

Special Acknowledgement



Ned & Genie Fritz



For more than 40 years, TCA founders **Ned and Genie Fritz** formed an environmental protection partnership leading conservation in Texas. Ned and Genie donated time, knowledge, persistence, financial resources, and extraordinary vision to protect wildlife habitat in Texas and throughout the country.

Ned Fritz (1916 – 2008) is widely acknowledged as Texas' premiere conservationist and was honored nationally for his accomplishments. With Genie's help, Ned founded Texas Conservation Alliance, the Texas Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, the Texas League of Conservation Voters, Texas Land Conservancy, Audubon Dallas, the Texas Consumers Association, a national network to end clearcutting on national forests, and other organizations. His efforts led to creation of five wilderness areas in East Texas, the Big Thicket National Preserve, the Great Trinity Forest, and numerous national wildlife refuges and state and local parks, protecting a total of more than half a million acres of public land.

Ned formed a coalition that stopped the Trinity Barge Canal. His work with land trusts led to protection of more than 100,000 acres in private preserves. Ned's landmark endangered species lawsuit ended clearcutting on 200,000 acres of Texas' national forest land and set management guidelines for Red-cockaded woodpecker habitat throughout the Southeast. His legislative and litigative efforts led to widespread reform of how the country's national forests are managed, improved water quality standards, and provided extensive case law that gives protection to consumers.

Ned served on boards, committees, or as senior advisor to many groups: American Rivers, Friends of the Earth, the Texas Academy of Sciences, and Texas Organization for Endangered Species.

He served as a consumer affairs advisor to the Lyndon B. Johnson Administration, traveling regularly to Washington, D.C. Ned authored three books, the award-winning *Sterile Forest* in 1983, *Clearcutting: A Crime Against Nature* in 1989, which has received national acclaim, and the beautiful *Realms of Beauty: The Wilderness Areas of East Texas*. Ned has been featured in numerous articles, including a January 2000 feature story in *Texas Parks and Wildlife Magazine*.

As the daughter of a diplomat, Genie grew up travelling widely, particularly in Latin America, leading her to complete a degree in economics and government at University of Texas Institute for Latin American Studies. Genie served as President and a long-time Board Member of the Dallas League of Women Voters (LWV) and was Secretary of the Overseas Education Fund for LWV, which focused on teaching women about democracy.

For years, Genie served on the board of the Texas Land Conservancy, the state's largest land trust not affiliated with a national organization. She served as President of the Women's Southwest Federal Credit Union, a Board Member of the Tejas Council of Girl Scouts, where she led two Girl Scout troops, Treasurer and President of the Greater Dallas Housing Opportunity Council, and a Board Member at the First Unitarian Church Dallas. As co-Founder of Texas Conservation Alliance, Genie for years handled the organization's finances. Genie continued to inspire future conservation leaders until her passing at the age of 100.

