



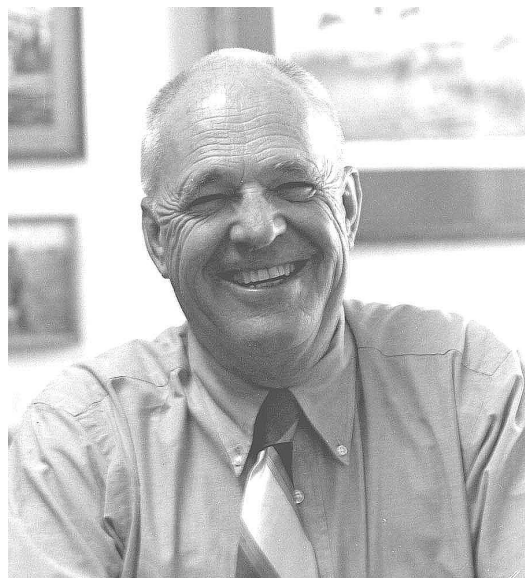
Texas Rice

Texas A&M University System Agricultural
Research and Extension Center
Beaumont, Texas

June 2002 Volume II Number 4

A Tribute to David Wintermann

David Wintermann's active involvement in the rice industry dates back to 1942 when his father passed away and he took over the family's business interest, which included Lakeside Irrigation Com-



pany and thousands of acres of rice land in Colorado and Wharton counties. To tell the story properly, though, we must begin at the beginning.

Rudolph J. Wintermann immigrated to America from Germany when he was seventeen years old and settled in St. Louis, MO. He married Louise Burger and they had three sons, Rudolph T., Oscar J. and Ewald L. Wintermann. R.J. had many business interests including St. Louis Syrup and Preserv-

ing Company and Corn Products Co., where they made syrup, cornstarch and other products from corn. Around the turn of the century R.J. purchased stock in the Lakeside Sugar Refinery near Eagle Lake and in 1909 he, along with other investors, incorporated Lakeside Irrigation Co. (previously Eagle Lake Irrigation Co.) When R.J. died in 1910, he left all his property to his wife Louise, and \$25,000 to each of his three sons. With the estate in debt, the boys agreed to each focus on one area and try to salvage the family businesses. R.T. stayed in St. Louis with his mother to attend matters there, Ewald took over management of the Tyler Warehouse Cold Storage, and Oscar moved to

Eagle Lake with his wife Adah and their 1-year old son David to manage the Lakeside Irrigation Co.

Upon arrival in Eagle Lake, Oscar found the Lakeside Irrigation Co. struggling for survival. They had only 18 miles of canals, and supplied water to only a handful of growers. Under his guidance the company, adding nearly 200 miles of canals and servicing 20,000 acres of rice land. Water was pumped from the Colorado River into Eagle Lake, and from there was lifted

with powerful pumps into the canal system. This was a massive undertaking, requiring extensive capital investment and superior management skills. A quote from the March 6th 1942 edition of the Eagle Lake Headlight reads, "It took a man of O.J. Wintermann's ingenuity and capacity to successfully handle a development of this kind." O.J. was a former director and leader in the American Rice Growers Association, Chamber of Commerce member, a director at

continued on page 5

28th Annual Field Day at Eagle Lake

The 28th Annual Rice Field Day at the Eagle Lake Station will be held Tuesday July 2nd starting at 4:00pm.

Speakers will include Anna McClung on variety improvement, Mike Chandler on Command rates and timing, Garry McCauley on the Clearfield varieties, and MO Way on insecticide use.

The evening meal and program will follow the field tours and should begin around 6:30 pm. There will be a ceremony acknowledging the land donation by the David Wintermann heirs to start the program. State Representative Robby Cook will talk about groundwater districts and Des Woods will report on the TRRF and TRPB activities.

From the Editor...



This issue of *Texas Rice* commemorates an important event for the Eagle Lake Station. July 2, marks the date of the Station's 28th field day. Researchers from USDA and Texas AM University will discuss their latest research findings during the field tour. Anna McClung will provide an update on the latest varieties, Gary McCauley will present information on the performance of herbicide tolerant varieties, and will discuss the effect of plant and row spacing on varietal performance. Mo Way will present his latest findings on insect management. In addition to the presentations, several scientist will have signs by their research plots describing the numerous projects involving varietal development, rice production and management.

The afternoon program will be held at the Eagle Lake Community Center. Dinner is being generously funded by numerous contributions from rice millers, producers, equipment manufacturers, and local business leaders. The evening program will include presentations by Robby Cook and Des Woods. Those attending the evening program will be able to view displays providing an in depth coverage of the research and extension activities being conducted by the Eagle Lake and Beaumont scientists.

A very special event will occur during the evening program. Presentations will be made honoring David R. Wintermann, who until his death in 1997 was a corner stone of the Texas Rice Industry and a strong supporter of wetland and environmental conservation. David and his wife Eula were strong examples of what it means to give to ones community. During their lifetime, they generously contributed to the Eagle Lake community by donating land and money, but more importantly their time, their wisdom, and their kindness. Their contributions to the Eagle Lake community include the Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge, the Wintermann Library, the Prairie Edge Museum, and the Eagle Lake Community Center.

