



News Release

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Bat Conservation International Founder Merlin Tuttle to Keynote Cibolo Nature Center & Farm's Environmental Stewardship Awards

February 25, 2016- BOERNE, Texas – On April 21, the Cibolo Nature Center and Farm will host its annual Environmental Stewardship Awards. In addition to honoring individuals who have made a positive impact on environmental conservation and stewardship, the nature center is honored to have Merlin Tuttle, the founder of Bat Conservation International and now head of Merlin Tuttle's Bat Conservation as the event's keynote speaker.

The Cibolo Nature Center & Farm Stewardship Awards honor community leaders and volunteers dedicated to helping preserve natural lands and wildlife habitats for future generations of Texans. The awards ceremony will be held on the eve of Earth Day, 26 years after the nonprofit 160-acre nature center opened on Earth Day in 1990.

Mr. Tuttle is an ecologist, wildlife photographer, and conservationist who has studied bats and championed their preservation for more than 50 years and is widely known through his scientific discoveries, media appearances, popular articles, and photographs of bats. He is the Founder and Executive Director of Merlin Tuttle's Bat Conservation, Inc. and is currently a Research Fellow, Section of Integrated Biology, at the University of Texas. His work has been featured in expositions from Harvard University to the British Museum and in numerous feature articles that include the *Wall Street Journal*, *The New Yorker* and *National Geographic*. Mr. Tuttle founded Bat Conservation International (BCI), an organization devoted to research, education and conservation of bats, in 1982. BCI emphasizes broad collaboration that balances both human and wildlife needs and became a model for positive solutions to conservation challenges.

"It is very fitting to have Mr. Tuttle, a true pioneer and champion in the world of bat conservation, to deliver the keynote address at this year's stewardship awards," said Carolyn Chipman Evans, Cibolo Nature Center & Farm Executive Director. "He, like our awardees, is a true inspiration to all who want to make a positive, ongoing difference in our great state and beyond."

The stewardship award ceremony is open to the public and tickets can be purchased for \$15 per person at www.cibolo.org. The evening will open with a book signing of Tuttle's book *The Secret Lives of Bats* and light refreshments at 6pm and the program and presentation at 6:30pm.

The Cibolo Nature Center & Farm in Boerne is located on 160 acres of natural lands at Boerne City Park off Highway 46 just west of the Kendall County Fairgrounds. The mission of the non-profit CNC is conservation of natural resources through education and stewardship. For more information, visit www.cibolo.org.