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Katherine Goodbar, Editor

## ANNUAL MEETING AND DEDICATION OF VEDA FARRINGTON PRESERVE

In the last NAPA NEWS you read that Dr. Wilma Shields and her daughter Polly Shields had donated a conservation easement to NAPA on 232 acres in Lancaster. Dr. Shields also agreed to host our annual meeting in her lovely home on the property.

On January 27, 1997, NAPA members and friends gathered at the Veda Farrington Preserve. In spite of a very strong cold wind, most of the attendees were eager to walk through a portion of this impressive site with its broad meadows and creek banks lined with dense stands of oaks, Eastern red cedars, elms, ashe and an abundance of understory trees and shrubs.

Back at the Shields home, bowls of hot home made soup and other delicious refreshments were welcomed by the cold hikers. President Joe Pumphrey called the Annual Meeting to order. Lee Jackson, Dallas County Judge and Steve Bartlett, former congressman and Dallas mayor, gave the dedication talks. Lee Jackson spoke of the 24 countywide parks and natural areas that were approved under the Open Space program in 1985 and 1991 bond elections and welcomed the diligence of private Land Trusts in adding to the acres of preserved land. Steve Bartlett spoke of his long association with NAPA and Ned Fritz and praised Ned's dedication to protecting natural land and praised the foresight of landowners like Wilma and Polly Shields in taking action to keep their land whole and undivided in a time when more and more beautiful sites were being subdivided for development.

After the regular business of the association, the President introduced and thanked Dr. Shields and Polly and introduced and gave special recognition as guests of honor to each of the following donors of preserves, and the members applauded:

- Nancy Powell Moore for the conservation easement on a 162 acre preserve in Hays and Blanco Counties, Texas
- June Bennett, co-donor of the Upper White Rock Bend Preserve in Dallas County.
- Roland Baird, Jr., donor of the Roland and Faye Baird Memorial Preserve in Blanco County.

Janice Bezanson reported on the Land Trust Alliance meeting in Vermont.

Jim Townsend remarked on the surprising number of law offices and libraries that have no information at all about conservation easements or land trusts.

Earl Matthew encouraged everyone to come to Spring at Ivy's Refuge on April 26.

As the meeting adjourned, the approximately 50 people there agreed that it had been an exceedingly good day.

## HILL COUNTRY ACACIA PRESERVE DEDICATED

by Sandy Penz

There has rarely been a more perfect day than the one in early May when "Acacia" became a NAPA preserve and was dedicated as a natural area forever. Nancy Powell Moore and her family held a lovely ceremony and luncheon at the property in western Hays and eastern Blanco counties. Guests sat under 600 year old Bald cypress trees with the river flowing, flowers blooming, birds singing, breezes blowing, and butterflies flitting.

Nancy gave a moving account of her decision to purchase the property in order to keep it in its natural state for future generations to enjoy. She introduced the members of her stewardship committee, after which her son, Harvin Moore IV, gave a brief history of the area. Nancy's daughter Marion Casey, then explained that to the Moore family, the name

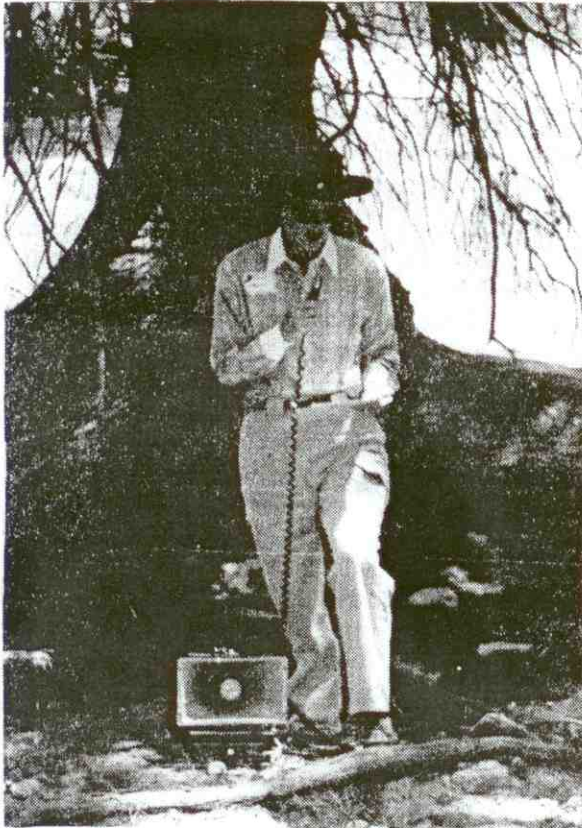
## Hill Country - Cont.

"Acacia" symbolizes strength through adversity, constancy and family.

After lunch, beautifully and deliciously prepared by Linda Allen, many guests walked up Live Oak Creek, one of the small streams on the property, enjoying both its peace and its beauty. Later several members of the group were privileged to observe the courtship of a pair of Golden-cheeked warblers - just one of the natural treasures of the area. All in all, a very special day.

## Acacia Stewardship Committee:

Nancy Powell Moore  
 Harvin Moore IV  
 Marion Moore Casey  
 Pat and Carol Garrett  
 Linda Campbell  
 Anne Donovan  
 David Bezanson  
 Nancy Pittman, Advisor



Nancy Powell Moore at the dedication of her Acacia Preserve

## MOVING WORDS FROM THE DEDICATION

The words that Nancy Powell Moore spoke at the dedication of the Acacia Preserve touched everyone who heard them. All of the guests who sat under those huge old cypress trees felt her joy at finding that special land and knowing immediately what had to be done. Part of her talk is reprinted here so that you, too, can feel the empathy that those friends and family felt as they heard the words.

"When I was 12 years old, nature spoke to me in solitude and fed my spirit and enabled me to press on in the world of achievement that I so hungrily embraced but at a high cost.

When I was 55 years old, I came to this place with Dorothy and Eddie Gumbert and Nancy Pittman, and that same childish, 12-year-old spirit danced with joy. It sang over this land bounded on three sides by canyons, a river and three creeks. This land in the shape of a fish with its mouth open here at the Pedernales river.

I can't explain to you all the whys of this project after those first explorations in 1995. But I can say I returned to Houston after that week in the Hill Country with thoughts running over on how I might keep the land whole, how I might fight here in a small way the inevitabilities seen all around of a vulnerable Hill Country becoming a patchwork quilt of smaller and smaller pieces, how I might gift my ongoing family with the joys of multiple outdoor pleasures.

Partnerships, collaborations are in the wind these days, and the conservation world is no exception. The conservation easement was a perfect tool for me. It was a means to a partnership to protect the land and also accomplish my family wishes. From the Nature Conservancy, I discovered that the Federal Government through this tool of a conservation easement is encouraging private landowners to keep open space when the space is a significant habitat for plants and animals and when it has significant value as a natural and ecological resource. This is particularly important in Texas where 98% of the land is private. The Federal Government offers economic incentives to the owner in the