If this was not enough, David and Eula have made

numerous contributions that improve the life of Texans far beyond the Eagle Lake area. Topping this list was the contribution of time and resources which enabled the creation of the Rice Memorial Hospital, and most recently the donation of the Wintermann home and all of its contents and 40 acres of land adjoining the Lake to the University of Texas Medical Branch in Houston. This donation will be a valuable resource to the people of Texas by serving as a meeting place for scientists working to solve important medical problems.

David and Eula's heirs have continued this spirit of giving. Several heirs are in the process of donating nearly 40 acres of land to expand the Eagle Lake Rice Station. For years, the amount of land at the Station has limited the research that each of our scientists has been able to accomplish. The new land will allow our scientists to greatly expand what they are able to do, and as a result help to speed the development of improved varieties and improved management and production practices.

In acknowledgment of David Wintermann and his family's contribution to the rice industry, the Eagle Lake Rice Research Station is being renamed the David R. Wintermann Rice Research Station at Eagle Lake. I hope you are able to attend the Eagle Lake Field Day and the evening dinner and be a part of this important event.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "T. Wilson".

Ted Wilson

Professor and Center Director

Inside This Issue

Cover Story:

A Tribute to David Wintermann

Eagle Lake 28th Annual Field Day	1
Researcher in the News: Bob Fjellstrom	3
Spotlight on Support	4
Ducks Unlimited	6
The Nature Conservancy	8
The Attwater's Prairie Chicken National Preserve	10
State, National and International News	11
Rice Crop Update	12

Researcher in the News...

Bob Fjellstrom - Molecular Geneticist at the Beaumont Center

It doesn't take long to realize that Bob Fjellstrom has a passion for his work - a new field balanced on the cutting edge of rice research.

Born in Los Angeles in 1959, Bob was raised in Los Angeles county near Inglewood, where he attended Lutheran schools. After his parents separated, his mother moved his family to live next door to his aunt, near Lake Tahoe, Nevada.

Bob graduated from high school in Nevada and wasted little time before diving directly into a Bachelor's Program in Biology at the University of Nevada. Bob finished his BS in Biology in 1981 and headed to Madison, Wisconsin to pursue a Master's Degree in plant breeding and genetics, which he completed in 1984. While at the University of Wisconsin, he studied the genetics of vegetable disease resistance.

After finishing his Master's Degree, Bob headed to Colorado State University in Ft. Collins where he was employed as a Technician/Graduate Student, working on salt tolerance in cereal crops such as rice and oats. Three years later Bob went to Missouri, where he worked as a technician for a tomato breeder.

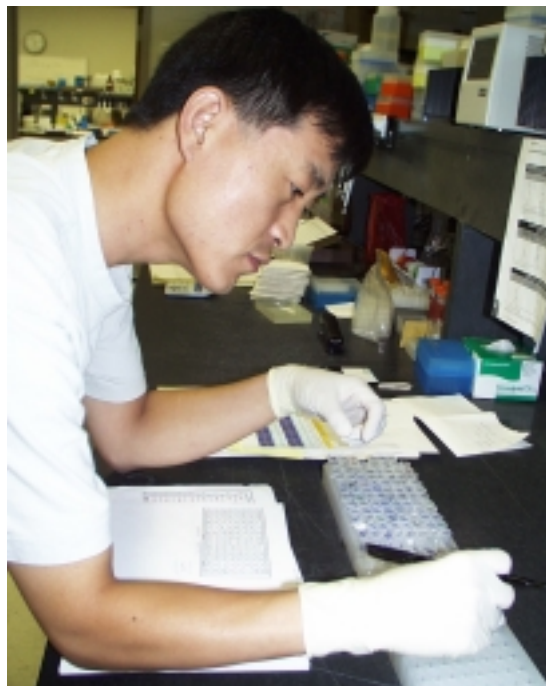
In 1987 Bob enrolled at the University of California at Davis, near Sacramento, to start work on his PhD in Genetics. This is where Bob first began working in molecular genetics, analyzing the genetic diversity of cultivated and wild walnut species found throughout the world. This involved DNA fingerprinting and molecular marker mapping of many walnut



cultivars. In 1993, Bob went to work as a postdoctoral researcher with the United States Department of Agriculture at the National Forage Seed Production Research Center in Corvallis, Oregon to work on the molecular genetics of forage legumes, like clover and trefoil. In 1996 Bob accepted yet another Post-Doc position at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, where he continued molecular genetics research in clover until 1998.

After that Bob came to the Texas A&M/USDA Research Center here in Beaumont and began studying the molecular genetics of rice. Bob finds his work quite rewarding. "It's a great group of people I work with here," says Bob, "and since rice cultivation is so important here in Texas, I feel that my work is extremely worthwhile." Bob is also pleased with the collaboration and cooperation among the Texas A&M and USDA scientists.

