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## NAPA LOSES A FRIEND AND BENEFACTOR

So many, many people will miss John Galley.....friend to people, friend to the land, friend to NAPA. The charm and intelligence he brought to conversations with friends will long be remembered.

John loved the natural, unaltered land and worked to conserve many parcels of that land. As a geologist he had opportunities to see natural areas through many parts of the country and through many years. As President of the Texas chapter of the Nature Conservancy and as a NAPA board member, he was instrumental in saving many natural areas from becoming shopping malls or housing developments.



John Galley Shows Los Rincones to visitors

In 1988 John and Karen donated their 136 acre homesite near Kerrville as a preserve to be called El Coto de Los Rincones. A Rincon is a box canyon.

This prime example of hill country plant community contains the national champion Texas Mulberry and state champion Roughleaf dogwood along with five species of oak, Big-tooth Maple, Black Cherry, rare Cacti and a host of birds up to Rio Grande turkey in size.

We at Natural Area Preservation Association are honored that John chose to entrust to us these acres that he treasured above all others.

On November 29 there was a memorial service and a dedication of Los Rincones as a nature preserve of Natural Area Preservation Association. NAPA members attending were president Joe Pumphrey, Janice Bezanson, David Bezanson, Sharon Reed and Katherine Goodbar. They pledged to keep the preserve in the prime condition that it is in now.

## VEDA FARRINGTON PRESERVE DEEDED TO NAPA

You have read much about the wonders of the 231 acre Veda Farrington preserve in Lancaster on which NAPA has had a conservation easement. Some of you even walked through the preserve on that cold January day of the last annual meeting, and in spite of frost nipped fingers and toes, found it a complete delight.

Dr. Wilma Shields and her daughter Polly Shields have now deeded full title to the land in the preserve to Natural Area Preservation Association. They had previously given us five acres on the I-35 frontage road.

Because of the dedication and foresight of thoughtful and generous landowners, such as the Shields, this property near I-35 will remain in its natural state - a refuge for wildlife and plants and a living - (continued on page 2)

Veda Farrington - cont.

laboratory where natural processes can continue to evolve with as little interference as possible from "civilization".

By saving these special places future generations will have the opportunity to see that there are more values for beautiful land than housing developments.

Thank you Wilma. Thank you Polly.

### AN INVITATION

We hope you can be with us on January 22, 1998 at the NAPA annual meeting of members and directors at the home of Drs. Mary Ellen Bluntzer and Jon Blackley at 6415 DeLoache in Dallas. The meeting will begin at 4:00 p.m. with reports on outstanding activities during the past year, new preserves, and pending acquisitions.

Kay Humphreys of Nacogdoches, donor of the Hickory Ridge Preserve has been invited to come and tell us about the successful battle against a zoning change on the street that forms a boundary to the Banita Creek Preserve (reported on elsewhere in this issue) and the threat they are still facing from a proposed dam on Naconiche Creek which would have a profound impact on Larry Shelton's Naconiche Creek Preserve. Maxine Johnston of Batson, land steward of Marysee Prairie will also be here to show slides of the wildflowers on the prairie last spring. The evening will close with a reception in honor of donors and preserves.

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Many people were fortunate enough to hear Jane Goodall speak during her recent trip to Texas. If more of us had her dedication, we might be able to save our world from clear cutting, excessive housing development and other habitat destructive human activity.

Come join us on January 22, 1998 and renew your commitment.

### NATIONAL LAND TRUST RALLY

The 1997 National Land Trust Rally was held in Savannah, Georgia on September 27-30. Natural Area Preservation Association was represented by Sandy Penz, Sharon Reed and Katherine Goodbar.

What a lovely place to have a conference for naturalists! Enormous old oak trees shaded cobblestone walks around grassy plazas where many of the heroes that we read about in early American history orated on topics of the day.

The conference was held in two large hotels joined by a walk along the picturesque Savannah river. On field trips we were taken to see some of the local land preserves. One very impressive site was the ACE basin of over 360,000 acres with 150,000 acres under conservation easement. The amount of land that some states have preserved is amazing, and is a testimony to the fact that all of the other 49 states have more public land than Texas. Also, the idea that natural land should be preserved forever has been well established there for many years - a consciousness that is just beginning to grow strongly in Texas.

It was something of a surprise to discover how many land trusts use their funds to pay their administrators; we were doubly proud of what we have done using dedicated volunteers.

The workshops were well organized and very beneficial. The delegates all chose different workshops to cover as many topics as possible. Some of the workshops attended were: The New Conservation Tax Incentive, Easement Monitoring Programs, Preserving Family Lands, Fire Management, Maps as a Land Protection Tool, Conflict Resolution Around Difficult Issues, Building an Effective Board of Directors.

Your delegates came home revitalized and inspired from an excellent conference in a beautiful setting.

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There are 1,100 land trusts in the U.S. - over three times the number 20 years ago.

