



Photo by Jeff Goodwin



PUBLISHED BY THE TEXAS SECTION SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT



Providing Leadership for the Stewardship of Rangelands
Based on Sound Ecological Principles



MARCH - APRIL 2010

Volume 62, Number 2

President's Notes



Bill Pinchak, Ph.D.
President, TSSRM

TSSRM is moving forward to the upcoming Youth Range Workshop. I encourage all of you to support this important activity by promoting it in your local community. Today's youth are tomorrow's leaders. The next BOD meeting is scheduled for April 23rd at Mason Mountain WMA, and I hope you take the time to contact Officers, Directors and Committee Chairs with your

ideas and thoughts of how to improve TSSRM as your professional Society.

I am still preparing the membership survey and intend to have it out to you in May, unexpected delays have been encountered, and apparently I was too optimistic about the effort and time involved to create one.

Restoring Rangeland Productivity and Sustainability
2010.

I look forward a great meeting in Odessa. The committee has been working diligently to have a first-class affair. The focus will be on back to basics in range management decision making. An outstanding slate of speakers has been invited. The Young Professional Program will focus on careers and planning for the future.

Regards,

Bill Pinchak

The Inside Story...

- **Second Call for ORM/ORS Award Nominations**
- **Website Coordinator Wanted**
- **Bushsunflower — A Summer Hero**
- **Texas SRM Awards**
- **Take Your Best Shot!**
- **TSSRM 2010 Photo Contest Rules**
- **Prescribed Burn Tour Set for April 30**
- **Youth Range Workshop**

Texas Section Officers and Directors

William E. "Bill" Pinchak, *President*

3515 Beaver St
Vernon, TX 76384-6555
H: (940) 553-3880 O: (940) 552-9941 x242
F: (940) 553-4567
E: w-pinchak@tamu.edu

Matthew W. "Matt" Wagner, *First Vice President*

4200 Smith School Rd
Austin, TX 78744-3218
H: (512) 292-8285 O: (512) 389-4778
F: (512) 389-4593
E: matt.wagner@tpwd.state.tx.us

Ken Cearley, *Second Vice President*

P.O. Box 60275
301 23rd St, Room 6
Canyon, TX 7901
H: (806) 558-2472 C: (806) 670-6070
F: (806) 651-5761
E: kcearley@ag.tamu.edu

Melony C. Sikes, *Past President*

16061 Fitzgerald Drive
San Angelo, TX 76904
H: (325) 835-3025
E: melonytssrm@zipnet.us

Natalie G. Wolff, *Secretary* *Administrative Handbook, Website*

107 Wyoming Blvd
Pleasanton, TX 78064-4401
C: (210) 288-6898 F: (830) 569-6140
E: tssrm_secretary@yahoo.com

Robert Moen, *Treasurer*

PO Box 43
Sonora, TX 76950-0043
H: (325) 387-2942 O: (325) 387-3168
F: (325) 387-5045
E: rmoen@sonoratrnx.net

Scott James Petty, *Director 2008-2010*

Petty Ranch Company
1200 St Hwy 173 N
Hondo, TX 78861-6511
H: (830) 741-3969 F: (830) 537-5466
E: scottjpetty@mindspring.com

Douglas J. "Jeff" Goodwin, *Director 2008-2010*

Newsletter Editor
4321 W Hwy 22
Corsicana, TX 75110
H: (254) 968-7311
E: jeff.goodwin@yahoo.com

Diaz W. Murray, *Director 2009-2011*

F Bar Springs Ranch, LLC
2510 Beefeater Drive
Wichita Falls, TX 76308
O: (940) 696-2815 C: (940) 967-7079
E: diazmurraytx@msn.com

Kent Ferguson, *Director 2009-2011*

PO Box 478
Valley Mills, TX 76689-0478
O: (254) 742-9886
E: kdferguson2331@yahoo.com

Linda Campbell, *Director 2010-2012*

6204 Salcon Cliff Drive
Austin, TX 78749
W: (512) 389-4395 C: (512) 426-0127
E: linda.campbell@tpwd.state.tx.us

Tony Dean, *Director 2010-2012*

226 Oak Ridge St
Jacksboro, TX 76458
W: (940) 538-4681 H: (940) 567-5396
C: (940) 567-1528
E: tony.dean@tx.usda.gov

Lee A. Knox, *Archivist*

361 Foothill Rd
Abilene, TX 79602
H: (325) 692-1026
E: leeaknox@yahoo.com

Second Call for Outstanding Rangeland Management/ Outstanding Rangeland Stewardship Award Nominations

TSSRM Members,

The Outstanding Rangeland Management Committee would like at this time to announce the "Second Call" for Nominations the Outstanding Rangeland Management (ORM) and the Outstanding Rangeland Stewardship (ORS) Awards.