Bob enjoys the diversity of working on many projects at the same time. He is in charge of DNA sequence analysis and developing DNA markers that are associated with valu-



Jaeki Chang, visiting scientist from Korea, amplifying DNA samples with custom primers for further laboratory evaluation.

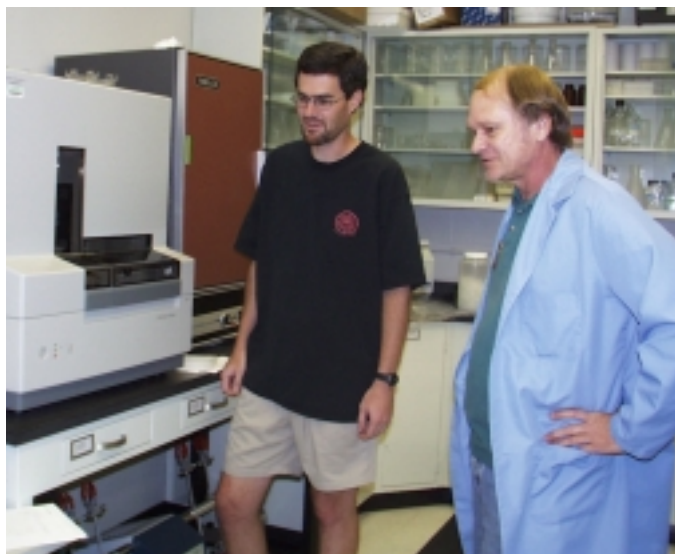
continued on next page

Researcher continued...

able traits such as disease resistance, grain quality, photoperiod sensitivity and semi-dwarfism. His lab conducts tests for the presence of these DNA markers in experimental lines and potential new varieties. There are structural differences in rice DNA sequences that are associated with the plants' observable traits. All expressed traits are related to genes found on chromosomes, and their interaction with the environment.

Extensive research is being conducted to identify SNP (single nucleotide polymorphism) markers that plant breeders can use to identify cooking quality traits, such as amylose content. Single nucleotide polymorphism result from changes in a single subunit (nucleotide) of DNA out of four hundred and twenty million nucleotides of DNA in the entire rice genome.

It is estimated that there are thirty five thousand or



Eric Christensen and Mickey Frank checking on the DNA analyzer that cost Fjellstrom's lab \$150,000.

more genes scattered among the twelve separate chromosomes of rice. An increasing number of markers are near genes that control traits. The marker can be used to predict the presence of the gene controlling the desired trait, such as disease resistance and seedling vigor. According to Bob, SNP's are going to be the most useful DNA markers for most U.S. rice improvement efforts. They are also being actively developed in numerous other species such as beef and milk cattle, barley, cotton, potatoes, soybeans and wheat. In addition, human genetic research is fully focused

continued on back page

Spotlight on Support

Mickey Frank – Research Technician

Mickey was born and raised in Beaumont, TX. He got his MS in Biology at Lamar University and went on to teach high school 3 years. Next, Mickey went to work for Helena Labs working on clinical tests for hospitals, and he patented several diagnostic products during his time there. In 1995, he came to work at the Beaumont Center for Glenn Bowers working in soybean research. He spent a year in Variety Improvement and then went to work in the Molecular Genetics lab. His duties include extraction, amplification and analysis of DNA samples of rice. Mickey is also responsible for image analysis of the DNA sequences for use in scientific publications.

Eric Christensen – Biological Science Technician

Born in San Diego, CA, Eric is the youngest of two children. He obtained his BA in Animal Physiology at the University of California at San Diego and went on to Clemson for his MS in Zoology. After several technician posts, he came to work at the Beaumont Center in 1999. His duties in the Molecular Genetics lab focus around a \$150,000 piece of equipment called a DNA sequencer, or genetic analyzer. Using three technicians, they can run 400 samples a day, as opposed to 15 technicians for the same amount of work. Fjellstrom's lab runs samples for the Beaumont Center scientists as well as samples from Arkansas and other states.

Frances Pontasch - Biological Science Technician

Fran is the most recent addition to the Molecular Biology lab, although she actually works for Anna McClung in Variety Improvement. Fran got her BS in Horticulture at Texas A&M and then went on to Sul Ross State University in Alpine, TX to receive her MS in Biology. She will be responsible for developing molecular markers to evaluate rice germplasm. This will include collecting samples, extracting DNA, PCR analysis and database management.

Jaeki Chang – Visiting Research Scientist

Mr. Chang is a rice breeder from the National Yeongnam Agricultural Experiment Station, Rural Development Division in Milyang, Korea. In addition to his work at the research station, he is working on his PhD in Plant Breeding and Genetics. Chang has a newborn baby girl who was born after he had left on his trip to the U.S. He won't see her until he returns home in late August.

Alexis Tingan – Student Worker

Alexis is working in Fjellstrom's lab for the summer, but will return to Princeton University to continue his studies in Molecular Biology. He is a native of Beaumont, but plans to travel extensively throughout his college career to gain experience in many different working environments. *

Wintermann continued...

the First National Bank of Eagle Lake, City Council member, and President of the Eagle Lake Rotary Club.

