

# President's Address

Wow! I could not be more thrilled with our Texas Section Society for Range Management's *Evening on the Coastal Bend and Field Tour* in Victoria, Texas on October 21-22, 2021! We had over 200 register and 181 participated in the evening gala! Pepe Martinez (Past TSSRM Director) led an outstanding tour with 115 participants touring the McFaddin Ranch and Parks Ranch – both recipients of the Outstanding Rangeland Stewardship award.

Folks, this meeting was planned four times! Our planning committee embraced the uncertainty and forged ahead with resiliency and determination. Much like the rangeland we work on, they rolled with the COVID-19 punches and pulled off one helluva night. A night like this could not have happened without the amazing efforts of:

- Bruce Healy
- Brad Pfeil
- Pepe Martinez
- Stephen Deiss
- Brett Huegele
- Jeremy Hasty
- Chris Janak
- Aaron Williams
- Lee Knox
- Dandy Kothmann
- JoNell Carter
- Taylor McCumber
- Dean Weimers
- Tony Falk
- Ben Turner
- Kirk Feuerbacher
- Clifford Carter
- Matt Machacek
- Jenny Pluhar
- Megan Clayton

Thank you for pulling off the impossible and for making sure TSSRM members had an evening under the stars and unlike any other made special by a working ranch and TSSRM friend and member, Diebel Cattle Company.

Congratulations to:

- Outstanding Young Range Professional: Matthew Coffman, USDA-NRCS
- Fellow: James Demoin, USDA- NRCS
- Outstanding Achievement: Charles Kneuper, USDA-NRCS
- Outstanding Rangeland Stewardship – TSGRA: Rocking Chair Ranch, San Angelo, TX
- Outstanding Rangeland Management: Dunn-O'Connor Ranch, Victoria, TX
- TSCRA, TXGLC Outstanding Rangeland Stewardship: Parks Ranch, Victoria, TX
- Outstanding Contribution to Rangeland Management: Bob McCan, Victoria, TX

Grass Roots Awards:

- Wynne Whitworth (NRCS category)
- Michael Hiller (Ag Extension Category)

Publication Awards:

- Popular Article: Walker, J. (2021). Remote monitoring of stock water reservoirs. *Rangelands*, 43, 65-71
- Technical Publication: Ansley, R.J., Steffens, T.J., Cooper-Norris, C.E., & Zhang, T. (2021). Herbaceous Production and Soil Nitrogen after Mesquite Mortality in Southern Great Plains (US) Grassland. *Rangeland Ecology & Management*, 77, 82-92
- Special Category: Tim Steffens and Morgan Treadwell (2021) Factors Affecting Magnitude of Grazing Effects on Plants and Forage Quality. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, ERM-057 05/21.

I want to welcome our incoming Directors and 2<sup>nd</sup> VP who will begin their service January 1, 2022:

- Director Steven Evans (TAMU RWFM)
- Director Katy Hoskins (Rancher)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Dr. Humberto Perotto, TAMU - Kingsville

I love this organization. Rangelands are cool, but it's the people, the friends, the colleagues, and events like the Gala where we were able to be together, have fun, and celebrate all the hard work that is accomplished day-in and day-out on our beautiful ranching landscapes. That is the really cool part. Jenny and Megan, thank you again for your steadfast determination and commitment. Ya'll are the reason the meeting was a success, and I am truly grateful.

*-Morgan Treadwell*

In this edition:

- Plant of the Season by Dr. Jake Landers: Cedar sedge
- Member Spotlight: Incoming Director-Katy Hoskins
- 2021 Photo Contest winners
- TSSRM annual meeting results and awards
- Article-"Tradition" by Kaelanne Quinonez
- Upcoming RWFM webinars
- 2022 SRM annual meeting info.

