

ETHICIAN NEWS NETWORK

1401 19th Street
Huntsville, TX 77340

Reception 936-295-5767
Fax 936-294-0233

e-mail: ghr@cyberclone.net
internet: www.salvationnetwork.org

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ATTN: EDITOR

VANDALS HACK DOWN TEN ENDANGERED TREES

For Immediate Release

Contact: George H. Russell 936-891-5245

Sometime shortly before Christmas vandals killed ten of the only Longleaf Pine trees that still exist in America, west of the Trinity River in E. Texas. Each tree was marked with a ribbon so that it would not be mistaken with the overabundant Loblolly Pines that have invaded the Longleaf habitat and prevented their regeneration.

On November 16, 2002, Dr. and Mrs. K. L. Russell, in an effort to save this disappearing species, donated a perpetual conservation easement to Natural Area Preservation Association. The new preserve is named the "Russell-Fritz Westernmost Longleaf Pine Preserve," and is located on the shores of Lake Livingston in San Jacinto County, Texas. Although a formal appraisal has yet to be conducted, it is estimated that the value of the perpetual gift to future generations will be in excess of one million dollars.

The pines that were hacked down lined the beautiful drive that borders the preserve. Local residents had been made aware of the value of the pines and their importance to the future of "America the Beautiful," making the vandalism especially heinous. The Russells were sick at heart at the sight of the dead pines lying by the side of the road. At age 91, Dr. Russell is concerned that he may not live long enough to see new trees sprout and take the place of those that were hacked down.

A \$1,000.00 reward has been offered by the "Friends of the Longleaf Pines" for information leading to the arrest and conviction of, and restitution by the vandals who destroyed these exceedingly rare and beautiful trees. Over 98% of the Longleaf Pines in the world have already been exterminated, leaving only 2% for the enjoyment of future generations. The destroyed trees were especially rare since they were thought to have been extinct west of the Trinity River by the 1940's.

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, 57, 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.