At the time of his death in 1942 O.J. Wintermann had fully established Lakeside Irrigation Co. and farmed thousands of acres of rice land in Colorado and Wharton counties. David took over the family concerns after his father passed away, and continued to build on the empire O.J. began in the early 1900's.

As a child, David was outgoing and very energetic. He loved the outdoors and began his career as a sportsman at a very young age. S.C. Smothers, a well-known member of the Eagle Lake Rod and Gun Club, instilled in David a love for duck hunting that lasted his entire lifetime.

“David could have been President of Ducks Unlimited if he wanted it. He just had too many obligations back home to become involved at that level, but his support to the organization was endless.”

John E. Walker

When David was seven, his father sent him to a military school in New Jersey, and then later to Allen Academy in Bryan where he graduated in 1928. During the summers he would return home and work at the irrigation company or in the rice fields rouging out weeds - especially red rice. O.J. was adamant that red rice was not to be tolerated, as seed rice production was an important component of the family business, and purity was of the utmost importance.

After taking an additional year of high school in New Jersey, David enrolled at Princeton University in 1930 and graduated Summa Cum Laude four years later. On completing college, he returned to Eagle Lake to work with his father in the family businesses. During the next year David would often make trips to Houston with his roommate from Princeton and attend social gatherings organized by other college associations. It was at one such dinner that he met Eula Goss, a graduate of Rice University, and they were married a year later.

Throughout their lifetime, David and Eula Wintermann were strong supporters of conservation practices. They were life members of Ducks Unlimited, the Audubon Society and many other conservation organizations. In 1975 the couple sold 850 acres of rice



Bill Harrison Sr. standing next to the display honoring O.J. Wintermann at the Prairie Edge Museum.

land to the Nature Conservancy for a fraction of its value to establish the Attwater's Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge. David served on the Advisory Committee and was responsible for making recommendations on conservation policies. The couple also established the Wintermann Wildlife Preserve just outside Eagle Lake, to serve as a winter refuge for migrating ducks and geese.

David loved to hunt, and many of the stories about his life center around his passion for the outdoors. As



Several of Jack Cowan's original paintings on display at the Wintermann home in Eagle Lake.

Wintermann continued...

a strict conservationist, he followed all the regulations and rules of etiquette in hunting. John E. Walker, who was President of Ducks Unlimited (DU) in the U.S. from 1990-93, was a friend and occasional hunting



Billy Molder, caretaker of the Wintermann estate. Billy was David's right-hand man and took care of everything that needed attention. After David died, he stayed on to help Eula with the house. He will soon go to work for UTMB and continue to manage the Wintermann estate.

only the best shots, insuring a clean kill and no wounded and lost birds. But how was his aim? Walker was emphatic saying, "Up until the very end, David was the best shot I knew, with a 20-gauge or otherwise."

When asked about David's involvement in Ducks Unlimited, Walker had a long list of contributions and service. He said that although Ducks Unlimited was established in Texas by 1940, it wasn't until David became involved that the state chapter really bloomed. He was elected a Trustee in 1968, then became Regional Vice President, and then went on to serve as Senior Vice President for the Central Flyway in 1974. "David could have been President of Ducks Unlimited if he wanted it," said Walker, "he just had too many obligations back home to become involved at that level, but his support to the organization was endless."

Although David and Eula never had children of their own, they loved having youngsters around. Davis Waddell, youngest son of the late Raymond Waddell, recalls many happy memories spent with the Winter-

mann family. "We were neighbors," said Davis, "and Mr. Wintermann used to take us hunting and fishing all the time. He and my dad were great friends, and spent many hours together outdoors." Davis recalls a particular story from his youth that speaks to David's dedication as a conservationist and his love for children. Davis was ten years old and he had caught a nest of baby ducks. David encouraged the boy to let them go, as they were wild creatures and would not survive in captivity. Davis was sure he could successfully raise

mann family. "We were neighbors," said Davis, "and Mr. Wintermann used to take us hunting and fishing all the time. He and my dad were great friends, and spent many hours together outdoors." Davis recalls a particular story from his youth that speaks to David's dedication as a conservationist and his love for children. Davis was ten years old and he had caught a nest of baby ducks. David encouraged the boy to let them go, as they were wild creatures and would not survive in captivity. Davis was sure he could successfully raise

Ducks Unlimited

Founded more than 65 years ago in the dustbowl of the 1930's, Ducks Unlimited is North America's largest conservation program for waterfowl and the world's largest private waterfowl and wetlands conservation organization with a membership of over 699,000 supporters. It's conservation projects occur throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean and Latin America.

Since the beginning Ducks Unlimited has focused its efforts on Canada's prairie breeding grounds. Today a majority of the organizations habitat work continues on the upland nesting sites and shallow wetlands located within the Prairie Pothole Region of the north-central U.S. and southern-central Canada where 50% of North America's ducks are produced.

Waterfowl are not the only ones to benefit from wetland habitat programs. Wetlands are a key to a stable environment and provide a critical habitat over 900 wildlife species, many of which are threatened or endangered.