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## *Plant of the Season* *by Dr. Jake Landers*

### **Cedar Sedge** (*Carex planostachys*)

It looks like a Grass, but it's only a distant relative, a Sedge. The easiest distinction between these two plant families is in the shape of the stems. Grass stems are round or oval, and sedge stems are triangular. Other technical differences in the seed heads are best left for the experts to decipher with a hand lens or other magnification. If you think Grasses are hard to identify, try your patience with a few of the Sedges. Maybe that's the main reason that I avoid collecting them. Although most of the Sedges are associated with water, on the edges of lakes, streams, ditches, etc., this one is one prefers dry land.

Cedar sedge is the most common sedge in our area of the Edwards Plateau because we usually have a lot of dry land. It is often abundant in the shade of Cedar or Liveoak trees on shallow limestone soils, but it is also seen in shady lawns and pecan bottoms where only very light grazing has occurred. It makes a lumpy but an acceptable lawn grass under Liveoak shade. It grows flat except during the spring at which time it can be over six inches tall when it produces seed heads. It does well when mowed at 3 inches. The rest of the year it can be ignored. It stays green all year, requires no fertilization, it's soft to walk on, and it's very drought resistant. Watering mainly encourages the weedy things.

Because it stays green through the winter, Cedar Sedge is very desirable forage for deer and livestock. With proper management it can hold its own, but it is easily destroyed with overgrazing. It has a peculiar odor that reminds me of some herbal medicines, but I have found no references to its use in the herbal books. Although all the sedges are wind pollinated, there is also no reference that the pollen causes any allergic reactions.

The scientific name of Cedar Sedge is *Carex planostachys*. It is one of 95 other *Carex* species in Texas, many of which are so similar that the experts even have a nightmare trying to identify them. It is well established in our Pecan orchard east of Menard, and it is most abundant where the shade is densest. There has been no grazing by livestock for about 15 years, but there is an abundance of deer that come across the river and graze or browse on my new tree saplings.

A casual glance at a patch of Cedar Sedge when the seed heads are mature in late spring might be alarming to a person with bare feet. The seed heads look similar to Grassbur, my least favorite grass, but there is no spine to them. A friend trying to be helpful one spring when we were talking about Pecans, suggested that we really had a mess of Grassburs in the pecan orchard near the cabin, and we ought to do something about them before they spread. Turned out to be a beautiful patch of *Carex planostachys*, and he knows more about Pecans than he knows about grasses and sedges. JL O21

*Carex planostachys* on April 9, 2021, at the Hannah Ranch in Coryell County. Images provided by Dr. Barron Rector.

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## Is your SRM membership information up to date?

*Please take a moment to log-into your SRM account to make sure your contact information is current (mailing address, e-mail, etc.)*

This is the contact info. that TSSRM uses to send out RangeFlashes, newsletters, mail, etc. If you know a member that hasn't been receiving TSSRM correspondence, they may need to update their information!

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## Incoming Director Spotlight

*Katy Hoskins*

**Name:** Katy G Hoskins

**Education:**

B.S. Rangeland Ecology, Texas A&M 1988

M.Ed. Sul Ross State University 1996

**Occupation:**

Ranching, retired from teaching and director of Promises For Families Foundation

**Tell us a little about yourself. (hobbies, family, etc.)**

I grew up in a ranching family in Culberson County and married into a ranching family from Hays County. My husband, Curt, and I ranched in Culberson County from 1988 to 2003. In 2003, we purchased the ranch where we currently live in Nolan County. Our only child, Anita Hoskins, is a range specialist with the NRCS in Nolan County. My most active hobby is wildlife and landscape photography, which is basically an excuse to hike, kayak and snorkel in beautiful places and out of crowds.

**How long have you been a member of TSSRM?**

I've been a member of TSSRM since 1982 or '83 after attending Youth Range Workshop and being a part of the Youth Range Forum at the Albuquerque meeting in 1983.

