



A Passionate Partnership

The James Green Wildlife & Conservation Initiative

Article by SARAH GRELLA
Photos courtesy of CONSERVATION LEGACY



Fort Worth Country Day 9th grade kicking off a Field Investigation Day, Aledo, Texas.



Caught her first fish, Corsicana, Texas.

The Texas Wildlife Association's Conservation Legacy programs are supported by many like-minded organizations and individuals. In January 2012, the Conservation Legacy education efforts in North Texas became formally known as The James Green Wildlife & Conservation Initiative. This naming opportunity was made possible as a result of Texas Wildlife Association Foundation Trustees, friends and family of James Green and a grant from the Sportsmen's Club of Fort Worth as a way to memorialize their friend James Green.

Green was a native Texan whose life was full of passion for the outdoors and a steadfast desire to share this enthusiasm with others. Naming a program after him was a fitting way to remember and honor his passion for the outdoors and wildlife. Since the inception of the program, 450,000 North Texas students have been taught about native prairies, river systems, and all of their floral and faunal inhabitants.

The fundamental message that has been shared with the 450,000 students impacted in the spirit of Green's legacy, is that of becoming a land steward and creating a land ethic. Aldo Leopold described his land ethic as having a set of values that naturally grew out a lifetime of experiences in the outdoors. Leopold wrote that "we can only be ethical in relation to something we can see, understand, feel, love, or otherwise have faith in."

He believed that direct contact with the natural world was crucial in shaping our ability to extend our ethics beyond our own self-interest. The James Green Wildlife & Conservation Education





Kindergarten students in Dallas eagerly feel the various pelts and skulls, part of a *Wildlife by Design* “Skins & Skulls” classroom presentation.



Exploring aquatic macroinvertebrates, Fort Worth, Texas.



Analyzing terrestrial insects for potential quail food, Aledo, Texas.

The Rainbow Trout
by James Green III

*It is the dream of every man:
the beautifully painted Rainbow.
for one who has set the hook
knows that his dream is accomplished.*

*However, this dream is far from completion
as the enraged trout darts to and fro;
the graphite fly rod bends itself into a full arc
putting the fly fisherman’s skills to the test.*

*But as time wears on
the trout grows weary and tired;
it struggles until it can do so no more,
then gives itself to the waiting hands of the fisherman.*

*The fisherman is overwhelmed with joy
for he has had the chance to dance with this graceful fish.
So in return the fisherman gives the fish back to the river
so that maybe another day
the trout can dance again.*

The Texas Wildlife Association thanks the James Green Wildlife & Conservation Initiative, its numerous supporters, and the Green family for all that they make possible in North Texas. They are truly creating a positive impact on thousands of young Texans’ lives. TWA looks forward to the many years of partnership to come. ♻️

Initiative and all of the Conservation Legacy programming is doing just that: connecting people to the outdoors and creating a relationship with nature.

Of the 450,000 students impacted, 35,861 have participated in field investigation days on local ranches where they have learned about bobwhite quail ecology and how this charismatic species is an important environmental indicator for a healthy and intact North Texas prairie. Within the Trinity River watershed these students have learned firsthand about their direct and indirect impacts on the local water system to build a sense of responsibility toward maintaining its ecological health.

The mission, ethic, and lifestyle of stewardship are exemplified through Green’s poetry. With wisdom beyond his age (he was 12 years old when he wrote the poem on the right side of this page), he recounts adventures in fishing; his passion for the thrill of interacting with the wild outdoors is balanced by a desire for nature and to always be able to offer this experience to others. It is this exact balance that has been inspired by Green and is taught to students of the same age across North Texas, how to enjoy and experience everything nature has to offer with a mindful sustainable approach.