Since 1937 Ducks Unlimited has raised a total of 1.725 billion dollars and 138.5 million dollars from 2001-02. 83% has gone to wetland and waterfowl conservation, 13% to fund raising, and 4% to Administrative and Human Resources.

There are also over 71,000 'Greenwing' members (kids 17 and under) involved in Ducks Unlimited, and the number is growing every year. These young conservationist will undoubtedly grow up to make major contributions for environmental preservation. For more information about Ducks Unlimited call 901-758-DUCK (3825) or log on to www.ducks.org *

Wintermann continued...



The Wintermann home, located on 40 beautiful wooded acres on Eagle Lake.

the birds, so he insisted on keeping them. As the boy seemed determined, David made a bet that would provide extra motivation for him to rear the ducks properly. The stakes were one year of Davis' allowance, which at a \$1.50 a week came to a healthy amount for a ten year old. If all the ducks survived, Davis won the bet, but if they didn't he had to pay David a years allowance. In the end, only half of the ducks survived, but David was lenient and paid the boy his dues, and of course all the survivors were set free.

Davis grew up to be quite an outdoorsman, and attributes this to the influence of David Wintermann. They had a tradition each year to hunt the opening day of Teal season with Andy Sansom and his son, Andrew. At David Wintermann's funeral Davis, Andy and Andrew determined to carry on this tradition in honor of their friend and mentor who had such a profound influence in all their lives.

Andy Sansom was the Executive Director of the Nature Conservancy of Texas when he first came to know David Wintermann. At that time the organization had few donors, many obligations and was deep in debt. In traveling from Lake Jackson to Austin, Andy would often stop in Eagle Lake to meet with David and discuss strategies for helping the organization. "Those were hard times," recalls Sansom, "and David took me under his wing and helped us get through it." The two men came up with a brilliant strategy for fund raising that Andy believes put the Nature Conservancy in Texas back in the black. They organized annual hunting trips to Eagle Lake, inviting influential men (and

potential donors) from the Houston area. David and Eula would host a reception at their home on Eagle Lake, providing all the food, beverage and entertainment. The next day David and Andy would take the men out hunting, using the opportunity to discuss the importance of conservation practices in the preservation of critical waterfowl habitats. Recalls Sansom, "Most of the money that came to the organization after that was from individuals who participated in the annual event at Eagle Lake."

So David Wintermann not only dedicated his own resources to conservation organizations, but also influenced others to do so as well. In some cases, though, 'influenced' turned into 'coerced' in a style that was truly unique. Sansom recalls years past when sportsmen who came to Eagle Lake to hunt ducks and geese would congregate at the Farris Hotel. David would often go there in the evenings for dinner and to discuss the day's hunt with friends. "He was notorious for fining people," mused Sansom, "for example if he learned they shot a duck on the water or killed a hen, he would just go up to them and say 'You're fined \$20' and they would reach in their pocket and shell out the money." He was not questioned, as the sheer force of his personality left little room for disagreement. Of course, all the proceeds from these fines would go to Ducks Unlimited.

Andy Sansom went on to serve 10 years as the Executive Director of Texas Parks and Wildlife, and recently became Director of the Water Institute at Southwest Texas State in San Marcos. He gives an enormous amount of credit to the influence of David Wintermann.



Rice Medical Center, a new hospital for the Eagle Lake community made possible by David and Eula Wintermann.

The Nature Conservancy

The preservation of our natural environment has become a pressing need as many species are threatened due to the destruction of their natural habitats and sources of food. Since 1951 the Nature Conservancy has been working towards the preservation of these fragile habitats. They work with local communities and businesses to protect more than 92 million acres around the world.

The Nature Conservancy mission is to protect the plants, animals, and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive. They practice sound science to produce validated results and demonstrate tangible proof of the progress being made. They use a non-confrontational approach to handle problems that may arise while working on preservation projects.

Over 86% of all funds are used for conservation projects and over 12,621 acres are protected in the U.S. The current number of Conservancy preserves worldwide is 80,181. If you would like more information log on to <http://nature.org/> *

And if asked, who would David credit with being a profound influence in his life? Without a doubt it would be his wife Eula. Eula was a conservationist in her own right, and worked tirelessly to raise support for many environmental organizations. She was also a student of art, and over her lifetime, amassed a beautiful collection of paintings – mostly outdoor scenes and portraits of her canine friends (she never called them dogs!) Delia was one of their favorites, and often hunted with David even after she was old and a bit overweight. The last came from too much love, if there is such a thing, as the pups ate as good as people, often having hamburger or even brisket for supper.

One year for David's birthday, Eula purchased a painting from the now-famous Texas artist Jack Cowan. It depicted an unusual type of rowboat that David remembered seeing on his trips to the east coast. He called Cowan to ask about the boat, and learned it was still in the artists' garage. David went to meet Cowan and look at the boat, and this was the beginning of a lifetime friendship. They often hunted and

fished together, spending many hours on the salt waters of the Gulf. Recalls Cowan, "David and Eula were not only my friends, but also patrons. They bought a lot of my art and often commissioned me to do special pieces." David and Cowan fished and hunted all corners of the world, including Alaska and the Bahamas. Speaking of these trips reminded Cowan how devoted David was to his wife. "It never failed, wherever we were or however late we got in, David always called home to check on Eula."