**What would you describe as your greatest accomplishment to date?**

That would have to be the 15 years I spent leading outdoor camps in Texas, New Mexico, and Oklahoma for children who had a parent incarcerated. While not technically related to rangelands, some of the primary activities of our camps were nature hikes, fishing, and enjoying the open prairies, forests and mountains. In those years, my staff and I took over 800 kids on week-long camping trips and several of those children I still keep up with and am proud of their accomplishments as adults.

**What do you like most about your job (or role with TSSRM)?**

The people I've met as a member of TSSRM are incredible in so many ways. They are passionate about caring for and educating about rangelands, and are great people to call friends.

**How has TSSRM helped you in your career development?**

Even though most of my career has not been actively involved in range science, I've had a huge advantage of knowing a network of people to draw on for educational programs.

**What advice would you give to students pursuing a career in the range discipline?**

Take full advantage of all the networking opportunities and learn the natural resource world by standing on the giants that came before you, and then become one of those for the next generation.

**What is your favorite part of TSSRM?**

I guess the meetings...I like it all

**Do you have a teacher/mentor that has played a significant role in your life? If so, who and why?**

I've been blessed with so many it's hard to pick just one, but Mark E. Moseley was seriously a huge influence and mentor in my early life. He was a 4H leader and Range Evaluation Coach, got me into Youth Range Workshop and spent countless hours driving our team to contests and taking us to events. He and his wife, Chris, were also leaders of our church youth group. In more recent years, volunteering at the Rolling Plains Quail Research Ranch has given me an opportunity to know Dr. Dale Rollins, and he is one of my natural resource giants!

**What is your favorite range plant and why?**

It would probably have to be Yellow Indiangrass. Seeing a stand of *Sorghastrum nutans* in full bloom in October in pastures we manage is very validating as a rancher.

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**Congratulations to our  
2021 Photo Contest  
Winners!**

*Thank you to everyone that competed!*

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# **TSSRM Oral Student Presentation Results**

## *3MT Student Presentation Award Results*

1st Place: Deann Burson - Angelo State University

2nd Place: Molly O'Brien - Texas A&M University Kingsville

3rd Place: Kaelanne Quinonez - Texas A&M University

## *R3M Award Results (Undergraduate 3-Minute Presentation)*

1st Place: Dakota Moberg - Texas A&M University Kingsville

## *Don Pendleton Memorial Collegiate Award Results*

1st Place: Daniel Wilcox - Sul Ross State University

2nd Place: Deann Burson - Angelo State University

3rd Place: Brianna Slothower - Texas A&M University Kingsville

***A huge "THANK YOU!" to the East Foundation for  
sponsoring cash awards for these excellent  
presentations!***

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# **TSSRM College Activity Award Winners**

*Plant ID Winners  
(27 students participated)*

### **Team Awards**

1<sup>st</sup> Team – Texas A&M University-Kingsville Team 1

2<sup>nd</sup> Team – Texas A&M University

3<sup>rd</sup> Team – Texas A&M University-Kingsville Team 2

### **Individual Awards**

1<sup>st</sup> Individual – Shanna Gleason, Texas A&M University

2<sup>nd</sup> Individual – Shaelyn Rainey, Texas A&M University-Kingsville

3<sup>rd</sup> Individual – Alejandro Bazaldua, Texas A&M University-Kingsville

1<sup>st</sup> Individual Jr College – Clayton Golden, Southwest Texas Junior College

## *URME Winners*

*(31 students participated)*

### **Team Awards**

1<sup>st</sup> Team – Texas A&M University

2<sup>nd</sup> Team – West Texas A&M University

3<sup>rd</sup> Team – Texas A&M University

### **Individual Awards**

1<sup>st</sup> Individual – Callie Swaim, Texas A&M University

2<sup>nd</sup> Individual – Shanna Gleason, Texas A&M University

3<sup>rd</sup> Individual – Steven Iida, Texas Tech University

1<sup>st</sup> Individual Jr. College – Clayton Golden, Southwest Texas Junior College

