

**For Immediate Release – December 19, 2008**

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Edward C. Ned Fritz died December 19, 2009, at the age of 92.

Fritz's tireless energy on behalf of wildlife and natural areas resulted in an exceptional legacy . more than a quarter million acres of land in private or public protection.

Ned loved the outdoors, said Janice Bezanson, executive director of Texas Conservation Alliance, an organization founded by Fritz. He spent decades protecting nature so that we and our children and grandchildren could hunt and fish and canoe and hike in tall forests and along beautiful streams.

After a successful legal practice, Fritz turned his attention to East Texas, joining with local people to promote creation of the Big Thicket National Preserve and cultivating state legislators to establish state parks. He led the effort to convince Congress to designate wilderness areas in the National Forests in Texas, resulting in five wilderness areas: Upland Island, Turkey Hill, Big Slough, Indian Mounds, and Little Lake Creek. Other actions by Fritz led to the White Oak Creek Wildlife Management Area and a number of other lands available for hunting and other outdoor recreation.

In addition to his long leadership of Texas Conservation Alliance, Fritz co-founded the Texas chapter of The Nature Conservancy, Texas Land Conservancy, Texas League of Conservation Voters, Texas Consumers Association, and Audubon Dallas. Wildlife sanctuaries established by The Nature Conservancy and Texas Land Conservancy add to his legacy.

Ned was *Mr. Conservation*, added Maxine Johnston of the Big Thicket Association. Without Ned Fritz there wouldn't be a Big Thicket Preserve.

Ned Fritz received many accolades from his peers. He was given an honorary doctorate by Southern Methodist University in 1991. He was presented the Theodore Roosevelt Award by President George H. W. Bush in 1991, the Chevron Conservation Award in 1970, and the Sol Feinstone Environmental Award in 1978. Fritz received lifetime achievement honors from National Wildlife Federation, National Audubon Society, The Nature Conservancy, the League of Women Voters, and Texas Conservation Alliance.

Continued Bezanson: Ned's work continues through the hundreds of people he inspired. There's an army of conservationists in Texas who began by volunteering for one of Ned's projects. Now those who learned from him are teaching the next generation.

Three books authored by Fritz help educate that next generation, including *Realms of Beauty* (University of Texas Press, 1987), with photographs taken by Jess Alford in the wilderness areas in East Texas.

The law library at SMU houses Fritz's papers.