Jack Garrett was also a fishing buddy of David Wintermann, along with George Bush Sr. "We fished all up and down the Gulf coast," said Jack, "and George would join us when he could." Garrett first met David 64 years ago when he began purchasing seed rice from him, but the friendship really began after David contracted with Garrett to build a rice drying facility in Eagle Lake. "This was new technology," recalls Garrett, "but when David saw the dryer I had built in Brazoria County, he had to have one." The Eagle Lake dryer was built in 1939 and took Garrett only 6 months to complete.

David Wintermann was always on the cutting edge of technology, and understood the importance of rice research to the Texas industry. According to Jim Stansel, David was instrumental in getting the Texas House to pass legislation enabling the Eagle Lake Station to be built. Once that was accomplished, David went with Stansel to evaluate different sites that had good potential for research, ie. suitable soil type, available water and proper grade. Once Stansel finally chose the site David said with exasperation, "You would have to pick one that I don't control!" Not intimidated, David went to the landowner to help negotiate a long-term



Preserving the history and culture of Eagle Lake and surrounding communities, the Prairie Edge Museum was another project of Eula Wintermann.

Wintermann continued...



Computers for use by the public at the David and Eula Wintermann Library, making new technology easily available for the citizens of Eagle Lake.

lease. After that, construction at the new site began, and not surprising, David paid for all the costs of the canals and roads. In addition, David was President of the Eagle Lake Division of the American Rice Growers at that time, and he helped implement a check-off fund that paid for the land, all the offices and research facilities at the new western site. “There was not a finer man, or one more devoted to the Texas rice industry than David Wintermann,” said Stansel, “I am proud to have known him, and privileged to have been considered his friend.”

Former USDA rice breeder Charlie Bollich also considered David a shining star in the Texas rice industry. Charlie recalls many trips to the Eagle Lake site when David would bring his personal helicopter to the Station to pick him up and rice Pathologist Toni Marchetti to go and inspect commercial fields that had disease problems. “David had a first class pilot, Dan Thorton, and he would set us down right next to the trouble spot,” said Bollich. David was also a gracious host, and would always pay for accommodations when Charlie came to visit the Westside growers. “He made sure we always had plenty of food and beverage stocked in the rooms,” Charlie said, “which went way above and beyond what was expected. It was obvious that he appreciated the work we did and understood the value of long-term research for the rice industry.”

David and Eula Wintermann not only supported the rice industry, the fine arts and countless conservation organizations, but they did a tremendous amount for the people of Eagle Lake. As Steve Balas put it,

“For every publicized donation or contribution, there were 20 that went untold.” Once David came into Steve’s pharmacy and the young girl who waited on him kept covering her mouth while she spoke. David got Steve aside and asked him about the girl’s odd behavior. Steve told David that she had bad teeth and was ashamed to show her smile. David gave Steve the money to have the girl’s orthodontic work done and insisted that the source of funds remain anonymous.

In addition to helping countless individuals through financial hardships, David and Eula saw to it that the Eagle Lake community had the best that money could buy. With their influence and resources the couple was responsible for establishing the Eagle Lake Community Hospital (now known as the Rice Medical Center), the Prairie Edge Museum, the Eagle Lake Library and a brand new community center. Bill Harrison Sr. and his wife Rosanne were good friends with David and Eula Wintermann. Bill said David was responsible for his appointment as a director of the First National Bank of Eagle Lake, which later led to his term as President of the bank for over 16 years. Said Bill, “David and Eula were the most civic-minded people I ever knew. They wanted the people of Eagle Lake to have all the accommodations, services and cultural enrichment that larger cities enjoyed.”

As a final testament to their dedication, Eula deeded the Wintermann house and all of its contents, along with 40 acres along Eagle Lake, to the Univer-



David and Eula were the recipients of over 100 awards and honors. Texas Parks and Wildlife awarded David the Perry R. Bass Award, the highest honor bestowed by that organization.



David had this covered pool built for Eula because she was sensitive to the sun, but enjoyed swimming. The Wintermann estate will soon become a retreat for the doctors and researchers at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Houston.

sity of Texas Medical Branch in Houston to be used as a retreat for the scientists and researchers.

Even after their deaths, Eula and David Wintermann's legacy of charity continues as the Wintermann heirs prepare to bestow nearly 40 acres of much needed land to the Eagle Lake Rice Research Station. Jack Johnson, executor of the Wintermann estate and President of Winco Ag Products, is a nephew by marriage, but was also a friend and hunting companion of David Wintermann. Along with his wife Judi and four other Wintermann heirs, they decided that donating the land to expand research at the Eagle Lake Station would make their uncle happy. Said Johnson, "Uncle David was a long time supporter of rice research and was instrumental in establishing the Eagle Lake site almost thirty years ago. Our decision to donate the land is something we are certain he would be pleased about."