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# **TSSRM**

# **Outstanding Range Students**

*Angelo State University*

Kayln Stephens

Meghan Harris

*Texas A&M University*

Shanna Gleason

Callie Swain

*Texas Tech University*

Tyler Brimager

Annie Braack

*West Texas A&M University*



# TSSRM Section Award Results

*Outstanding Contribution to  
Rangeland Management*

**Bob McCan**

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*Outstanding Rangeland  
Stewardship Award - TSCRA*

**Parks Ranch**

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*Outstanding Rangeland  
Stewardship Award - TSGRA*

**Rocking Chair Ranch**

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*Outstanding Rangeland  
Management Award*

# **Dunn O'Connor Land and Cattle**

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*Fellow Award*

**James Demoin**

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*Outstanding Achievement*

**Charles L. Kneuper**

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*Outstanding Young Range  
Professional*

**Matthew Coffman**

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*Grass Roots Award -  
NRCS Category*

**Wynne Whitworth**

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*Grass Roots Award -  
Ag Extension Category*

# Michael Hiller

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## *Popular Article*

**Walker, J. (2021). Remote monitoring of stock water reservoirs. *Rangelands*, 43, 65-71**

[CLICK HERE TO READ ARTICLE!](#)

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## *Technical Publication*

**Ansley, R.J., Steffens, T.J., Cooper-Norris, C.E., & Zhang, T. (2021). Herbaceous Production and Soil Nitrogen after Mesquite Mortality in Southern Great Plains (US) Grassland. *Rangeland Ecology & Management*, 77, 82-92**

[CLICK HERE TO READ ARTICLE!](#)

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## *Special Category*

**Tim Steffens and Morgan Treadwell (2021). Factors Affecting Magnitude of Grazing Effects on Plants and Forage Quality. Texas A&M Agrilife Extension, ERM-057 05/21.**

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*Congratulations to all of the winners!  
Thank you to everyone who submitted  
a nomination!*

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# TRADITION

*by Kaelanne Quinonez*

*Kaelanne is a master's student in the Department of Ranchland, Wildlife & Fisheries Management at Texas A&M University.*

“We do it that way because it's tradition.”

It's a statement that has been used in every era, across cultures, and bridges the workforce divide. It can be a statement that exhumes a variety of feelings to different people. It can be feelings of resentment or anguish – a work culture that has poor support programs that leaves employees feeling frustrated and undervalued. Or it can be the exact opposite – feelings of pride may overflow from individuals that belong to organizations that put standards and ethics first. Coming from an outsider perspective, it may even leave us wondering: what is the tradition and what makes it so special it has been passed down from generation to generation?

In ranching and range, we hear this phrase a lot when moving cattle from one pasture to another, planting crops at a certain time of year, maintaining wildlife interactions with domestic animals, and burning brush. An inquisitive mind unfamiliar with these traditions might ask why, and a scientific mind might ask if there is any data to support if these traditions are grounded in fact. That's the interesting thing about traditions; while they may answer 'why' they may not always have hard data to show that these traditions actually do have support to back them up.

So then why do these traditions work? Though times have changed and technology has improved, a lot of ranchers still follow very similar traditions that someone in the 1920's would be familiar with. Knowing your ground, soil, and stock; staying diversified and keeping the land healthy for future generations – these are all practices that were as true back then as they are today. So then these traditions, formed from trial and error and passed down through oral history, MUST have some root in scientific fact. How else would they have survived the test of time?

This brings us to the part that is exciting, and most of all, pertinent. Range science does not have to invalidate tradition. In fact, it can bring to light new discoveries and provide a chance to explain that which has been known for centuries. We can study the endocrine responses of a cow ready for breeding, measure soil pH to explain why certain plants grow better in certain areas, and

monitor migration and behavioral patterns of living beings. Science and tradition used in sync begin to paint a picture everyone can come to know and understand.