The purpose of the ORM award is to recognize those who have demonstrated outstanding skill and knowledge in practicing sound management and care of rangeland resources. **This is a competitive award, and only one will be given each year.** This award is linked to the ranch. Once a ranch has received the award, it is not eligible to receive it again. If more than one ranch is owned and/or operated by the same person, each ranch is eligible. Nominations shall be made by persons who are well acquainted with the ranching and range management practices of the nominee. Nominations may be made by members of TSSRM or by non-members. All nominations must have concurrence by two members of TSSRM who agree that the nominee is truly deserving of this recognition.

The ORS award is a joint award given by TSSRM and Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association. The purpose of this award is similar to the ORM award; however, this award recipient **must be a member of TSCRA.** Membership in the TSSRM is desirable but not specifically required. **The ORS Award Winner** will be recognized during the Texas Section Society for Range Management's Awards Luncheon during its annual meeting. Award nominations forms can be found at the Texas Section SRM website under the "Section Awards" tab or can be found at:

ORM Award: <http://texas.rangelands.org/awards/TSSRM ORM Nomination.pdf>

ORS Award: <http://texas.rangelands.org/awards/TSSRM TSCRA ORS%20Award%20Nomination.pdf>

Please send complete nominations in by June 1, 2010 to:

Jeff Goodwin, 1511 Wordsworth Dr., Cleburne, Texas 76033

**Deadline:
June 1, 2010**

★ **WANTED** ★

Website Coordinator

The website is being updated when updated information is given to the website coordinator, which is then processed and sent for updating. If anyone would like to take the website coordinator responsibility, he/she may contact the current website coordinator or the TSSRM board.

Upcoming
Events

Board of Directors Meeting

April 23, 2010, Mason Mountain WMA

TSSRM 2010 Annual Meeting

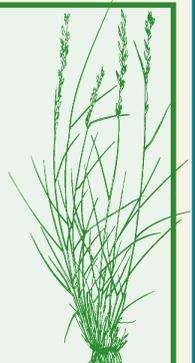
October 13-15, 2010 - Odessa, Texas

TSSRM 2011 Annual Meeting

October - San Angelo, Texas

64th SRM Annual Meeting

February 6-10, 2011 - Billings, Montana



Bushsunflower — A Summer Hero

By Steve Nelle



July is here and chances are good that it is hot and dry across large areas of Texas. The tender forbs and grasses of the spring have long ago withered and disappeared. What are left now are the hardy plants, those that can withstand long hot days, direct sun and dry soil. Bushsunflower is one of the hero's during this harsh time of year.

Bushsunflower is a warm season, perennial forb that grows in abundance on shallow and rocky soils in the South Texas, Edwards Plateau and Rolling Plains regions. It does not grow well on sandy land or on deep rich soils or in high rainfall areas. It actually prefers harsh conditions.

The thing that sets bushsunflower apart from other lesser species is the massive taproot. Anyone who is energetic and patient enough to dig one up will find an amazing root system that stores energy and can extract moisture from even the driest soils. Taproots range from one to two inches in diameter and are commonly 12 to 24 inches in length. The roots continue well beyond that depth as they penetrate caliche and find cracks in the rock.

Bushsunflower is a member of the sunflower family and it has sort of a bushy appearance, often growing as a small dense clump that resembles a shrub. It also tends to grow in and among other bushes. Since bushsunflower is a palatable and preferred plant for livestock and deer, it is often found growing up in the protection of pricklypear, algerita, catclaw or other protective shrubs. In fact, one of the indicators of healthy habitat, is an abundance of bushsunflower growing out in the open. If it is found only in protected locations, this is a sign that deer and/or livestock numbers may be excessive and in need of reduction.

Bushsunflower is rated as a good deer food. In spring, when the plant is young and tender, crude protein levels will range from 20 to 30%. As the plant continues to grow and mature during summer quality declines to about 10 to 15% protein. Digestibility and estimated energy value remains about 60 to 65% during the entire growing season. During the most severe periods of summer drought, bushsunflower will remain green, but no longer is actively growing. With the first rains of August or September, bushsunflower quickly begins new growth again. At the first freeze, it dies back to the ground and remains dormant until the first warm days of March.

