxwell
- Folder 48 Lufkin Daily News, May 3, 2000, "Neches River a natural wonder" by Byron Nelson
- Folder 49 Houston Chronicle, June 11, 2000, "Plan to build dams threatens wild river" by Richard Stewart
- Folder 50 Lufkin Daily News, July 25, 2000, "Shows damage caused by off-road vehicles"
- Folder 51 Beaumont Enterprise, Mar. 26, 2001, "Timber industry accounts for thousands of jobs in Texas" by Andrea Wright
- Folder 52 Diboll Free Press, May 31, 2001, "Jimmie Rodgers" by Jonathan Gerland
- Folder 53 Beaumont Enterprise, Nov. 19, 2001, "Lufkin man pushes for Neches to be 'scenic' River"
- Folder 54 Forest Voice, Fall 2001, Editorial Cartoon
- Folder 55 Lufkin Daily News, Sept. 3, 2002, President George Bush Forest Plan; Editorial
- Folder 56 Lufkin Daily News, July 14, 2003, 'Radicals' Hurt Forest by Dave Oates
- Folder 57 Lone Star Sierran, Spring 2003, 24th Annual Texas Wilderness Pow Wow

Folder 58 Lufkin Daily News, Nov. 1, 2003, Sound Off Section

Folder 59 Lufkin Daily News, Nov. 14, 2003 "The Neches River is a gift to be preserved" by Marc C. Masferrer

Folder 60 Lufkin Daily News, Jan. 7, 2004, "The Neches is a friend" by March C. Masferrer

Folder 61 Conservation Progress Texas Committee On Natural Resources, January 2004

Folder 62 Lufkin Daily News, Dec. 12, 2004, "It's Our Water"; by Richard Donovan

Folder 63 Lufkin Daily News, April 16, 2006, "Walk in the Woods" by Gina Donovan

Folder 64 Lufkin Daily News, April 27, 2006, Annual Wilderness Pow Wow by Christine Diamond

Folder 65 Jacksonville Daily Progress, June 1, 2006, "East Texan publishes book on Neches River"

Folder 66 Diboll Free Press, June 2006, "Donovan book on Neches River for sale at The History Center" by Christine Diamond

Folder 67 Lufkin Daily News, June 2006, "History Center to exhibit Donovan Book" by Christine Diamond

Folder 68 Lone Star Sierran, Spring 2006, "Paddling the Wild Neches" slide show

Folder 69 Lufkin Daily News, June 17, 2006, "History Center exhibit Donovan's book" by Christine Diamond

Folder 70 Lufkin Daily News, June 24, 2006, "Donovan book on the Neches for sale at History Center" by Christine Diamond

Folder 71 Jasper Newsboy, June 28, 2006, Donovan book, "Paddling the Wild Neches" support preserve

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Folder 73 Lufkin Daily News, Dec. 4, 2006, "How Can I acquire a copy of Donovan's Neches River book?"; Op-Ed page

Folder 74 The Lufkin Daily News, May 25, 2007, "Next Donovan book signing event slated for Saturday"

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Folder 81 Timber Maps, Feb. 20, 2009

Folder 82 Beaumont Enterprise, July 6, 2009, "Fluid Destination" by Sarah Moore

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Folder 89 Lufkin Daily News, "Unconscionable Decision" by Richard Donovan, n.d.

Folder 90 The Lufkin Daily News, Dick and Gina Donovan at Democratic convention, n.d.

Folder 91 Lufkin Daily News, Museum on Sunday host's 'Afternoon on the Neches', n.d.

Folder 92 Donovan begins 400-mile Neches River Journey, n.d.

Folder 93 Lufkin Daily News, Gina Donovan, "From Neches River to Audubon Society" by Christine Diamond, n.d.

- Folder 94 Beaumont Enterprise, "Reservoir Reservation" by Lakeya Bromley, n.d.
- Folder 95 Beaumont Enterprise, "Industry Wonders: Sawdust Settle?" by Andrea Wright, n.d.
- Folder 96 Environmental Issue List, n.d.
- Folder 97 Beaumont Enterprise, "Water Rights once again need defense" Editorial, n.d.
- Folder 98 "Richard Donovan continues journey down Neches River" by Jay Graham, n.d.
- Folder 99 "Uncle Boy Dykes" by Ralph Ramos, n.d.
- Folder 100 "More Historic Murders in East Texas" by Bob & Doris Bowman, n.d.
- Folder 101 "Darwin Note," n.d.
- Folder 102 The Lufkin Daily News, "The Donovan Book on The Neches for sale at The History Center" by Christine Diamond, n.d.
- Folder 103 The Lufkin Daily News, "Zavalla woman dies of burns," n.d.
- Folder 104 Diboll Free Press, "Dick Donovan," n.d.
- Folder 105 Lufkin Daily News, "Smokey Bear," n.d.
- Folder 106 Houston County Courier, "The World," n.d.
- Folder 107 Lufkin Daily News, "Concrete boat ramp at Holly Bluff near Groveton," n.d.

Box 3

- Folder 1 *Paddling the Wild Neches*: Book Cover and Book Signing Poster
- Folder 2 Lufkin Daily News, Feb. 25, 1996, p.1,4 "Upland Island Wilderness Fire" by Hubert Jones
Lufkin Daily News, Dec. 14, 1998, p.1,4 "Neches River Basin" by Jim Liddell
- Folder 3 Lufkin Daily News, Oct. 2, 1999, p.1 "Lufkin man plants to canoe Neches" by Zach Maxwell
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- Folder 4 Lufkin Daily News, Oct. 3, 1999, p.1B-2B "Lufkin man brings attention to backwater days of Neches River"
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- Folder 7 Jacksonville Daily Progress, Dec. 5, 1999, p.2 "Neches River canoe trip strengthens Lufkin Man's preservation efforts" by Jay Graham
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- Folder 8 Lufkin Daily News, Feb. 27, 2000, p.3C "Donovan rings in new year with overnight camping trip." By Richard Donovan
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- Folder 9 Houston Chronicle, June 11, 2000, p.1 E-2E "Plan to build dams threatens wild river" by Richard Stewart
- Folder 10 Beaumont Enterprise, Mar. 25, 2001, p.1-2 "Balance in Timberland" by Amanda Wright
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- Folder 11 Lufkin Daily News, June 2, 2001, p.8 "Carnivorous plant well adapted to sandy soils of the Pineywoods" by Christine Diamond
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- Folder 13 Lufkin Daily News, Oct. 21, 2001, p.1B, 5B "Lufkin man rows to show opposition of dams"
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Tyler County Booster, Nov. 14, 2001, p.7 "Environmentalists, residents exchange views on Steinhagen Lake & Dam future"
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- Folder 16 Beaumont Enterprise, Nov. 22, 2001, p.8C "Canoeing Neches for a cause" by Robert Sloan
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- Folder 18 Beaumont Enterprise, May 19, 2002, p.1D, 8D "Legacy of Land" by Andrea Wright
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- Folder 30 Lufkin Daily News, Mar. 21, 2004, p.1, 7 "Appeals process, logging disturb
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- Folder 38 Lufkin Daily News, Mar. 19, 2006, p.16 "Aspiring film maker creates documentary on Neches River" by Christine Diamond
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- Folder 40 Jacksonville Daily Progress, April 13, 2006, p.1 "Hensarling speaks on immigration but protesters arrive to defend wildlife refuge" by Samantha Swindler
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- Folder 1 Lufkin Daily News, April 30, 2006, p.1B,4B "Building reservoirs an extensive process" by Christine Diamond
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