

COAL CREEK FARM

CoalCreek.com
Cumberland Plateau, TN





TENNGREEN
LAND CONSERVANCY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

March 11, 2021

National Cattlemen's Foundation
Environmental Stewardship Selection Committee
9110 E. Nichols Avenue Suite 300
Centennial, Colorado 80112

Dear Selection Committee:

I am pleased to submit this letter nominating George Lindemann for the National Cattlemen's Foundation Environmental Stewardship Award. George has been a significant partner with the TennGreen Land Conservancy (TennGreen) in Tennessee over the past five years. TennGreen first met Mr. Lindemann when we were acquiring land to expand the Justin P. Wilson Cumberland Trail State Park. George attended a TennGreen-hosted community event and urged leaders to think more broadly about the benefits of conservation and land management in terms of the natural qualities of the area and the opportunity for economic benefits. Although this may sound like a small moment, Mr. Lindemann's comments guided the discussion into a more positive and visionary direction.

After this initial meeting, Mr. Lindemann and TennGreen partnered on a Scenic Rivers designation the following year. In 2017, Mr. Lindemann and TennGreen partnered again, this time on a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) project to expand on George's conservation-focused management at Coal Creek Farm. Funding from NFWF provided treatment of more than 4,000 hemlock trees for hemlock woolly adelgid infestation and planting of 45,000 shortleaf pine trees to establish savanna habitat. This work would not have been possible without Mr. Lindemann's generous matching contribution. He offered more than double the required match which focused on his improved agricultural activities. Mr. Lindemann has positioned himself as an excellent representative for the cattle industry by transitioning to native grasslands

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management through burning, rotational grazing, and ensuring his cattle are fenced outside of streams. Additionally, through this NFWF project, Mr. Lindemann opened his farm to the public for demonstration tours and as a showpiece for agricultural management techniques. TennGreen also used this project as an educational tool in our newsletter and mailings to encourage other producers in the area to convert cattle pastures to more sustainable production.

Mr. Lindemann's conservation-focused generosity continued in December 2020, when he donated nearly 2,000 acres to TennGreen. His vision for this donation is to increase public knowledge of grassland habitat management through research and educational opportunities. Mr. Lindemann has long understood the natural benefits of Tennessee and, more importantly, aligning industry needs such as cattle, timber management, and farming with biodiversity and conservation measures. He has donated his time, talent, and money to empowering and educating the rural communities around his farm in learning about agricultural management and production techniques.

Through our work with Mr. Lindemann at Coal Creek Farm and his recent nearby donation at Soak Creek Farm, he has provided TennGreen the unique opportunity to showcase the linkages between conservation and production. In many instances, landowners may not understand that those do not have to be competing ideas. Mr. Lindemann's role in Tennessee has provided real-world examples for us to showcase and engage future conservationists.

If you would like to speak with me about Mr. Lindemann and the work he has empowered TennGreen to accomplish, you may reach me at 615-329-4441, ext. 102.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steven H. Law".

Steven H. Law
Executive Director

ABOUT COAL CREEK

George Lindemann was looking for a place to escape Florida's increasingly-dangerous hurricanes. He needed a place that was accessible within a few hours, someplace green, someplace quiet. He found Coal Creek Farm online and arranged a trip to see it. Love at first sight even though the land had been clear cut, George looked at the place and saw the future.

The place came with cattle, Longhorn and Angus. Mostly Angus, because that's the prevailing breed in Eastern Tennessee. It came with plenty of issues, too. And, George knew nothing about cattle or farming. He hired a multi-generational Cumberland Plateau cattleman and set about inventorying what was there, what needed to go and what should be cultivated.

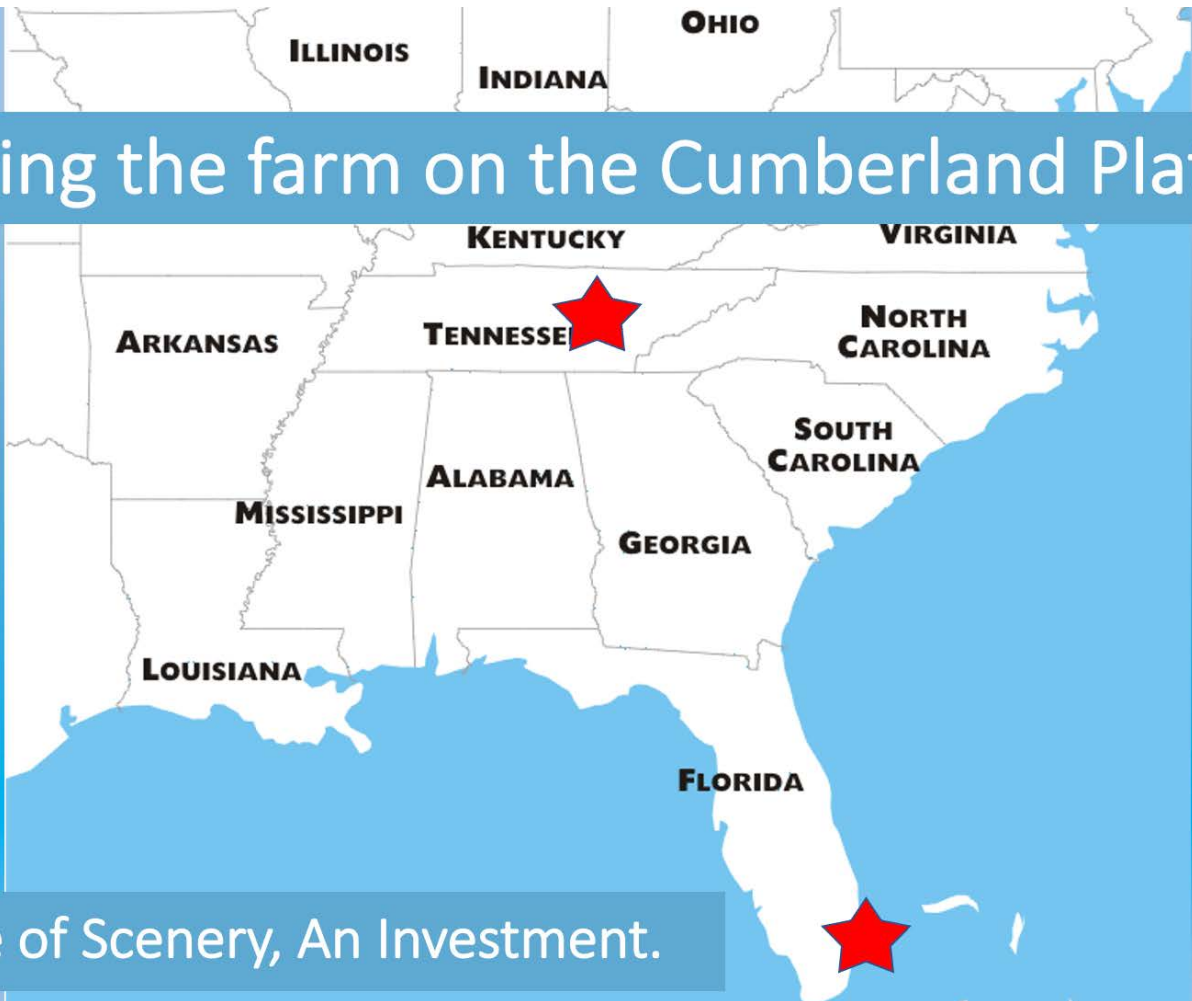
That was nearly 15 years ago. George (and occasionally the free labor known as his four children) have spent time exploring, inventorying, cultivating and caring for the farm. There are plenty of other helpers too. They include entomologists and grassland specialists, burn specialists and arborists. Vets, farmhands and others who support and advise George when there are decisions to be made.

