

issues. He draws attention to important debates about water use and over-use in the western states and clearly highlights political maneuvers that continue to shape water policy today.

*Angelo State University*

KENNA LANG ARCHER

*Boggy Slough: A Forest, a Family, and a Foundation for Land Conservation.* By Jonathan K. Gerland. (College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 2022. Pp. 360. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index.)

Jonathan Gerland has written a rich and engaging history of the 19,055-acre Boggy Slough conservation area located along the Neches River in deep East Texas. It is a beautiful, large book with full-color wildlife photography and historical photos on almost every page. It is a masterclass in local history research, built on a truly astounding 1,500 cubic feet of Temple family and business records as well as oral histories, family histories, and land records. At the center of the narrative is Boggy Slough, a particularly beautiful, if unfortunately named, piece of second-growth bottomland and mixed upland forest in Houston and Trinity Counties. There is a texture here of the type that only comes from an author who has spent time knowing a place, with its sounds, its feel, and its moods.

In many ways, the history of Boggy Slough is the larger history of the East Texas Piney Woods, and Gerland organizes the book to reflect each major era. He opens with the Hasinai Caddo, who managed these forests with fire to ensure abundant food. Settlers, by parceling homesteads, replaced this sense of the land as provider with a sense of land as producer. The settlement period was brief and violent before Gilded Age extraction arrived. The Southern Pine Lumber Company brought boomtowns, narrow gauge spur lines, and rapid cutouts, making quick work of the forests.

The question of the twentieth century was what to do with these cutover lands. The company first tried cattle, barbed wire fences, fire suppression, goats, and pasture riders, none of which ever paid. Deer populations boomed, however, protected by fences. What began in 1922 with a small hunting lodge serving company men and their friends in local government and business increasingly became a management priority alongside growing pine. In trying to secure long-term profits the company became a regional leader in conservation forestry and game management. When the Temple-Inland Timber Company sold off its 1.25 million acres of timber land in Texas between 2007 and 2013, the Temple family spun off Boggy Slough to the T. L. L. Temple Foundation to be managed for game, ecological health, and as a working forest.

Gerland presents this as a “story about the connections between people and the land that made their lives possible and meaningful” (4) and as “a tale of caretaking, of the continuing relationships between people and na-

ture, of natural processes and systems and of how men and women sought to manipulate them" (4). As the semi-official history of Boggy Slough, though, Gerland's focus is squarely on the four generations of Temple patriarchs who, through their managers and laborers, administered the company's land. He presents each generation as being ahead of its time on conservation issues and fully of its time in most other ways. This is a book whose major theme is legacy. As such, it is a book about ecological restoration and the burden of time. As Gerland puts it, "nature's regenerative canopy of trees not only hid human blunders but in time also delivered redemption and prompted gratitude" (6).

There are other themes in play as well. The land has been perpetually caught up in the region's conflicts over common rights and common access and its troubling history of violence and racism. It also became a focal point for ongoing local resentments towards corporate power and control. In my view, hanging over all of this is a sense that the story of the Temple family's management of the land has been an extended, grudging admission that the Hasinai Caddo had it right: a management system of open access, fire, and deer is more sustainable and environmentally rich than one of fences, goats, and cattle. That the T. L. L. Temple Foundation has found its way back to this vision of management is reassuring. That the foundation has done so while providing jobs and income to the region is laudable. However, that this has occurred under the control of a private foundation still seems to have missed part of the lesson—only by removing the land from the larger system of corporate capitalism, with its timber investment management organizations and corporate raiders, suggests larger questions about the limits of conservation in the twenty-first century that Gerland understandably chose to leave unexplored.

None of this detracts from the quality of the history here. Rather it is a testament to Gerland's skill as a historian that he has managed to do so much: combine business, family, conservation, and local history as well as the larger history of East Texas into one detailed history of the Boggy Slough conservation area, an area that promises to endure for future generations.

*Texas A&M University-Commerce*

ANDREW C. BAKER

*A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Glen Rose, Texas: Bypassed, Forgotten, and Preserved.* By T. Lindsay Baker. Photographs by Paul V. Chaplo. (College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 2022. Pp. 149. Illustrations, bibliography, index.)

When, as a staff member of the Texas State Parks and Wildlife Department, I would drive from Austin to Glen Rose in Somervell County in north central Texas, I approached from the south on State Highway 67,