

This year's Jensie Madden Award goes to Leslie Collier, a passionate advocate for environmental conservation whose tireless efforts ensured the preservation of over 530 acres of land known as Sentinel Peak Preserve, formerly El Rancho Cima, a former Boy Scouts of America camp. The Jensie Madden Award honors individuals who embody the spirit of environmental stewardship, and Collier's commitment to protecting natural landscapes made her an obvious choice.

When El Rancho Cima went up for sale in 2016, Collier discovered there were no development restrictions on the land. Recognizing its ecological significance - being part of the Blanco River watershed, the Trinity and Edwards Aquifers recharge zone, and home to endangered species like the federally-endangered golden-cheeked warbler, she took action. Collier's advocacy not only brought attention to the potential loss of this habitat but also brought together the community, including local organizations like the San Marcos River Foundation and the Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance, to fight for its preservation.

Her efforts included co-founding the non-profit Sentinel Peak Preserve and led a campaign that generated thousands of supporters. Collier's advocacy gained attention from The Nature Conservancy, which led to their involvement in purchasing 535 acres of the property in 2019, with Hays County contributing \$7 million for warbler habitat protection.

Collier's unwavering determination, strong leadership, and fundraising efforts have left a lasting impact on the community and the environment. Her work guarantees that El Rancho Cima's natural beauty and legacy will be preserved for future generations as Sentinel Peak Preserve. Collier's outstanding achievements and commitment to conservation make her a deserving recipient of this prestigious award.

Celebrate with us on October 26th at the Old Tavern in Gruene during the Keep It Country Music Jam, where Comal Conservation will be presenting Leslie Collier with the Jensie Madden Award. Tickets are available now, so don't miss out on the opportunity to support this year's award winner and Comal Conservation's mission to protect our land, water, and wildlife.

For more information about the event, contact Comal Conservation's executive director Ryan Spencer at (830) 369-8747 or via email at ryan@comalconservation.org. You can also visit our website at www.comalconservation.org.