

69th Annual Algodon Ball

Introducing the Don & Doña of the Algodon Court, Laura and Chris Breedlove.



Chris Breedlove, the oldest of three boys, was born in Lockney, Texas. His family moved to Tulsa, Texas when Chris was five years old and he attended Tulsa schools and graduated from Tulsa High School. While in high school, he was the president of the student council, played football and baseball, and showed steers and pigs in FFA.

Growing up, he enjoyed water skiing in Lake Mackenzie, driving down the "dip" street, and riding his grandfather's appaloosa horses.

Chris '80 graduated Cum Laude in Texas A&M University with a degree in Agricultural Engineering and later earned a MBA from Texas A&M University - Kingsville in 1998. After graduation, Chris was employed by Anderson Clayton and Company (ACCO) and moved to Phoenix, Arizona. ACCO at the time was the largest cotton trading company in the world.

While working for ACCO in Abilene, Texas in 1984, Chris accepted employment with Tommy Furk at Sebastian Cotton and Grain Corporation and moved his family to Harlingen, Texas.

After 18 years of living and working in the Rio Grande Valley, Chris was hired by Olton Coop Gin in 2002. Olton Coop Gin, at that time, was one of the largest cotton gins in Texas, ginning close to and over 100,000 bales per year. In August of 2008, after Hurricane Dolly destroyed the 2008 cotton crop, Chris moved back to the Valley and accepted a position with Wilacy Coop. In 2009, Wilacy Coop purchased Sebastian Cotton and Grain Corporation and Chris was now operating the company that brought him to the Valley in 1984.

Chris Breedlove, has served as The President of numerous professional organizations including Rio Grande Cotton-Ginners Association, South Texas Country Elevators Association, Texas Cotton Ginners Association, National Cotton Ginners Association, and Texas Grain and Feed Association. He also served as Treasurer of Texas Cotton Ginners' Women's Trust.

He has been awarded "Texas Cotton Ginners' Lifetime" membership award, the Texas Cotton Ginners Ginmer of the year award, and Horace Hayden National Ginmer of the year award.

Chris Breedlove is an active member of the Harlingen Cotton Committee. He serves as a member of the Olton Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture. He is an adult volunteer for Lamb County 4-H, Harlingen South Junior FFA, Harlingen South FFA, as well as Texas High School Rodeo.

Laura Breedlove was born in South Dakota, but raised in the Rio Grande Valley. She "got to Texas as fast as she could" at 2 years old. She married Chris in 1990. Laura was a business partner at United Printers in Harlingen, which had a long history of printing the invitations and programs for the Algodon Club. Currently, she manages a short-term rental business at South Padre Island with her mother. Laura has accompanied Chris throughout the cotton belt for cotton meetings and conferences over the years and has supported him through many gin seasons (good and bad, weather permitting).

Laura was a Valley Baptist volunteer and served on various Junior League committees, as well as chairman for Rio Fest Children's Area. Laura has served the Boys and Girls Club and as an active 4-H and FFA leader. She was also a Texas High School Rodeo volunteer and is a Lubbock Saddle Club Member.

Chris and Laura have five grown children. Four sons and one daughter: Justin, Tyson (Huijn), Jay, Lindsay (Philip), and Collin. They are blessed with three grandchildren; twins Elijah and Naomi, and Clio. Their oldest, Justin Breedlove, served as Scepter Bearer for the Algodon Ball in the 1990s.

Chris and Laura are active members of Valley Praise Church in Harlingen. They love to travel, spend time at the beach with family, fish in Laguna Madre, attend Texas A&M football games, and go to the National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas. Chris enjoys playing poker with friends as well as in tournaments occasionally. The Breedloves have been instrumental in the cotton industry of the Rio Grande Valley. We thank them for their selfless service and passion for agriculture. They would like to sincerely thank everyone for this honor and will continue to support and promote cotton for many years to come.

The 69th Annual Algodon Ball was held on Saturday, June 17th at the Casa de Amistad in Harlingen. Sir Cayleb Luke Klostermann, Ambassador of Cotton read the proclamation introducing Princesses Bailey Regen Helmer, Princess Dell Valera Davis, Duchess of Cameron Hannah Chayse Swartzell, Duchess of Hidalgo Lillian Curry Janik, Duchess of Wilacy Mackenzie Eriana Butler, and Ladies in Waiting: Hollyn Finnacle Lofton, Ellington Jane Hull, Savannah Joy Patterson, Maria De Jesus Ruiz, Marianna Ruiz, and Ella Katherine Freels. The Children's Court included Little Princesses Bristol Kay Wilde and Lily James Dickerson, Crown Bearer Hayes William Johnson, and Scepter Bearer Jack Christopher Sparks. 2022 Queen Callie Reese Corvarles crowned Paige Lee Stanko as the 2023 Queen, who will reign until the 2024 Algodon Ball. The announcement of Laura and Chris Breedlove as the Don and Doña was the highlight of the evening.



Queen
Paige Lee Stanko



Ambassador
Cayleb Luke Klostermann



Princess
Bailey Regen Helmer



Princess
Dell Valera Davis



Duchess of Cameron County
Hannah Chayse Swartzell



Duchess of Hidalgo County
Lillian Curry Janik



Duchess of Wilacy County
Mackenzie Eriana Butler



Lady in Waiting
Maria De Jesus Ruiz



Lady in Waiting
Ella Katherine Freels



Lady in Waiting
Hollyn Finnacle Lofton



Lady in Waiting
Ellington Jane Hull



Lady in Waiting
Mariana Ruiz



Lady in Waiting
Savannah Joy Patterson



Little Princess
Bristol Kay Wilde



Little Princess
Lily James Dickerson



Crown Bearer
Hayes William Johnson



Scepter Bearer
Jack Christopher Sparks