

Steven Bankler, CPA

Client Spotlight: Cedar Canyon Ranch

Dr. Werner Ned Keidel, owner of Cedar Canyon Ranch in Comfort, Texas, values tradition. This neonatologist-turned-rancher comes from a long line of doctors who see hard work and determination as the best things in life.

Born and raised in Fredericksburg, Texas, Keidel spent his free time hunting and fishing with his family.

“My family has hunted for generations. It’s how I was raised,” said Keidel. “They had fish at the grocery store, but it was frozen and didn’t taste very good. So we made do with what we had and caught fresh fish from the river.”

Keidel used this ingenuity in school. He graduated from Fredericksburg High School, earned his bachelor’s at the University of Texas at Austin and attended medical school at Tulane University in New Orleans. He took an interest in neonatology after his rotation in the pediatrics wing.

“Neonatology was new, interesting and challenging,” said Keidel. “I enjoyed the opportunity to be a part of the developing field.”

Keidel started his own neonatology practice out of medical school. After a few years, he partnered with other specialists and opened South Texas Newborn & Associates. With the addition of new partners, South Texas Newborn became Magella which then became Pediatrix Medical Group, a New York stock-exchanged company providing neonatal and maternal-fetal services across the United States.

The medical practice was going well, but Keidel still yearned to return to his roots outdoors. He retired from the medical practice and bought Cedar Canyon Ranch in Comfort.

“I bought a ranch as soon as I could afford it,” said Keidel.

“I learned that you don’t make any money from raising cattle so I started looking into providing guided hunting tours.”

The idea stuck and the ranch began drawing people from around the country who wanted to experience traditional Texas white deer hunting. Keidel soon added more exotic animals, making Cedar Canyon Ranch a truly special experience.

He strayed away from lodging and focused his ranch on providing the best animals. He populated his ranch with local Texas white-tailed deer, wobblers, black cap vireo and turkeys, in addition to exotic animals from Asia, Russia and India, like axis deer, Russian boar, Indian black breast and the endangered scimitar. The scimitar is an African, spiral-horned antelope from the oryx species. Cedar Canyon Ranch houses the largest population of the scimitars in Texas, which are extinct in the wild. The unique variety of animals is what truly makes the ranch one of a kind and draws visitors from across the nation.

“I remember one hunter who had spent the last 20 years hunting in South Texas and Northern Mexico,” said Keidel. “He shot the biggest deer of his life on this ranch.”

The white-tailed deer was a 205 Boone & Crockett, 25-inch inside spread with a 20-inch drop tine (antler point).

Keidel was recommended to Steven Bankler through a friend and partner at the medical group. “Steve is very knowledgeable,” said Keidel. “He has advised me on tax planning opportunities, and additionally represented me during an audit. I felt comfortable and confident the entire time.”

To find out more information or schedule a hunt at Cedar Canyon Ranch, call Jet Smith at 210-415-6374.



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