Humanitarian, conservationist, outdoorsman, benefactor, businessman and farmer. David Wintermann was all this and more. Andy Sansom said it best, his voice heavy with emotion, "David was my friend and my mentor, a model for my life. My dream is to be remembered as he will be remembered, with love, respect and admiration by everyone who knew him."

Many thanks to all the people who generously gave their time and assistance. I wish there was room to tell all of the wonderful stories you shared. JC

Attwater's Prairie Chicken National Preserve

Photo by George Levardoski



The male Attwater's Prairie Chicken showing his colorful mating plumage. A lek, or booming ground, is a short grass flat used year after year for courtship rituals. The males perform every morning and evening from February through mid-May.

Over a century ago, one million Attwater's prairie-chickens graced the Texas and Louisiana gulf coastal prairie. Acre by acre, coastal prairies diminished as cities and towns sprouted up, industry grew, and more land was cleared and plowed for farming. By 1919 the Attwater's Prairie Chicken had disappeared from Louisiana, and by 1937 only about 8,700 birds remained in Texas. It was listed as an endangered species in 1967, and in 1973 the Endangered Species Act provided immediate protection for the birds.

Today, less than one percent of coastal prairies remain. With so little of its home left, the Attwater's prairie-chicken has come dangerously close to following the passenger pigeon to extinction. Other factors such as harsh weather and increasing predator populations have also contributed to the birds decline.

The Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge offers one of the last hopes for survival of this endangered bird.

The refuge was established in 1972 and now covers 10,000 plus acres. It is located 7 miles northeast of Eagle Lake, off FM 3013, or south from Sealy on Highway 36 to FM 3013 and traveling west for 10 miles. For more information on the preserve contact Terry Rossignol, Refuge Manager, at 979-234-3021 or look on the web at <http://southwest.fws.gov/refuges/texas/apc.html>

State, National and International News...

Mexico Announces Duties on US Rice

USA Rice Federation - Mexico's decision this week to impose increased duties on imports of long grain milled rice (excluding parboiled) from the United States has met with severe criticism and disbelief by the U.S. rice industry as rice exports now join a growing list of U.S. agricultural commodities disadvantaged by Mexico's use of its anti-dumping laws.

Following an investigation that began in late 2000 and cost the USA Rice Federation (USA Rice) and its members more than \$500,000 in legal fees, Mexico's Ministry of the Economy announced on June 5 the immediate imposition of anti-dumping duties of up to 10.18 percent on U.S. long grain milled rice. The measure takes effect immediately. While there are procedures in Mexican law for annual reviews for specific suppliers facing anti-dumping duties, the overall measure is in effect for five years.

Anti-dumping duties are designed to offset alleged "dumping," or selling of a product in a foreign market for less than the price charged in the domestic market. Three USA Rice members underwent an extensive and grueling investigation by Mexican auditors to determine the extent of alleged dumping. Two of these firms came up with a dumping rate of zero while the third had a rate of slightly under 4 percent.

In an unprecedented action, Mexico assigned an "all other" anti-dumping duty of 10.18 percent on all other suppliers of U.S. long grain milled rice, even if these suppliers have never sold rice to Mexico. In past Mexico anti-dumping cases, the highest company-specific additional duty was applied to "all other" companies. The rice decision marks the first time in recent memory that the "all other" company duty was higher than a company-specific duty.

When Mexico issued its preliminary decision on the anti-dumping investigation last summer, there was no finding of injury by imports from the United States and no anti-dumping duties were imposed. Now, less than a year later, the tables are completely turned. The only conclusion to draw is that this week's decision was a political decision.

Although U.S. long grain milled rice exports currently comprise approximately 1.5 percent by volume of Mexico's total rice consumption, many believe that the size of U.S. long grain shipments were poised to grow significantly. Under the terms of the North Ameri-

can Free Trade Agreement, duties on all U.S. rice imported by Mexico were to go to zero percent in 2003, but that has now changed. At this point, on January 1, 2003, U.S. paddy rice will face zero duties while the anti-dumping rates will be in place for long grained milled.

USDA Donates Rice to Cambodia

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that it will donate 2,860 metric tons of agricultural commodities valued at \$1.4 million to Salesian Missions for use in Cambodia under the Food for Progress program.

Salesian Missions, a private voluntary organization, will use the commodities for direct feeding and local sales in Cambodia. The agreement provides for approximately 1,720 metric tons of soybean oil, 230 tons soybeans and 910 tons of rice. From www.oryza.com

New Subsidies for Lentils and Chickpeas

New York Times - In the farm bill that President Bush signed last month, it created subsidies for lentil growers, guaranteeing them prices substantially above current levels, which are the lowest in 15 years. It provided similar guarantees for growers of small chickpeas.

Supporters argued that lentils and chickpeas needed help to compete with other crops subsidized by the federal government, or with crops subsidized by foreign governments.

They found a champion in Senator Kent Conrad, Democrat of North Dakota, where farmers grow lentils and chickpeas in rotation with crops like wheat and barley, already subsidized by the government. Growers of lentils and chickpeas said it was difficult to compete with Canadian farmers because Canada had lower freight rates and better crop insurance as well as a weak currency, which makes its exports more affordable.