While he wasn't a farmer 15 years ago, today he surely is. Who else gets excited when the weather is right for a controlled burn? Who notices that the Angus don't like either the burned spots or the burned thickets, even when fresh native grasses peek through the char.



A LOCATION WITH TREASURES

Finding the farm on the Cumberland Plateau



A Change of Scenery, An Investment.



The Vision

George's vision for the ranch doesn't stop at the property line. For the last half-dozen years, he's been working with environmental groups to expand access to recreational areas, including waterways on the Cumberland Plateau. Two creeks, Soak and Piney have been designated state Wild and Scenic status, something that provides funding and increased regulatory protection. After restoring clear cut area to native savannah on Coal Creek, George is planning to work with environmental groups, state agencies and private owners to interconnect properties, a broad sheathe of habitat in the heart of biodiversity in the United States.

Coal Creek Farm is located in Eastern Tennessee on the Cumberland Plateau. The entire region is a global hotspot of biodiversity including terrestrial and aquatic flora and fauna.

Coal Creek Farm occupies 5,000-acres between Knoxville, Nashville and Chattanooga, TN. It functions as a working cattle ranch, outdoor art gallery, and an exemplar of ecological best management practices as a sustainable farm.

The name came from its most scenic and well-preserved stream. Coal Creek. Coal, Whites and Alloway Creeks all originate on the farm. The highest points are Brown Mountain (2510 feet) and Bear Den Mountain (2930 feet).

Plateau weather is much cooler and rainier during the summer and blustery in the winter. Summers are quite pleasant with nighttime temperature in the mid 60's and a constant wind to cool the mid-80's days. These factors, along with the farm's average elevation of around 2,300 feet, shorten the growing season to around 200 days a year.



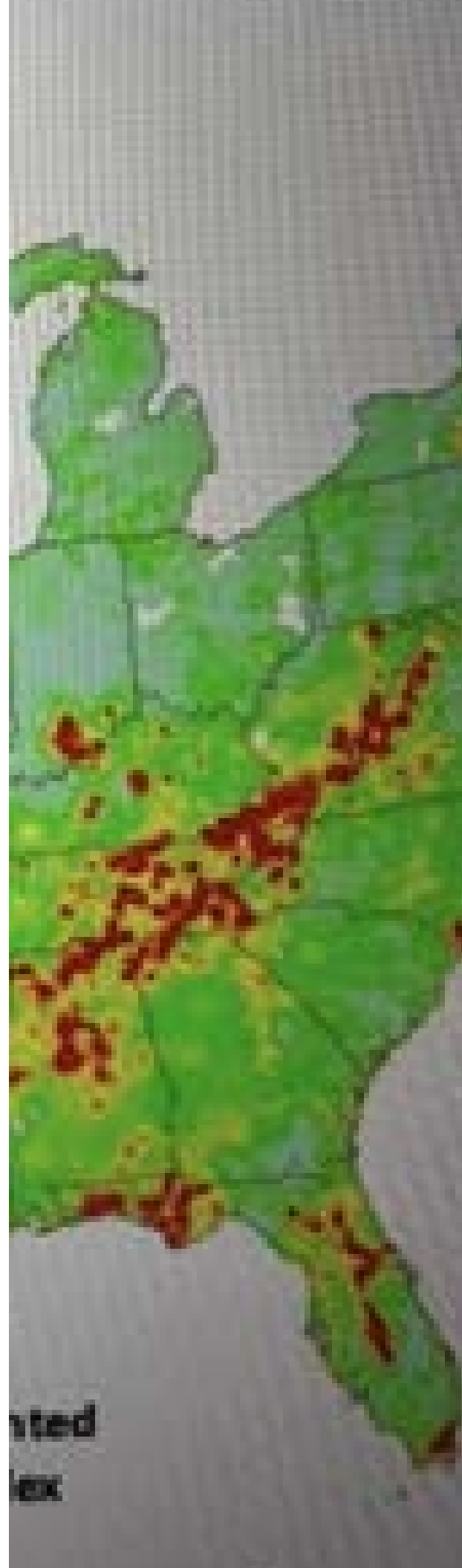
A Biodiverse Treasure

In 2016, Coal Creek Farm owners partnered with The Nature Conservancy, Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation, American Whitewater, and Tennessee State Parks to help Soak Creek become Tennessee's first State Wild and Scenic River in 15 years. Coal Creek also donated land to allow the Scenic Cumberland Trail State Trail to be built through the river gorge alongside the scenic river.

