

Lone Star Land Steward Awards

The annual Lone Star Land Steward Awards program recognizes and honors private landowners for their contributions to land, water and wildlife stewardship. More than 95 percent of land in Texas is privately owned or managed making private landowners efforts important to all of us.

Established in 1996, the annual Lone Star Land Steward Awards is part of the Private Lands Program at TPWD. The Awards program is designed to educate landowners and the public and to encourage participation in habitat conservation.





Lone Star Land Steward Awards

Nomination Form



Ranch/Farm Name: Chimney Creek Ranch **County:** Shackelford

Landowner Name: Ted and Hank Paup **Operator Name:** _____
(If different from owner)

Section I: Description of Operation (Please limit each response to one page or less.)

- (1) Discuss the past and current habitat management practices conducted on the property, including but not limited to the following practices: livestock grazing, timber management, prescribed burning, brush control, wetland restoration/improvement, etc.
 - The Waller family has operated the cattle operation since the 1957. Rotational grazing systems have been identified and utilized in order to more efficiently graze cattle. Both the TPWD and NRCS have been vital to these improvements, especially making a difference in the past 5 – 10 years.
 - With the assistance of the NRCS, prickly pear and mesquite has been sprayed and removed as needed, allowing better forage. A riparian buffer along Chimney Creek has help re-charge the underground supply and helped the creek to stay flowing/wet much more often.
 - Constructed 2.25 miles of interior fencing and initiated rotational grazing on 1,720 acres through the G.R.I.P in 2014.
 - Selective mesquite removal and reseeding of 225 acres in 2014 through GRIP.
 - Grazing deferral from 1,120 acres in 2015.
 - Selective mesquite removal and reseeding of 160 acres in 2015.
 - Selective mesquite removal and reseeding of 24 acres in 2017.
 - 15 months of livestock deferral from 774 acres in 2016-2017.

- (2) Discuss the past and current wildlife management practices conducted on the property, including census, population (harvest) management, supplemental feeding, nesting structures, water development, etc.
 - Participation in MLDP program since 2000 with deer survey and harvest data as early as 1997.
 - Multiple years of doe removal using TPWD TTT program.
 - Year-round supplemental feeding since 1985.

- (3) List all uses of natural resources that provide income on the property or properties. (Examples include farming, livestock, timber, oil and gas production, hunting leases, non-consumptive use of wildlife such as bird watching and photography, eco-tourism, etc.).
 - Livestock grazing lease since 1957.
 - Hunting lease since 1985.

Section II: Land Management Goals (Describe the wildlife resource management goals of your operation.)

To manage the land in a way that sustains livestock grazing typical of the area, maintains wild game populations at levels suitable to attract lease hunters, and preserves the ranching heritage.

Section III: Land Management Accomplishments

- (1) What effect have land management practices had on the overall productivity of the property, including such things as wildlife quality and species diversity, livestock production, timber production, plant diversity, vegetation trends, water quality, soils, etc.?
 - Livestock production has been maintained or increased by brush control practices.
 - Bobwhite quail habitat has been the focus of GRIP projects since 2014. Although populations fluctuate with environmental conditions, habitat conditions in much of the areas treated recently have improved for bobwhite quail.
 - The improved livestock rotation and reduction in broad-scale chemical weed and brush treatment has allowed for more plant diversity in recent years.

- (2) Describe the landowner's involvement in cooperative research, demonstration, education, or programs that promote good wildlife and habitat management practices.
 - Tarleton State University research on the effects of land management practices on bobwhite quail.
 - Grass identification tour for range science students at Abilene Christian University.

- (3) Describe any unique natural or cultural resource under management, preservation or enhancement.

Historical Resources under Preservation

- 100th Anniversary of Smith's Station, Marker, Daughters of the American Revolution, 1936
- Smith's Station, Texas Archeological Research Laboratory, archeological dig, 1981
- Texas Historical Commission Marker- Smith's Station on the Butterfield Trail, 1982
- Texas Historical Commission Marker- Bud Matthews Switch- 1993
- Texas Historical Commission Marker- Frank Conrad- 2017
- Texas Historical Commission Marker- Goodnight-Loving Trail- 2018
- Nancy Paup, Texas State Historical Association, Board of Directors
- Ted Paup, Board member, Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, Canyon
- Texas State Historical Association, 2017 annual meeting, presentation on the Butterfield Trail
- Nancy Paup, Humanities Texas, Board of Directors

- (4) Describe any innovative wildlife management or habitat management techniques that have been incorporated into the overall management scheme.

