

## Kim Ludeke

Kim Ludeke was one of the first students in Texas to take a university course in GIS and graduated from A&M with one of the first Texas dissertations with a GIS focus. His research required the use of GIS and remote sensing to help model deforestation patterns in and around what is now the Pico Bonito National Park in northern Honduras.

He worked at TNRIS from 1988 - 1993 as TNRIS developed a GIS capacity using ESRI software.

While at TNRIS he helped with the GIS Analyses for the mapping of Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan, which is still the basis of the BCP to this day.

Kim moved to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in 1973 where he helped start the GIS Lab. Over the years he built and managed the Lab. He was instrumental in the development of the TPWD Water Data Access which was an early GIS web app.

He was honored to serve as the chair of the Texas Geographic Information Council from 1999 - 2004.

He has taught graduate level GIS courses at the University of Texas and Texas State University.

Currently at TPWD Ludeke is the Co-Principal Investigator of a 6 year project to remap the vegetation of Texas which was recently featured in the November TPWD Magazine.

Kim is the project manager for the TPWD Resource Information System which is providing GIS web apps highlighting species of high conservation concern in Texas.

He was involved in the selection of the restoration locations for the Desert Big Horn Sheep.

He has worked with TxDOT persuading them to properly identify TPWD's parks and preserves on Texas travel maps.

He has published articles on GIS in international journals and presented papers at state, national, and international conferences.

### Some Fun Facts and Half Truths about Kim:

He continues to support the Live Music community by volunteering with KLRU and Austin City Limits.

According to our research Kim has worked for the State since it was a Republic, and his longevity has never been explained, although many who have known him are confused by his ever so slow change in appearance.

Kim helped establish the precursor to Parks and Wildlife Department right after statehood.

During the Civil War he hung out with Charles Palmer (Former TNRIS Director) and began mapping all the places they could hide to avoid battle.

Soon after he spent many years mapping Palo Duro Canyon, and while Kim says it took a few decades, other documents back up the theory that he was in fact lost for over 20 years in the Canyon.

During the first 70 years of the 20th century it is rumored that Kim disappeared mapping the various parks and open spaces of Texas, including the early topo maps for the USGS.

Legend has it that Kim is the author of and has the only remaining copy of the "Moonshine Maps of Texas". The detail and density of the maps were such that a person in possession of the map was always within a day's ride of a drink. This also explains the variation in accuracy of many topo maps.

Starting in the 1980's and 1990's as he approached middle age, Kim settled down to a life of marriage, parenthood and the pursuit of the perfect bureaucratic government job.

For all these accomplishments and half truths we hereby present him with the CenTex GIS Users Spotlight Award. 12/1/2010