As part of this, George Lindemann asked that the resource be more available to the public with supporting facilities for paddlers, hikers, cyclers and families. This scenic designation helps to promote the region as an ecotourism destination and outdoor recreation hotbed.

The Cumberland Plateau has abundant biodiversity in water and on land. The plateau has 20 mussel species and 40 crayfish species that evolved here and are found nowhere else. Even more diverse are the 231 fish species, of which 67 are endemic: 16 minnows, five suckers, two cave Springfish, one killifish, pygmy sunfish, one sculpin, and an incredible 41 darters.

Cows are part of Plateau culture. Nearly every family has them, even if for their own use. In thinking through the management issues, George began to ask his experts about the relationship between the cows and the environment. Why not have ecotourism join agriculture, cattle farming, as an economic driver for the region? He began to think about how the cattle and conservation could accommodate one another. George is committed to not just preserving what exists but enhancing habitat. For the cattle that includes controlled burns to bring back native grasses, which are followed by insects, birds, and other wildlife.



Cows+Fire=Restoration

Coal Creek Farm is developing a protocol that will help restore native grasses and in doing so bring back native birds and more cost-effectively feed cattle. This controlled burn protocol is already demonstrating the possibilities. This approach allows cool-season grass fields to rest during the spring when warm-season grasses are abundant. It also increases the total yield of cool-season baled hay, stocked for winter feeding. In short, Coal Creek has worked through a process to feed cattle at a lower cost while fostering the return of the native grasses.

Cattle are instrumental in George's effort to encourage native grasses. In fact, they are instrumental in the plan to re-establish Plateau savannas. Working with the Southeast Grassland Association, Coal Creek has focused on using controlled burns for managing the land in general while dealing with the consequences of clear-cutting – dense thickets. The Angus cattle were not keen on foraging the burned land even when native grasses returned. They didn't like the thickets—burned or not. The Longhorn, however, were much less picky and when grasses returned to the clear-cut, burned areas, they would forage. Grazing the cows on native grass savannas allowed Coal Creek to increase total acreage of useable cattle land without additional expense of planting and maintenance.

In this way George Lindemann is pioneering a cattle management philosophy that not only benefits cattle producers but also creates more native grassland habitat. Coupled with a controlled burn strategy and with an emphasis on safety, Coal Creek has found that with relatively little expense, the previously clear cut areas, native grasses appear on their own creating a free food source for the cows and native habitat for everyone else.



Before/After



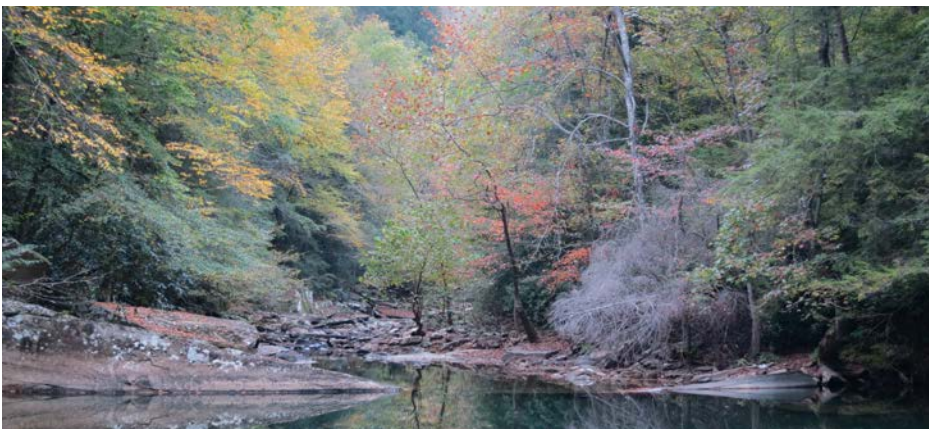
SECTION 2

PUTTING COWS TO WORK ON THE ENVIRONMENT

At Coal Creek Farm, we've harnessed our cows to the twin goals of making money while enhancing the environment. We're engaged in both sustainable farming practices and research to preserve and enhance the natural environment. Our cattle are helping restore grasslands.

Coal Creek Farm is surrounded by amazing natural features.

- The farm shares a 5-mile border with Grassy Cove, a National Natural Landmark and the largest sinkhole in North America (24 square miles).
- The small streams in the Cove converge and enter into Mill Cave where its waters flow seven miles underground and emerge as the Head of the Sequatchie River.
- The Sequatchie Valley is long (150 miles) and skinny (3-5 miles wide) with the Sequatchie River at its base. It is considered "one of the largest and most spectacular anticlinal valleys in the world," according to the National Park Service.



TOP 12

The Cumberland Plateau is among the most endangered natural places.

