

ETHICIAN NEWS NETWORK

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ATTN: EDITOR

AMERICA'S ONLY BEAVER SANCTUARY THREATENED

For Immediate Release

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Several beaver families have been living happily in a sanctuary that was established along the shores of Lake Livingston in San Jacinto County, Texas, to protect their habitat from development.

Beavers face increasing threats due to the fact that they often inhabit some of the most valuable property along the shores of lakes and rivers where prices for waterfront lots may exceed \$1,500 per linear foot.

Regardless of the demand for waterfront property, the donors of the sanctuary believed that the beavers would be able to enjoy over 1.5 miles of shoreline without the threat of human intrusion in perpetuity.

Because they love to munch on the bark of living trees, and even cut down trees to build their homes, beavers are often harassed and even killed by irate home owners.

Sanctuary donors, George and Sue Russell, will scold the beavers in jest when they discover that a large birch, willow, or sweetgum tree has been chewed on, but they were extremely pleased that the animals could live out their lives without fear of retaliation.

Today, the sanctity of the beaver sanctuary has the Russells and Natural Area Preservation Association concerned. Sam Houston Electric Cooperative (SHECO) is obsessed with clear-cutting a huge swath 2.7 miles long through the Holy Trinity Wilderness Cathedral, Zwicky Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, Westernmost Longleaf Pine Preserve, Perpetual Forest Preserve and the Beaver Sanctuary.

Many of the beaver's favorite trees are located in the proposed path of the massive 138 kv transmission line, and these trees would be bulldozed along a swath 1/3 of a mile long, according to Russell's calculation.

There are less costly alternate routes available to SHECO that would cross mostly cut-over, low grade timber land, clear-cuts, and cow pastures but SHECO is spending tens of thousands of dollars in legal fees in its attempt to destroy the habitat of not only the beavers, but that of Bald Eagles, endangered Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, and other rare and threatened species as well.

According to the Russells, the excessive costs associated with attempting to bulldoze the sanctuaries will be passed on to the members of the Cooperative in the form of higher utility bills. Russell hopes that all SHECO rate payers will demand that SHECO select a less damaging and less costly route for their 138 kv transmission line.

George H. Russell, an outspoken opponent of the death penalty, is a resident of Huntsville, Texas, known worldwide as "The City of Death."

He is founder of The Patriot Network, and author of its 35+ web sites located at www.patriotnetwork.org, as well as founder of The Universal Ethician Church, an interfaith ministry with a worldwide following via the church's 275+ web sites located at www.salvationnetwork.org.

Russell, 59, is an educational video producer, environmental activist, historic preservation specialist, photographer, art and antique collector, philanthropist, American patriot and ethician.

Additional biographical information may be found in Who's Who in America, through Internet searches, and in other publications. Images of Mr. Russell suitable for downloading for publication may be found at www.salvationnetwork.org.

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