

ETHICIAN NEWS NETWORK

1401 19th Street
Huntsville, TX 77340

Reception 936-295-5767
Fax 936-295-0020

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

November 10, 2004
ATTN: EDITOR

AMERICA'S FIRST FROG SANCTUARY ESTABLISHED

For Immediate Release

Contact: George H. Russell 936-891-5245
or 936-295-5767

Waterwood, Texas

Frogjoy Woods, a 46 acre tract of amphibian habitat in Waterwood, Texas, has been formally designated as America's first frog and amphibian sanctuary.

George and Sue Russell purchased the tract a few years ago, when the owner had arranged to have it clear-cut, which would have caused the flatwoods periodic wetlands to dry up, thus severely impacting the frog population. Their purchase saved the woods from clear-cutting and now visitors can enjoy not only the frogs but ancient oaks and numerous other tree species.

During mating season, frogs of several species create an almost eardrum bursting chorus of croaks and chirps. At other times of the year, especially after a rain, the frogs cross the adjoining road in such great numbers that it is very difficult to drive without hitting them. Two days ago, Sue reported dodging twelve frogs in around 100 yards. A Great Blue Heron was standing in the road snatching them up as they hopped by. The Russell's hope to place a "Frog Crossing" sign along the road to alert drivers to slow down and allow the frogs to cross in relative safety.

Because of their love of frogs and their desire that Frogjoy Woods be preserved in perpetuity, the Russell family donated a conservation easement to Natural Area Preservation Association. NAPA is a Texas Land Trust that oversees the protection of over fifty preserves and sanctuaries across the state.

Frogs and other amphibians are suffering serious threats to their survival and perhaps one-third of the 5,000 or so species in the world are threatened with extinction due to pollution, habitat loss, global warming, pesticide abuse, and unprecedented outbreaks of disease.

Frogjoy Woods is the seventh conservation easement donated to NAPA by the Russell family. 93 year-old Kenneth Russell and his 88 year-old wife have so far donated the 100 acre Research Natural Forest, the 211 acre Alligator Sanctuary, the 131 acre Westernmost Longleaf Pine Preserve, the 69 acre Zwickey Creek Wildlife Sanctuary and the 81 acre Perpetual Forest which also serves as America's first "green" family cemetery. The 46 acre Talking Eagle Sanctuary was previously donated by George and Sue Russell.

Visitors are welcome to walk along a beautiful 7 mile long trail through the Russell properties that has been designated as a Texas Parks and Wildlife Prairie and Piney Woods Trail. A section of this trail passes through Frogjoy Woods.

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.

The Universal Ethician Church is a 501(C) 3 Church
Your tax-deductible contributions are greatly appreciated