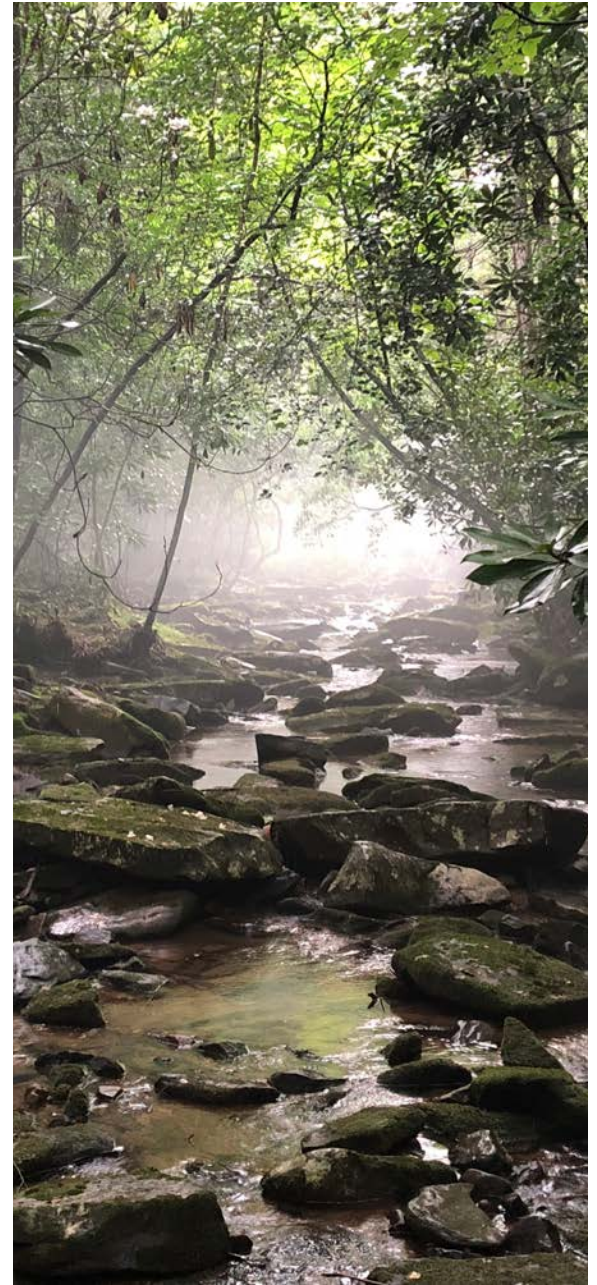
Coal Creek Farm/TN

- Piney Falls, a Natural-Scientific State Natural Area and a National Natural Landmark lie just to the southwest of Coal Creek Farm. It has two large waterfalls, old-growth trees, and habitat hosting ecologically significant endangered species of plants and animals.

And yet, the National Resource Defense Council lists the Cumberland Plateau in the top 12 most endangered natural areas in the Western Hemisphere.

The responsibility to manage Coal Creek farm goes well beyond the value of the land and productivity, though that is essential. A farm that doesn't produce is a farm that's going to be for sale or subdivided for development. Coal Creek is a working farm, but George Lindemann believes and is showing others, how farmers big and small can be productive, profitable and pro-environment in the biggest sense of the word.

Like the region, Coal Creek Farm features abundant native species, some of which have specific market value, while others are strictly for appreciation. The region is in the top one percent of species rarity. A few years ago, George Lindemann ordered a survey of flora and fauna on Coal Creek Farm.



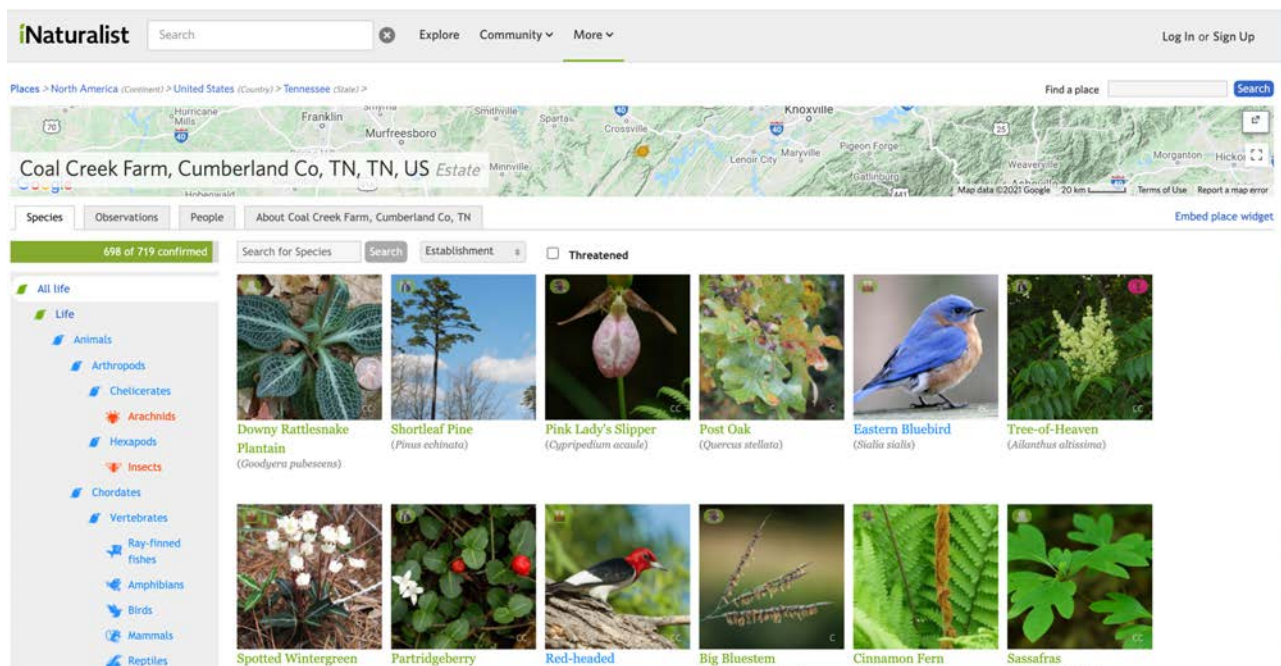
Citizen Scientists and Researchers

In 2490 observation events, 18 observers have documented 932 species. That includes scientists, ranchhands, kids and guests. Better still, the collected information is posted online so that other researchers and citizen-scientists can access the information. This is another management tool. People from all over the world have identified and commented on the postings.

https://www.inaturalist.org/observations?place_id=126619

To George, these various ecosystems and habitats are not tangential to the cattle operations, they are, in part, derived from them. Reducing fertilizer and pesticides on grazing land helps reduce runoff and protects water quality. This protects aquatic life and respects, downstream water users.

