



~ CONSERVATION HERO OF THE YEAR ~



Texas Conservation Alliance is proud to name an exceptional Texan, David Todd, as our Conservation Hero of the Year!

David has made significant contributions to conservation in Texas, both by funneling funding to conservation organizations and conducting conservation projects.

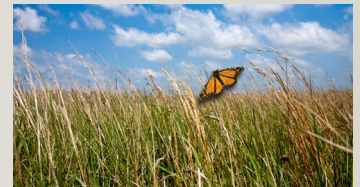
David, with his mother and sister, has managed family trusts that have been major donors to Texas Conservation Alliance and other conservation groups. David set up careful guidelines and researched potential recipients, to get as much value as possible from each grant.

David then expanded his efforts to build a network of funders giving to conservation. With Ann Hamilton, then with the Houston Endowment, David helped found the Texas Environmental Grantmakers Group (Texas EGG) and recruited a number of foundations to join. By building a closer working relationship between the funders and the conservation community, he encouraged more dollars to flow to conservation. The foundations worked together to focus on major projects, particularly regarding water resources and clean air.



David launched the Texas Legacy Project to record oral histories of people who have been important in conserving Texas' natural resources. David's first thought was just that he didn't want the good stories behind conservation efforts to be lost. His first interview was with Texas Conservation Alliance founder Ned Fritz. Over the past years, Texas Legacy has grown into an exceptional multi-faceted project. The University of Texas School of Information has developed an innovative web storage and retrieval program for the interviews that allows users to search the interview database by topic. The School uses the program to teach graduate level students of information technology. The UT Center for American History has transcribed the interviews and stores the physical archive. Texas A&M Press published excerpts from 63 of the 224 interviews, including several of TCA board members and volunteers, in *Texas Legacy Project: Stories of Courage and Conservation*.

David continues to expand his efforts. His leadership in the Cullinan Park Conservancy is building support for this Houston-area treasure. His efforts to educate people to protect prairies is on-going. And he's working on a second book with Texas A&M Press. This book, which will have a companion electronic component, will use maps to illustrate environmental changes in Texas.



Please join Texas Conservation Alliance in honoring a stellar Conservation Hero – David Todd!

David Todd was awarded Conservation Hero of the Year at Texas Conservation Alliance's Annual Meeting held September 24, 2011 at Trinity River Audubon Center in Dallas, Texas.