"Every country that produces agricultural products subsidizes them in some way," said Senator Conrad, whose family has been in North Dakota for five generations.

"This is a little like the cold war. You have to build up to build down. If you don't fight back, you consign American farmers to failure." From <http://www.nytimes.com>

2002 Rice Crop Update

Researcher continued...

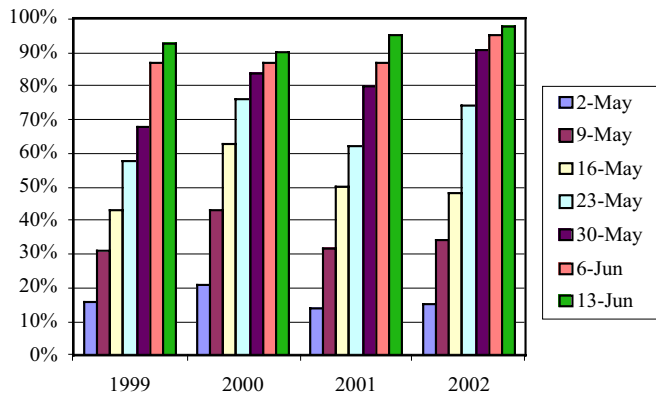
As of June 13th, acres in permanent flood was 3% ahead of 2001 and 8% ahead of 2000. The percentage of the Texas crop at PD was 20% ahead of last year and 27% ahead of 2000. The percentage headed was 18% ahead of 2001 and 13% ahead of 2000. These numbers indicate that the cool spring weather and rains have not set back the Texas crop as much as expected earlier in the season.

on the successful development of SNP markers for identifying numerous disease susceptibility genes such as those for hypertension, autism, manic-depression, and prostate cancer. High volume methods for assaying SNP's are in development, making this marker type extremely useful.

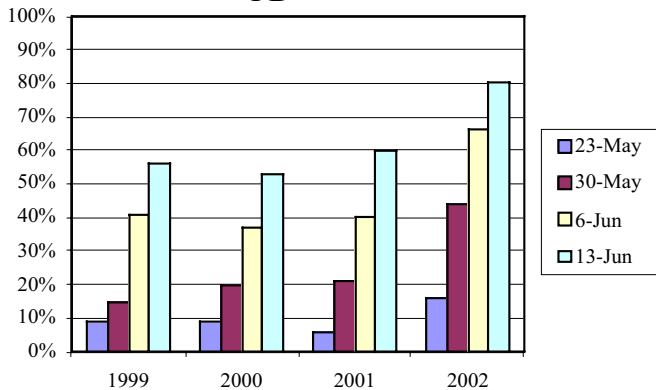
Given all his research responsibilities, Bob really appreciates his wife and her ability to manage the family. "She has done an incredible job of maintaining the household and caring for our two autistic sons," says Bob, "her commitment has been immeasurable." In what little free time Bob has after helping his wife raise two handicapped children, he enjoys playing video games with his family and reading. He admires the community and family togetherness seen among people living in Southeast Texas. Bob also stressed the important role his technicians have in his research saying, "I really appreciate all their hard work and dedication." *

Article by Ron Douthitt

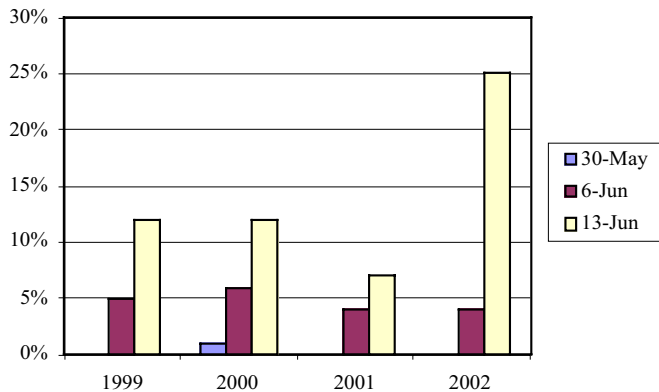
Flooded



PD



Headed



Professor and Center Director: L.T. (Ted) Wilson
lt-wilson@aesrg.tamu.edu
 Ag Communications Specialist: Jay Cockrell
j-cockrell@aesrg.tamu.edu
 Texas A&M University System Agricultural
 Research and Extension Center
 1509 Aggie Drive, Beaumont, TX 77713
 (409)752-2741
 Access back issues of *Texas Rice* at
<http://aesrg.tamu.edu>

Texas A&M University System
 Agricultural Research and Extension Center
 1509 Aggie Dr.
 Beaumont, TX 77713

NONPROFIT
 ORG.
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 BEAUMONT, TX
 PERMIT NO. 367

Texas Rice is published 9 times a year by The Texas A&M University System Research and Extension Center at Beaumont. Interviews, writing and layout by Jay Cockrell. Editing by Ted Wilson, Jay Cockrell and Tammy Tindel. Technical support by Jim Medley. Information is taken from sources believed to be reliable, but we cannot guarantee accuracy or completeness. Suggestions, story ideas and comments are encouraged.