The burn/graze strategy came from watching what the different cows were doing (Longhorn vs. Angus), then working with the Southeast Grasslands Initiative and scholars focused on controlled burns and land management to devise a pilot project which would deal with the thickets, encourage native grass growth and feed the cattle. It worked. Coal Creek is not only expanding their program, George shares what he's learned with other farmers. There is still a fencing expense, to keep them in the field. There is still deworming and antibiotics and other costs. But, in this new process, he's demonstrating that these approaches (leveraging tried and true practices with the latest science and site-specific know-how) can be used on virtually any farm with a positive effect on nature and the bottom line.



Productivity, Profit and Promise

When Hemlock trees were threatened by invasive beetles, George brought in entomologists to advise on the best alternatives to manage the problem while protecting wildlife and water quality. Environmentalists are supposed to look at the alternatives and choose the one that gets the job done with the least collateral impact. Sometimes the job of land steward isn't that simple. Introduce a new species that could become a problem or use poison? In the end, George held his nose and went with the poison based on the expert advice. It's held off the bad bugs for seven years.

Being a steward is a responsibility. It's like being a "community." How you define "community" depends on where you draw the circle. Stewardship is like that. You can steward the land you have and do it well or you can draw a bigger circle, one that extends beyond the property lines of Coal Creek Farm to the entire Cumberland Plateau.

George is trying to demonstrate that cattlemen and farmers can turn a profit while enhancing the environment. Only when cattlemen accept that it's possible to do both will we be able to harness economic and environmental power to benefit everyone. Doing well while doing good. That's the plan.



SECTION 3

At Coal Creek Farm George Lindemann is leveraging the best of the old world and the new to cost-effectively feed his cows while enhancing native habitat. What was clear-cut before he bought the farm is now being tended with controlled burns and cattle grazing to produce better quality, less expensive cattle graze. Some of it is restored savanna.

Step 1. Agree that the clear cut is unsightly and spawning thickets and other undesirables.

Step 2. Watch those cows! Hmmm, the Angus don't like the clear-cuts, the burns, the thickets or the native seasonal grasses that follow, but those Longhorn sure do!

Step 3. Call in the experts. Grass guys. Burn guys. Even the bird guys. Develop a pilot project to have the Longhorn graze in fields where the natives are returning.

Step 4. Satisfaction watching the Longhorn eat for free and noting the decreased costs for fertilizer, pesticide, lime, and other materials. And still the Longhorn graze.

Bonus: Bugs returning, bird populations growing. The ecosystem is looking good.

While this concept is historically and scientifically sound, it isn't regularly practiced on a commercial scale. For the last 70 years, it has been easier to use heavy clearing machinery and non-native grasses to feed cows. At Coal Creek, they are hoping to provide a financially-sound and environmentally-friendly alternative for farmers.



