

Nature Quiz

TMN-COT Meeting June, 2014

by Jerry Krampota

Rivers, Creeks and Bayous
of Brazoria County

Species Quiz # 1

The Brazos River is the namesake of Brazoria County.

How large is it compared to other Texas Rivers that are found between the Rio Grande and Red River?

1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th

The length of the river in miles is

680 930 1280 1410



Hwy 35/Brazos River,
Photo P. Romfh

Species Quiz # 2

The San Bernard River is our county's second major river. It is extremely short, originating near New Ulm, Texas.

How many miles from the river source to the sandbar end on the Gulf of Mexico?

30 60 120 240



San Bernard River 2010, Photo
Source: Texascoastgeology.com

Species Quiz # 3

The “Brazos Canal” was started by several plantation owners in the 1840’s to connect the Brazos River to Galveston. This failed venture is often referred to as the

Species Quiz # 4

This bayou is fringed by extensive wetlands that are home to many species of shorebird and waterfowl. It begins near the Missouri Pacific RR two miles SW of Angleton and flows in a SE direction 32 miles and then a little NE. It travels through saltwater marshland but its waters are deep enough for small boats . The bayou ultimately empty into Christmas Bay.

The bayou is called



Photo: TPWD

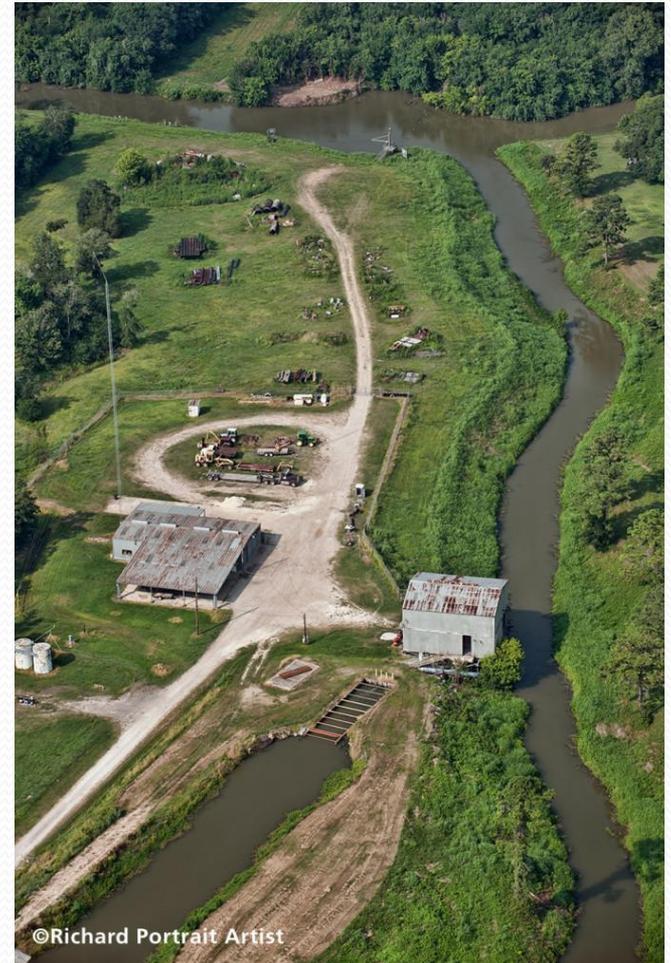
Species Quiz # 5

This creek flows into the Brazos River at East Columbia. It is said that its former owner threw lighted cigars into its springs to watch the water burn. In 1920 this area was to experience a great oil/gas strike. This creek is known as



Species Quiz # 6

This bayou gets its name from the silt-laden water that drains into its watershed in the Pearland and Alvin areas. It flows into a bay which has the same name. This bayou is known as



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Species Quiz # 7

This creek forms the boundary between Harris and extreme northern Brazoria County before flowing eastward into Galveston Bay. The watershed encompasses portions of Harris, Galveston, Brazoria and Fort Bend counties. This creek is also known as

Species Quiz # 8

What is the name of a creek in Texas that rises north of Richmond in Fort Bend County and flows southeast into the Gulf of Mexico in Brazoria County? The creek is parallel to, and just east of, the Brazos River.

Species Quiz # 9

What bayou forms part of the Brazoria-Matagorda county line before reaching its mouth on Caney Creek?



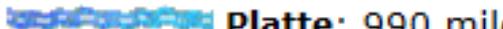


Species Quiz # 1 Answer

The Brazos River is the namesake of Brazoria County.

- 1st: It is the **LARGEST** river in Texas between the Rio Grande and Red River. (Source: TPWD, Analysis of Texas Waterways)
- 1280 miles: The river is approximately **1280** miles long from the headwater source in New Mexico.
- The watershed encompasses **44,620 square miles.**

Brazos river is the 11th longest river in the USA

| UNITED STATES | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
|  | Missouri: 2,540 miles |
|  | Mississippi: 2,340 miles |
|  | Yukon: 1,980 miles |
|  | Rio Grande: 1,900 miles |
|  | St. Lawrence: 1,900 miles |
|  | Arkansas: 1,460 miles |
|  | Colorado: 1,450 miles |
|  | Atchafalaya: 1,420 miles |
|  | Ohio: 1,310 miles |
|  | Red: 1,290 miles |
|  | Brazos: 1,280 miles |
|  | Columbia: 1,240 miles |
|  | Snake: 1,040 miles |
|  | Platte: 990 miles |
|  | Pecos: 926 miles |
|  | Canadian: 906 miles |
|  | Tennessee: 886 miles |
|  | Colorado (of Texas): 862 miles |



The length may be considered to be the distance from the mouth to the most distant headwater source (irrespective of stream name) or from the mouth to the headwaters of the stream commonly identified as the source stream.

