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TREEFOLKS WELCOMES TOM SPENCER AS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

[Austin, TX] May 30, 2019 - TreeFolks has big news to share! After an extensive nationwide search, TreeFolks, Austin's urban forestry nonprofit, is excited to announce Tom Spencer as the next Executive Director beginning June 5, 2019.

Tom's leadership in the environmental community and in the community of Austin spans over three decades. During this time, Tom has developed deep networks both locally and throughout the State of Texas. His background includes serving as CEO of Interfaith Action of Central Texas, Executive Director of I Live Here, I Give Here, producer of public affairs programming for KLRU-TV, and most recently as the Program Director of the Texas Living Waters Project. Those who have not yet had the opportunity to work with him behind the scenes in improving our community, may know Tom as the television host of the Emmy Award Winning KLRU-TV program "Central Texas Gardener" or the KLBJ radio host of the "Wildflower Hour."

Rich DePalma, President of TreeFolks Board of Directors, says he is excited for the future of the nonprofit.

"The board is ecstatic that Tom will be leading the organization as our new Executive Director. He is the right person at the right time. His knowledge, experience, and personality will move TreeFolks forward in building our community through the restoration of our Central Texas urban forest and addressing climate-resiliency. This is an exciting time for our community and for TreeFolks," said DePalma.

Spencer shares his gratitude and excitement to join the TreeFolks Team.

"I am very grateful to the National Wildlife Federation, for the tremendous experiences of the past three and a half years. However, this new opportunity feels like coming home! In the coming years I hope that you will join me and the TreeFolks Team in our tremendous and hopeful work," said Spencer.

The leadership transition comes on the cusp of TreeFolks' 30th anniversary this August. Founded by a group of dedicated Austinites in 1989, TreeFolks started as a small organization focused on planting trees in downtown Austin. Since that time, TreeFolks' mission has grown to include tree planting across Central Texas, restoration of our forests and waterways, youth and adult education, advocacy, and

providing vital conservation resources to the community.

Starting on June 5, 2019, Tom Spencer will join the TreeFolks staff and step into his leadership role. For more information about TreeFolks visit www.treefolks.org.

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About TreeFolks:

TreeFolks is a 501(C)(3) nonprofit organization with a mission to empower Central Texans to build stronger communities by planting and caring for trees. The organization focuses on planting and giving trees away, large-scale reforestation, educating the community, and combating climate change. Since 1989, TreeFolks has planted over 2.8 million trees in Central Texas.