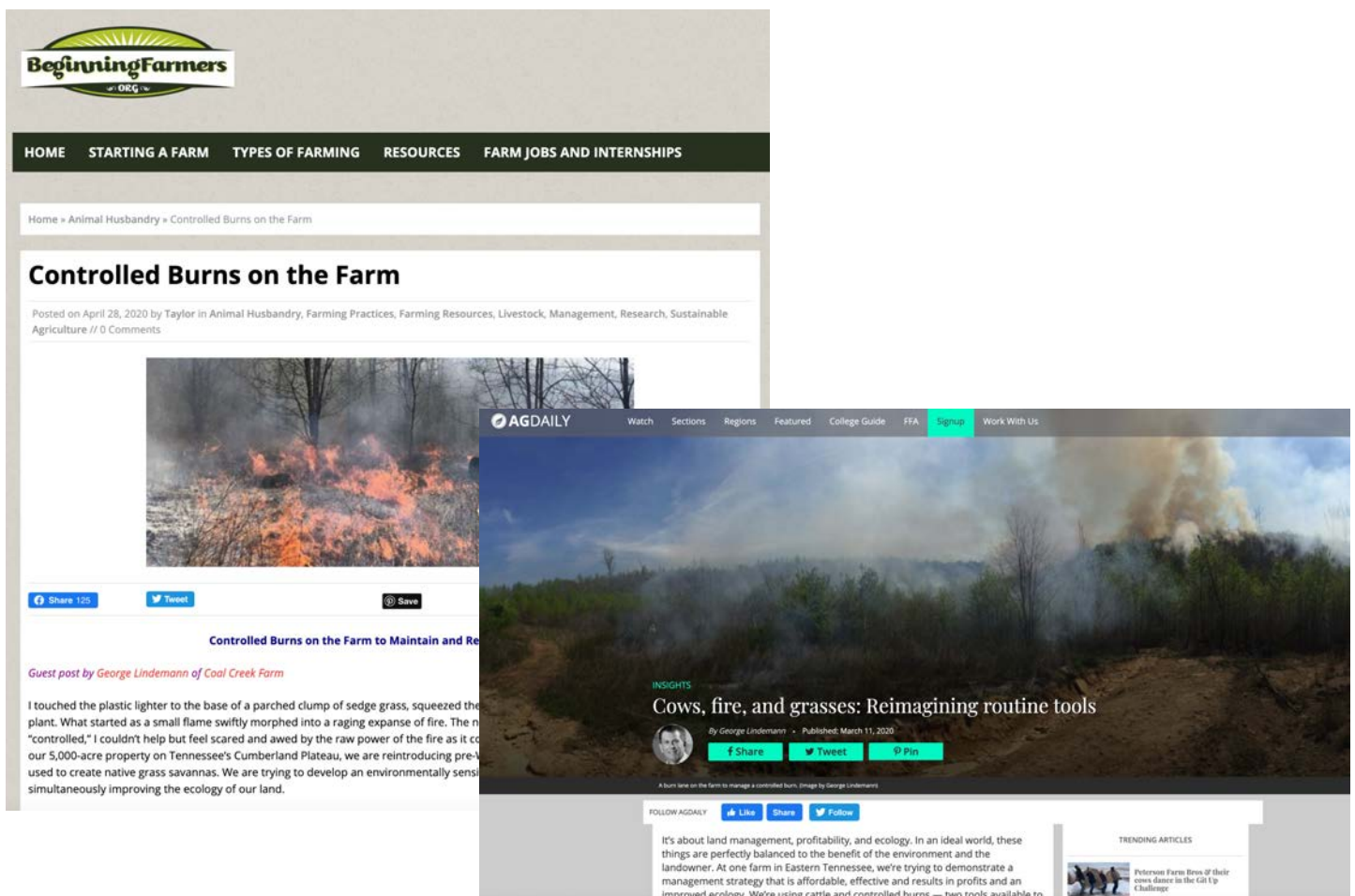
SECTION 4

The farm is about cattle but it's about much more than that. It's about water and heritage, about history and diversity and stewardship. It's about ensuring that the business that is the farm today will continue to be a harbor for native species well into the future.

George Lindemann is very involved with local and state officials in Tennessee. He was instrumental in securing Wild and Scenic designations for Soak and Piney Creeks because he believes that ecotourism can be an economic engine for the region. In 2016 he donated land to expand and enhance the Cumberland Trail and in March of 2021 he donated another 2000 acres to TennGreen for conservation and research.

George has been so excited by what he's learned, he's been reaching out directly to other farmers. Recently, he presented at the National Rangelands Conference where he explained his burn/graze approach. Calls following the presentation demonstrate there is real interest.

He's written articles for AgDaily and Beginning Farmer, as well.



Coal Creek Farm/TN

Significantly, George has connected to most of the environmental groups in Tennessee. They support his approach to farming and recognize his commitment to environmental preservation and enhancement as well as the bottom line.

His work with scientists on medicinal herbs could lead to a better and more successful cultivation process. This can, of course, be a revenue generator for the farm.

His work with property owners was instrumental in getting special designations for Soak and Piney Creeks.

George recently appeared on the podcast “Climate Change with Scott Amyx” to discuss sustainability across all of his business interests, including Coal Creek Farm. It’s scheduled to air some time in May 2021.

The inventory of the property has revealed living assets and new species including a new species of sunflower and a new species of grasshopper, *Melanoplus lindemann* Hill, though George was kind of partial to Grasshopper George.

George isn’t done. As he looks across the farm to the mountains beyond he sees public and private land holdings that together could create “A 20,000-50,000 acre project to connect public and private lands under conservation easement. Wouldn’t that be cool?”

Fifteen years ago George Lindemann wasn’t a farmer or a cattleman. Today he is both.



SUPPORT

International Ginseng Institute
School of Agriculture
Middle Tennessee State University
MTSU Box 05, 1301 East Main St
Murfreesboro, TN 37132



March 7, 2021

National Cattlemen's Foundation
Environmental Stewardship Award Program
9110 Ease Nichols Avenue, Suite 300
Centennial, Colorado 80112

RE: George L. Lindemann

Dear Selection Committee:

It is a privilege to recommend Mr. George L. Lindemann for your Environmental Stewardship Award. The International Ginseng Institute at Middle Tennessee State University is the only institute of its kind in the United States that focuses on the renewal, preservation, market growth and active property research of medicinal plants native to the Eastern Appalachian region of the United States. As founding Director of the International Ginseng Institute and co-founding Director of the Tennessee Center for Botanical Medicine I can sincerely support Mr. Lindemann's nomination for your award because of his diverse support for our many efforts.

Mr. Lindemann has generously provided many samples, has allowed Institute personnel access to his property on numerous occasions to search for naturally occurring stands of medicinal plants (many of which are endangered and collected and studied under State/Federal license), he has taken individual action to preserve and further the growth of identified plants of interest on his property, he has shared the results of our efforts with his own blogging community to further education concerning these plants in the best possible ways, and he has made significant financial contributions directly in support of the research we conduct.

The harvesting and sale of medicinal plants native to Appalachia has been a historical source of income for a region known most prominently for its poverty. Economic pressure has led to environmental pressure on these valuable plants. If the plants are lost, not only does the region become poorer, but valuable sources of new medicines and disease treatments disappear. Mr. Lindemann has and is helping with our mission to find sustainable solutions that enhance the future of the plants and also preserve the income of the dependent communities.

One of Mr. Lindemann's most significant contributions to our efforts and to the people touched by medicinal plants was his sponsorship of the 2019 Symposium on the Science, Tradition, and Economics of Tennessee Ginseng. He completely funded all costs and honorariums associated with assembling invited representatives from every link in the

International Ginseng Institute
School of Agriculture
Middle Tennessee State University
MTSU Box 05, 1301 East Main St
Murfreesboro, TN 37132



ginseng chain. Representatives from groups as diverse as the US Department of Fish and Wildlife (administrators of the CITES treaty governing the ginseng trade), the Smithsonian Institution, leading exporters, researchers, harvesters (known as diggers for their process of collection), national conservation organizations, and state representatives attended. Because of Mr. Lindemann's efforts, laws benefiting the commerce and the plant were changed in Tennessee, Federal policy to create a new classification was announced, and the International Ginseng Institute was invited to share its work in a larger forum through the Smithsonian Institution's annual Folk Life Festival held on the National mall and attended by more than 500,000 individuals. Although the Festival was canceled in 2020 because of the pandemic, the Smithsonian has none the less continued to add its voice and share its megaphone with the IGI to help promote our mission as it pertains to American Ginseng. We would never have reached such a large audience without Mr. Lindemann's support.

