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LET THE RIVER RUN WILD!
Francis E. Abernethy
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Foreword by Kay Bailey Hutchison

Like most East Texans, I want to keep the Neches River between Lake Palestine and Steinhagen Dam wild and freely flowing for ourselves and our children and their children. If the Neches River is not protected and it is damned, the land under the reservoir-and that includes thousands of acres of privately owned bottomland will be taken from its owners and no longer be private land. In addition, mitigation lands must be bought. Wild and Scenic River designation is the only sure way to prevent damming of the Neches.

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East Texas is a distinct cultural and geographical region roughly the size of the state of Indiana. It is bounded on the east by the Sabine River and the state line, on the north by the Red River, and on the south by the Gulf of Mexico. The location of the remaining boundary line is open to conjecture but is generally considered to represent the dispersed western limits of the Southern Pine Best. Those who have lived and worked in East Texas share a common sense of place that has provided some of the state's more colorful characters and most enduring landmarks, as well as a richly-layered cultural history.

**JUST BETWEEN US: stories and memories from the texas pines**
Edited by Dan K. Utley and Milston S. Jordan

The region has also produced a large number of historians and storytellers who have successfully drawn upon their diverse and unique heritage to chronicle the past. Just Between Us will be at one level the inside story of a large community, where all residents comfortably share somewhat familiar stories about home. It is also, however, a regional record for others to enjoy, analyze, and celebrate. The stories are firsthand accounts by those who know the region best, and they serve as glimpses onto life in the Pine Belt that to this point have not been recorded or widely shared. They are, for the most part, small stories that might not be found in general histories but that nevertheless collectively make a profound statement about the unique character of an important region.