So why is this helpful? Why do we care to see the bigger picture? I can tell you from personal experience it is all about better communication so we can share a tradition's benefits, know how to tweak these traditions in a manner that best suits a new situation, and influence policy. Ranchers have to be their own best advocate and teaming up with science opens doors to create positive influence in a political environment that is all about numbers, data, and investment. No entity gets created, funded, or destroyed in America without the interface of law and regulation. Having more data on hand will not only create a support system for which the tradition can call upon, but it also puts the needs of the ranchers and the land in a position to be best heard.

So the next time you're at a farmers market or taking a trip to a dude ranch and hear the rancher say, "We've been ranching this way since my grandpa owned this land," you'll know why the importance of tradition runs deep.

*Kaelanne working with the Sutton County Underground Water Conservation District in Sonora, Texas.*

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## **DON'T MISS these upcoming lectures in the RWFM STEWARDSHIP WEBINAR SERIES!**

*Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) licensed agricultural pesticide applicators can earn Continuing Education Units (CEUs) through the RWFM Stewardship Webinar Series every month.*

**November 4, 2021**

Noon CST

***Common Mistakes when Managing Aquatic Vegetation***

Brittany Chesser

Management of aquatic vegetation species varies greatly from terrestrial plant management and has many unique considerations including water chemistry and water flow. This presentation will address common mistakes that are made when mechanically, biologically, or chemically managing algae or aquatic plants which may

negatively impact a pond's ecosystem or result in ineffective treatment. After covering mistakes, correct management practices will be outlined to ensure participants are armed with the knowledge to make informed management decisions regarding aquatic vegetation in the future.

This course will offer 1 Texas Department of Agriculture General CEU.

**December 2, 2021**

Noon CST

***Big Picture: Range, Wildlife, and Fisheries Management***

Dr. Larry Redmon, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

Check out <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu> for more information and to register!

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# **2022 SRM Annual Meeting: February 6-10, 2022 Albuquerque, NM**

*Join us in the heart of New Mexico for the 75th Annual SRM Meeting to be held IN-PERSON! The beautiful high desert rangelands, diverse cultures, authentic art, and painted skies of Albuquerque will make for a great meeting.*

The meeting will be held at the Albuquerque Convention Center. Host hotel information provided below:

## ***Hyatt Regency Albuquerque***

The SRM has reserved a block of rooms at the Hyatt Regency for the Annual Meeting with a room rate of \$129/night. The Hyatt is located directly across the street from the Convention Center. Click the red button below to reserve your room.

If you wish to call to reserve your room, call: +1 [505-842-1234](tel:5058421234). You must reference the "SRM Annual Meeting" in order to receive the meeting rate.

## ***Student Block***

A student block of rooms has been established at The Hyatt Regency. These rooms are Quad-Rooms (capacity) and available at a \$94/night rate. [Email](mailto:kelly.fogarty@rangelands.org) Kelly Fogarty for the reservation link: [operations@rangelands.org](mailto:operations@rangelands.org).

\*Complimentary airport shuttle is provided by the hotel.

## **CALL FOR ABSTRACTS**

Submission of Titles and Abstracts for Approved Organized Sessions, Contributed Oral Sessions (20 Minutes), and Poster Presentations is now open.

*Click the link below for more information.*

**CALL FOR ABSTRACTS**

## **2021 Calendar & Events**

- November 4: RWFM Stewardship Webinar: *Common Mistakes when Managing Aquatic Vegetation*
- December 2: RWFM Stewardship Webinar: *Big Picture: Range, Wildlife, and Fisheries Management*
- February 6-10, 2022: SRM Annual Meeting-Albuquerque, NM

For additional events or more information, check out the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension calendar at <https://calendar.tamu.edu/agrilifeextension/>.

For calendar submission, please contact Deann Burson at [deann.burson@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:deann.burson@ag.tamu.edu)

*If you would like to submit future newsletter content, please contact the Newsletter Editor at [deann.burson@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:deann.burson@ag.tamu.edu).*



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