Mr. Lindemann's stewardship has a wide focus. His efforts with medicinal plants have cultural and economic impact throughout Tennessee and Appalachia. As we succeed in the preservation and sustainable exploitation of these unique plants, Mr. Lindemann's efforts will have truly had an impact worldwide. We at the IGI are honored to have the opportunity to support Mr. Lindemann's nomination and urge you to recognize the diversity of his Stewardship and the broad impact his work has. Those of us on the front lines know the difference his efforts are making and encourage you to recognize them as well.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Iris Gao".

Iris Gao, PhD
Founding Director
International Ginseng Institute
Middle Tennessee State University
ying.gao@mtsu.edu
Phone: 615-898-2430



March 10, 2021

On behalf of Austin Peay State University's Center of Excellence for Field Biology and Southeastern Grasslands Initiative (SGI), I would like to offer this letter of support for the nomination of George Lindemann as a recipient of the Environmental Stewardship Award.

George owns Coal Creek Farm, a 5,000-acre working cattle farm in Cumberland County, Tennessee on the Cumberland Plateau. In the 10+ years that George has owned his farm he has shown a high-level of commitment to conservation.

Prior to his purchase of the farm, the steep mountainside land was suffering extensively from erosion. With his love and commitment to streams and rivers, George understood that two major creeks, White's Creek and Coal Creek, originate on the side of this mountain. He began to reach out to regional experts in conservation to learn more about what he could do to protect water quality and forest health, while also simultaneously beginning to take steps to improving the scarred clearcut landscape. He partnered with the TennGreen Land Conservancy (TLC) and Panther Creek Forestry and collectively they received a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant to treat Eastern Hemlock trees along the stream corridor with appropriate insecticide to keep these important forest stream corridor trees from being killed by an invasive species, the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. In addition, they instituted a plan to plant thousands of Shortleaf Pine on the mountainside to help combat erosion and to restore the very rare Shortleaf Pine-Post Oak Savanna Grassland, 99 percent of which has been lost from the remainder of the entire ecoregion. George committed his own resources and staff to helping to conduct prescribed burns annually across hundreds of acres. He also has invested the time into wanting to understand more the relationship between Spanish breeds of cattle, like longhorns, to how they can be used as a tool to manage the upland savannas and woodlands in a more ecologically beneficial way. He is continually striving to find ways to heal those clearcuts made prior to his ownership which have been a scar on the landscape for many years.

In addition, in 2019 George funded the work of the Austin Peay State University Center of Excellence for Field Biology and the Southeastern Grasslands Initiative to better understand the biodiversity and ecology of the farm, specifically so that the information gained could help him make more informed management decisions. The biologists from APSU-SGI studied the farm



for more than two years and are wrapping up their investigation in 2021. They also brought up a team of entomologists from Mississippi State University led by Dr. Jovonn Hill. In 2020, another team of birders and mammal specialists was brought onto the project. Among the dozen or so botanists, entomologists, ornithologists, and mammal specialists who helped study the farm, George was often right there helping to document species biodiversity. The team created a citizen-science project, called the Coal Creek Farm Biodiversity Project (<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/coal-creek-farm-biodiversity-project?tab=stats>) using iNaturalist. Throughout the project they documented over 1,000 species of plants and animals. In the process, the Mississippi State team discovered a grasshopper that was a new species to science, later named for George as *Melanoplus lindemani*. This species needs open, fire-maintained woodlands and is endemic to the Cumberland Plateau. Without George's investment in hiring a team of experts to help him understand his property, this species would likely have remained undiscovered.

George's has combined his big vision for conservation and his philanthropic abilities to do some great work for conservation outside of Coal Creek Farm. For starters, he owned 1,000-acres of land a few miles away from the farm and several years ago donated all 1,000-acres to the State of Tennessee's Dept. of Environment and Conservation to create the new Soak Creek State Scenic River. This land is now publicly owned and is important for protecting a beautiful stream corridor. George's generosity gave a gift to the citizens of Tennessee that is beyond measure. But George wasn't done giving. In 2020, he took nearly 2,000-acres of land that adjoins the previous 1,000-acre gift and gave it to TLC. TLC is now bringing together partners like APSU-SGI and Panther Creek Forestry to restore 400-acres of Shortleaf Pine-Oak Savanna Grassland. As we get the "Soak Creek Savanna Project" off the ground we are reminded that without the commitment of conservationists and philanthropists like George, these very significant achievements would not have happened.

In closing, George has shown that he is seriously committed to conservation, from making significant investments to better understand the ecological needs of his own farm to making large-scale impacts to the surrounding counties. I hope you will consider honoring George with the Environmental Stewardship Award.

Sincerely 

Dwayne Estes, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Southeastern Grasslands Initiative
Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, TN
Website: www.segrasslands.org
Phone: (931) 221-7771
Email: dwayne.estes@segrasslands.org

March 6, 2021

National Cattlemen's Foundation
Environmental Stewardship Award Program
9110 Ease Nichols Avenue, Suite 300
Centennial, Colorado 80112

RE: George L. Lindemann, Coal Creek Farm, Soak Creek

Dear Selection Committee:

I am delighted to nominate Coal Creek Farm and Mr. George L. Lindemann for your Environmental Stewardship Award. Coal Creek Farm is centered in an area recognized nationally for both its biodiversity and ecosystem sensitivity. Over 1,200 species of plants and every winged creature known to visit Tennessee has been identified on Coal Creek Farm. Soak Creek, a part of Mr. Lindemann's focus, has a unique population of salamanders and even the subterranean aquifer is a critical component of the human ecosystem in Tennessee. Yes, this land is important to all creatures here, both great and small.

However, much of the benefits to humanity that makes this land very special would have been completely lost without Mr. Lindemann's work. His history with the property, his financial investment, his dedicated research, and his environmental stewardship has rescued this gem for future generations. In the middle of the worst part of the Covid-19 pandemic, he proposed and was successful in obtaining the commitment of the state of Tennessee to accept his gift of 1,000 acres containing Soak Creek to create a State conservation park protecting the unique aquatic life found in the ecosystem with conditions that allow non-destructive recreational use of the asset to benefit the depressed economy of Rhea county. He thoughtfully balanced the needs of a unique spices with the needs of the local economy and persuaded the State legislature to adopt that vision. This is the best kind of stewardship.