Stewardship of the Land

- Website: www.chimneycreekranch.com
- Hunting program established in 1982
- Participation in TTT program
- Coyote control program
- EQIPs
- GRIPs
- Constructed 15-acre lake, water conservation, Chan's Lake, 2008
- Plugged and cleaned up numerous O&G wells
- Food plots
- Riparian buffer established, 2010
- Removed silt and mud from numerous tanks during droughts

Section IV: Leadership, Outreach and Community Service

- (1) Describe the landowner's involvement in the local community and/or the agricultural community. Include offices held, titles, and other leadership positions, where appropriate.

Community and State Involvement

- Hank Paup, Old Jail Art Center, Albany, Board member
- Rotary International magazine, "The Great Western Trail: Rotary Rides to the Rescue", Cover article, December 2017
- Member- Texas Wildlife Association
- Member- Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association
- Ted Paup- member, Philosophical Society of Texas, inducted 2016
- Ted Paup- The Grace Museum, Abilene, Advisory Board member
- Nancy Paup, Humanities Texas, Board of Directors, 2019 -
- Nancy Paup- member, Philosophical Society of Texas, inducted 2019
- Nancy and Ted Paup Big Country Athletic Hall of Fame, Albany High School Scholarship, awarded annually
- The Grace Museum, Abilene, Exhibit, Chimney Creek Ranch, artifacts and video
- Participation in the Fandangle, Albany
- Nancy Paup, Schreiner University, Board of Trustees
- Nancy Paup- Texas Woman's University, Vice Chair, Board of Regents, Appointed by Governor Rick Perry

(2) Describe any outdoor recreational and/or educational opportunities that have been provided to other private landowners or the public; including youth, minorities, or handicapped citizens.

- Tarleton State University, Quail Research project, Dr. T. Wayne Schwertner
- Abilene Christian University, grass identification tour, Range Science students
- Tarleton State University, Robert B. Waller Endowed Scholarship, Wildlife Science

(3) Describe any uses of the land as a teaching tool to share good management strategies with others, including but not limited to management technique demonstration, hunter safety and education, media tours, and scientific endeavor.

Sponsorship of Wildlife, Agriculture, and Historical Publications

- Roel Lopez- "Applied Wildlife Habitat Management", Texas A&M Press, Ted Paup, Board member sponsorship, Texas Chapter of Wildlife Society Book Award, 2019
- Cattleman Magazine, "Chimney Creek Ranch: 50 and Counting", September 2007
- Book, "Personal Country", A. C. Greene
- Book, "Contemporary Ranches of Texas", Lawrence Clayton
- Book, "31", Lawrence Clayton
- Article, "Chimney Creek Crossings", Mrs. Mary Frances Driscoll, December 1981
- "Chimney Creek Ranch" Texas A&M Press, Commemorative Edition
- Article, Farmer- Stockman Magazine, July 2007
- Article, Texas Sportsman Magazine, "Two Brothers, Two Trophies", October 2011
- Nancy and Ted Paup, "Ranching Heritage Book Series" at Texas A&M Press, "The Old Chisholm Trail" by Wayne Ludwig, published 2018

Section V: Supporting Information

In this section the applicant has the opportunity to describe specific stewardship practices in greater detail. Supporting information such as photos, maps, data and letters of support may be included with the application (please attach or email.)

Letter of Recommendation- Troy Reinke, NRCS, Shackelford County

Letter of Recommendation- Dr. T. Wayne Schwertner, Tarleton State University

Letter of Recommendation- Dr. Roel Lopez, Director, TAMU Natural Resources Institute

Section VI: Landowner/Operator Acceptance of Nomination

The signature of the landowner or authorized agent indicates acceptance of the nomination for recognition in the Lone Star Land Steward Awards Program.

By signing, the landowner or authorized agent accepts this nomination for recognition and publicity in the Lone Star Land Steward Awards Program, and agrees to meet with a selection team on site to review conservation and management practices. Final selections will be announced in May.

Signature of Landowner or Authorized Agent

Date

Leopold Conservation Award Nominations

Has the nominated landowner been recognized with a Lone Star Land Steward Ecoregion Award for this property?

If yes, _____ Year Awarded _____ Ecoregion

Nominators are asked to update information previously submitted for ecoregion consideration.

By signing below, the landowner accepts this nomination for the **Leopold Conservation Award**.

Signature of Landowner or Authorized Agent

Date

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department maintains the information collected through this form. With few exceptions, you are entitled to be informed about the information we collect. Under Sections 552.021 and 552.023 of the Texas Government Code, you are also entitled to receive and review the information. Under Section 559.004, you are also entitled to have this information corrected.