Source: USGS

Species Quiz # 2 Answer

The San Bernard River flows **120** miles to the Gulf of Mexico.



San Bernard River near the San Bernard Wildlife Refuge, April 2014. Photo by Pete Romfh

Species Quiz # 3 Answer

The “Brazos Canal” was started by several plantation owners in the 1840’s to connect the Brazos River to Galveston Bay. This failed venture is often referred to as the **Slave Ditch.**

The Brazos Canal - Chartered in 1841, the Brazos Canal Company was the brainchild of Abner Jackson. The goal was to connect the Brazos River with Oyster Creek and then Bastrop Bayou so goods could be shipped more easily. Construction began in 1847 on a canal, referred to locally as the "slave ditch" because it was dug by the slaves of company owners. A one-mile section, twenty-four feet wide and three feet deep, took two years to complete. The project was soon abandoned. Historical marker is located off N. Yaupon, on Crepe Myrtle just past Beachwood in Lake Jackson.

Species Quiz # 4 Answer

The bayou that begins near the Missouri Pacific RR two miles SW of Angleton and flows deeply in a SE direction 32 miles SE and then NE, ultimately ending up in Christmas Bay is called **BASTROP BAYOU.**



Bastrop Bayou west of FM523.. Photo Source: TPWD

Species Quiz # 5 Answer

The creek that flows into the Brazos River at East Columbia is known as **Varner Creek**.



Photo: TPWD

Species Quiz # 6 Answer

The bayou that looks like a river of chocolate is known as **Chocolate Bayou**. It flows into Chocolate Bay.

Chocolate Bayou is on Farm Road 2917 between State Highway 35 and Farm Road 2403 in eastern Brazoria County



Photo Source:
gulfcoastwaterauthority.com

Species Quiz # 7 Answer

The creek that forms the boundary between Harris and extreme northern Brazoria County before flowing eastward into Galveston Bay is **Clear Creek**.

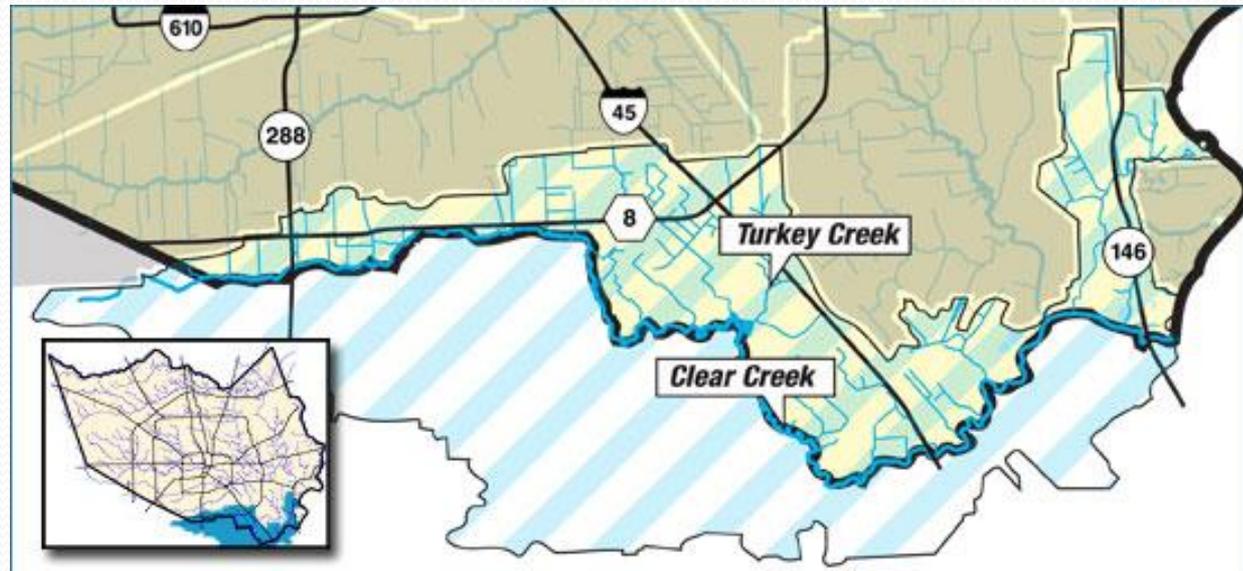


Photo Source: Harris County Flood Control District

Species Quiz # 8 Answer

The name of a creek in Texas that rises north of Richmond in Fort Bend County and flows southeast into the Gulf of Mexico in Brazoria County is **Oyster Creek**. The creek is parallel to, and just east of, the Brazos River.

Species Quiz # 9

Linnville (AKA Linville) Bayou forms part of the Brazoria-Matagorda county line before reaching its mouth on Caney Creek.