My business, Clarity Resources, llc., exports high value medicinal herbs worldwide, but principally to Asia. For a host of reasons, the rural way of life that depends on these gifts from the land is under extreme environmental pressure. Even though Coal Creek Farm is an active cattle operation, Mr. Lindemann works closely with the International Ginseng Institute at Middle Tennessee State University in support of its mission to preserve, enhance, and sustain a robust environment for these medicinal plants, some of which are uniquely native to the eastern United States. His stewardship benefits not only his farm but the entire Appalachian region of the United States through his support of research, educational outreach, his environmental blog, and openness to share his land for scientific research.

Another example of Mr. Lindemann's direct efforts is his work with TennGreen, an environmental conservation organization in Tennessee. He has donated 2,000 acres of prime land to them for use for environmental research. His vision is to change the traditional conservation approach of donate and forget, to an active site for scientific engagement for studying conservation, agriculture, and environmental impacts so that best in class solutions can be developed and shared. The Southern proposed research to develop a private lands model for successful savannah restoration on land previously used for pine pulp production. This entire concept of active use of conserved land for

development of real solutions grounded in the private sector is both novel and visionary for how it can change the dynamics of the stewardship conversation.

Stewardship has often had a narrow definition, focusing on a single piece of land or a narrow focus on a particular concern. Mr. Lindemann literally defines Stewardship holistically to include everything from the water deep underground to populations hundreds of miles away that need solutions to the environmental problems that are changing the way they live. His Stewardship is evidenced by his financial commitments, his personal example, his efforts at sharing and outreach, and his success in developing private preservation and restoration models for the good earth. You will not find a more deserving recipient of your Environmental Stewardship Award nor will you find one who is truer to the intent of your mission than Mr. Lindemann and Coal Creek Farm.

I recommend Coal Creek Farm and Mr. George Lindemann to you without hesitation or reservation and encourage you to recognize through your award his past efforts and continuing commitment to the very highest standards of Stewardship.

Yours truly,

Paul W. Martin, Jr

Paul W. Martin, Jr.
Chief Managing Member
Clarity Resources, LLC
865-805-2000



March 9, 2021

National Cattlemen's Foundation Environmental Stewardship Selection Committee 9110 E.
Nichols Ave., Suite 300
Centennial, CO 80112

Dear Selections Committee:

We are writing today to voice our strong support of Mr. George Lindemann's nomination for your Environmental Stewardship Award. We appreciate this award and what it stands for as work that is truly representative of conservation. Combining working agricultural lands with efforts to conserve and improve upon fish and wildlife habitat are a critical need in today's conservation movement, and the future for many of our wildlife moving forward. We believe George Lindemann and his work at his Coal Creek farm exemplify the spirit of your award, and this important perspective.

As you are most likely aware, Mr. Lindemann has conducted extensive habitat restoration efforts upon his property. Using a mixture of prescribed burning and livestock grazing to promote and improve wildlife habitat, his science-based and field management approach have shown many that indeed livestock can not only exist on a conservation landscape, but they can thrive and be utilized as a management tool for improving lands.

His willingness to experiment with his personal farm and 400 head of longhorn cattle to produce these results is not only worthy of recognition, it should be held up as an example to others and as an example of how wildlife conservation and agriculture can and must find creative solutions that work for both movements and help them to accomplish their goals.

The Cumberland Plateau is an amazingly biologically diverse area, with several threatened and endangered species present. It is widely recognized as an area of significant conservation focus. Add to this that roughly 88% of Tennessee is privately owned, and it becomes clear that in order for healthy fish and wildlife to persist, conservation strategies MUST function on private working lands. Mr. Lindemann's efforts epitomize this mindset and are proving a successful path forward.

It is also important to note that we have worked with Mr. Lindemann for several years and awarded him our Water Conservationist of the year in 2017 for his important work in protecting Soak Creek and surrounding lands on the Cumberland Plateau.

Due to his willingness to donate his time, financial resources, and focus, and his willingness to take risks to improve his ranch for wildlife and cattle, we fully support Mr. Lindemann's nomination for the Environmental Stewardship Award.

If you would like to speak to me about George and this work, I would be happy to discuss it with you. I can be reached on my cell phone at 615-430-5258.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Butler", is positioned above the printed name and title.

Michael Butler
Chief Executive Officer



www.americanwhitewater.org

**AMERICAN
WHITewater**

Kevin Colburn
National Stewardship Director
PO Box 1540
Cullowhee, NC 28723
828-712-4825
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March 10, 2021

To Whom It May Concern,

American Whitewater is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to conserving and restoring our nation's whitewater resources and to enhancing opportunities to enjoy them safely. Our members are primarily conservation-oriented non-commercial kayakers, canoeists, and rafters. Our organization has had significant involvement with river and land management issues throughout the United States since 1954.

American Whitewater staff have worked with George Lindemann for the past seven years on a broad range of river conservation and access initiatives in Tennessee. George has served as an architect and leader of efforts to conserve an intentional network of working and protected lands near his home. These efforts have included playing a role in the first Tennessee Scenic River designation in 17 years, donating significant lands to conservation purposes, and filling in critical sections of the Cumberland Trail. These efforts dovetail state and private lands in a powerful model for integrating conservation, outdoor recreation, and working lands in the eastern United States.

George's efforts have led to a significant growth in regional conservation outcomes and goals, and the rivers and lands are better for it. Here at American Whitewater we are delighted to support his nomination for this acknowledgement.

Sincerely,

Kevin Colburn
National Stewardship Director
American Whitewater
PO Box 1540
Cullowhee, NC 28723
kevin@americanwhitewater.org