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Katherine Goodbar, Editor

AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR NAPA

Natural Area Preservation Association is very pleased to announce the hiring of David Bezanson as our first Executive Director. In looking at the high points of our history, this action ranks at the very top. Since 1984 we have been the largest Land Trust in the nation to operate completely with volunteers. Our growth has been so phenomenal during the last year that now, with 42 preserves in most parts of the state, a change was essential in order to adequately meet the needs of all preserves. This was a very big step for us.

The position was widely advertised and the search committee was surprised and delighted to receive fourteen good applications. After interviews, it was apparent that David was best qualified to meet all of the diverse aspects of the job.

David is a 1992 graduate of the University of Texas at Austin and expects to receive a Masters degree in Geography this year. His Thesis is "An inventory of Ecological Communities Represented in Areas in Conservation Management in Texas". For the past eight years David has worked for the Texas General land Office as a geographic information systems (GIS) technician and data manager, from which he has learned invaluable Texas geography and ecology and has made useful contacts among land management professionals. Recently he has been involved in the Nature Conservancy's "ecoregional planning" effort to identify and

protect rare native ecological communities in Texas. He has also worked with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department personnel and other state and federal agencies.

David has also received training through the Texas Governor's Office of Budget and Planning State Grants Team, Environmental Systems Research Institute Users' Conference, the League of Conservation Voters Lobby/Media Training, and at the Land Trust Alliance Rally. He has publications on developing biological resource data in Texas and was asked to write a chapter on conservation easements in the Texas Hill Country for a book published this year. He has also been published in several Texas newspapers, in PC computing/Smart Business, and has been quoted in U.S. News and World Report.

David has been on the NAPA Board of Directors for one year and has been an active land steward for many years. His knowledge of plants as a child was surprising and he began guiding East Texas nature trails at a very early age. He has an excellent record of working with private landowners to help conserve and manage lands with conservation easements.

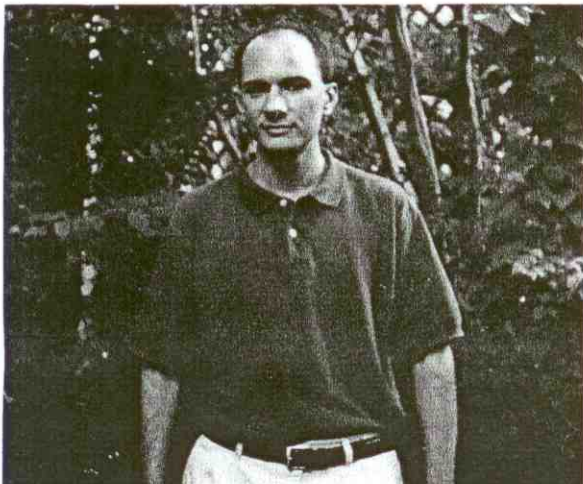
David lives in Austin with his wife, Elizabeth, and their son, Walter. Beth is active in church and at Walter's school, and she does some substitute teaching. Walter's interests include basketball, soccer and dessert. We look forward to working with David as our new Executive Director.

FROM DAVID.....

I am very excited to be NAPA's executive director. With many years of experience in land conservation, NAPA is very widely respected in its field and it is an honor to represent NAPA. I hope that, with a lot of help, I will be able to uphold NAPA's reputation for prudent acquisition and stewardship of natural areas.

As executive director, my role will include working with landowners and stewards to implement management plans on NAPA'S preserves, providing assistance to owners of land under conservation easements, and performing functions necessary in acquisition of new preserves as well as administrative duties. That is a lot for one person to learn to do! Fortunately, I will be able to learn from many individuals who have been performing these duties as volunteer stewards and board members for years.

I believe that NAPA should continue to accept new land and easement donations wherever possible. As Texas becomes more urban and traditional patterns of land ownership change rapidly, opportunities to protect land must be taken, for they may never come again. I hope that I can help landowners with the increasingly difficult challenges of protecting the natural landscapes and wildlife of Texas.



1999 – A BONANZA YEAR

At the January 20 Annual meeting, President Sandy Penz announced that we had added eleven new preserves during the year. We have never had such a year before! Bear Creek in Walker County was the only purchase and was the first purchase of the Holy Trinity Scenic River campaign.

Gifts of land were:	<u>Gifted by:</u>
Walker Creek Preserve in Cherokee County	E.L. Davis
Grady Grove Preserve in Guadalupe County	Stan Russell & May O'Neal
Hanes Farm – Hunt Co. Riveroaks Valley Preserve in Williamson County	A.C. Smith
Cibolo Creek Preserve in Bexar County	A.C. Smith
Oak Cliff Nature Preserve in Dallas County	Potashnik

Conservation Easements were:	<u>Given by:</u>
Long Hollow Creek Preserve in Travis Co.	Paul Fambro
Chez Soleil Preserve in Travis County	Paul Breaux
Champion Ridge Preserve in Bexar County	Thomas Brown & David Mann
Old Weatherby Ranch Preserve in Culberson Co.	John Byram & Morin Scott

A conservation easement was received in June of 2000 on:

Los Arboles Preserve in Wood County	Alex Weisberg
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Our great admiration goes to those people who care enough to protect their land from the multiple disturbances that come to natural land. The land may seem too remote to worry about today, but in a few years it may be the ideal location for a convenience store. And our heartfelt appreciation goes to all of

