



News Release

January 16, 2003

For Immediate Release

Landowner Profile:

Like Father, Like Sons - Bob and Doc Pearson

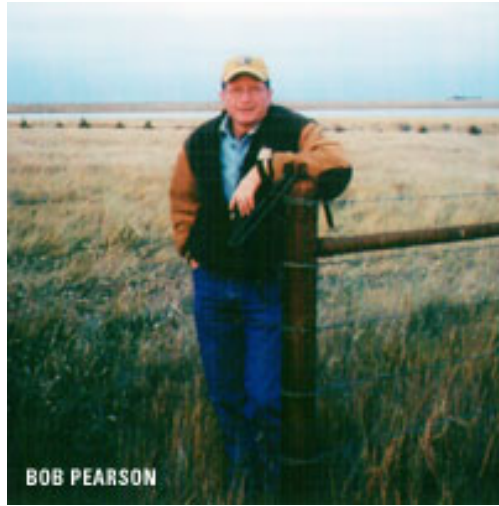
Bob and Doc Pearson made a pact as children to restore their father's land to benefit wildlife. Today, the Pearsons are making good on that promise.

Over the past several years, the Pearson brothers have protected and restored 360 acres of native wetlands and vegetation on the 960-acre property that has been in the family since 1945.

But if you ask Bob and Doc, they'll say they are just carrying on their father's legacy of conservation. "My father was one of the original members of the North Plains Groundwater District in 1955," Bob Pearson said. "He won some conservation awards and took care of his land."

Bob and Doc Pearson are following in their father's footsteps, and in 2000 they were given the Lone Star Land Steward award in the High Plains Ecological Region of Texas for conservation work on their land.

Since 1998, the Pearsons have



The Pearsons' efforts have resulted in land that has become an oasis for wildlife. This year, Bob Pearson has already spotted 39 antelope, 100 mule deer and 22 white tails, plus numerous bird species such as pheasant, blue and bobwhite quail, turkey, mallard, teal, geese and cranes.

"When you see those birds coming back in – the mallards, Canada geese and cranes – it makes it all worthwhile," he said.

Wildlife is so plentiful, in fact, that this year the Pearsons began hunting on their land for the first time in four years.

"This year, we've got to hunt quail," Bob Pearson said. "We've got two coveys of 30 birds each."

The Pearsons were able to implement these conservation projects with the help of several

In 2001, the PLJV signed a 10-year agreement with Bob and Doc Pearson to contribute \$12,180 to complete construction of the fence around the 70-acre playa, create terraces to divert water into the playas and prevent erosion, and to establish a grassed waterway that feeds into the playa.

Even before the terms of the PLJV agreement have expired, the Pearsons have signed on for yet another conservation project with TPW to restore shortgrass prairie for rare species.

With each project, the Pearson brothers have contributed a large portion of their own money, including \$5,055 for the PLJV project and they expect to contribute \$11,641 to the TPW project.

"If there's anything you can cut in stone, it is that our [conservation] efforts will persist," Bob Pearson said. "There's nothing that gives you a better rush than this."

Bob Pearson has passed along the value of stewardship to his children and grandchildren, who undoubtedly will carry on his legacy of conservation.

"My grandchildren love to be on our land because of all the game. Plus, I have three

planted more than 1,700 native plants, fenced in a 70-acre playa, constructed three buffered waterways that feed the playa, and flash-grazed their pasture to restore native short-grass – all the while harvesting 50 bushels of dry farm wheat and grazing about 250 head of cattle each year.

"The Pearsons are living proof that the needs of wildlife can be accommodated in the midst of intensive agriculture," said David Haukos, a regional migratory bird biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service who assisted in conservation projects on the Pearson property.

organizations, including the Playa Lakes Joint Venture (PLJV), Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPW), Partners for Wildlife, Natural Resources Conservation Service and BP Amoco.

"It's kinda rare for all these entities to work together without a fight," said Bob Pearson.

That might have been true in the past, but today agencies and organizations often work together to conserve habitat for wildlife. For example, the PLJV has worked in the Texas Panhandle since 1990 to bring together wildlife agencies, corporations, conservation organizations, sportsmen groups and private landowners to protect prairie wetlands such as playa lakes for wildlife.

daughters and they love it there too."

Got a story to tell about your PLJV project? Contact Debbie Slobe, PLJV Communications Team Leader (303) 926-0777.

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