Butterflies are attracted to the yellow flowers as a source of nectar and at least one species of butterfly uses bushsunflower as a larval food. The seed, which are produced in the central disk portion of the flower, are eaten by small birds such as goldfinches.

The seed for bushsunflower is commercially available and can be added to a grass mixture in re-seeding projects. Landowners have experienced good results when planting bushsunflower after mechanical brush control projects. Adding $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ pound of seed to the grass mix has proven successful. Another use for bushsunflower is in perennial food plots for deer. A mixture of bushsunflower, engelmann daisy, maximilian sunflower, and fourwing saltbush or Illinois bundleflower has proven to be useful as a permanent, yearlong, high quality source of deer food that does not have to be replanted each year.

For the deer manager, there is one good way to describe the attributes of bushsunflower – “a root like mesquite, with the quality of alfalfa”.



Texas Section SRM Awards

One of the functions of a professional society is to properly recognize members who make significant contributions to the profession. The TSSRM Awards Committee is now accepting nominations for the following five awards: Outstanding Contribution to Rangeland Management, Fellow Award, Outstanding Achievement, Outstanding Young Range Professional, Special Recognition Awards

Award categories, criteria and nomination format can be found on the website:

<http://www.rangelands.org/texas/awards.htm>

The deadline to have nominations into the Awards Committee is:

June 1, 2010 for the Outstanding Contribution to Rangeland Management and the Fellow awards, and August 15, 2010 for the Outstanding Achievement, Outstanding Young Range Professional and the Special Recognition Awards.

If you know of any deserving folks for these categories submit completed nominations to Tim Reinke, Chairman, at:

Tim W. Reinke
312 S. Main Rm. 308
Victoria, Texas 77901 or
tim.reinke@hotmail.com

TAKE YOUR BEST SHOT !!

It's that time of year again! The bluebonnets are blooming, the scissor-tailed flycatchers are flying, and it's looking like a great spring to start snapping some pictures!

Take your best shot (or 20) and enter them into the Texas Section Society for Range Management Photo Contest!

Entry deadline is September 1, 2010, and there is NO entry fee!!

Categories:

Plants (Black & White) and Plants (Color)
Landscapes (B&W) and Landscapes (Color)
Wildlife (B&W) and Wildlife (Color)
Ranching (B&W) and Ranching (Color)
Livestock (B&W) and Livestock (Color)
People (B&W) and People (Color)
Outside of Texas

Check out the website for more information:

<http://www.rangelands.org/texas/photocontest.htm>



TSSRM 2010 Photo Contest Rules

- Photos can be submitted *anytime* during the year - deadline for final submission is September 1, 2010. THERE IS NO ENTRY FEE.
- Limit of twenty (20) entries per member per year.
- PHOTOS WILL BE JUDGED BY SOMEONE OUTSIDE OF TSSRM prior to the meeting. In the event of a large number of entries, the photo contest committee reserves the right to screen the entries prior to submission to the outside judge.
- Winners in each category will receive an 8x10 print. Best in Show and Reserve Best in Show awards will receive a larger print.
- All photographers submitting entries may be considered for random participation prize(s), if given.
- The Photo Contest committee will select at least one photo from each photographer to be placed into a PowerPoint Presentation to be used between speakers at the annual meeting.
- All photos submitted may be considered for use on the TSSRM website, *Grass Roots* newsletter and/or in other official TSSRM publications without compensation, but with photographer credit. Photos may also be used by the Society for Range Management (SRM) under the same rules.
- Submission via email officially authorizes TSSRM (and/or SRM) to use the photos in these venues without further notification.
- All photos submitted must be in **JPG or TIF** format (no BMP, GIF, etc. accepted).
- Maximum photo file size of four (4) megabytes (Mb).
- Photographer must pick category for photo to be judged in – failure to do so will have your entry considered incomplete, and thus, not considered.
- *Please include a description of where the photo was taken in the body of the email.*

Photo Submission:

Email Message Subject:

Photo Contest Entry

Photo Attachment Naming:

B&W or Color_Category_Photographer_description.jpg

Body of Email:

1. *Description of Photo*
2. *Where Taken*
3. *Your Contact Information*

Photo Submission Example

(2007 Best In Show winner):

Subject:

Photo Contest Entry

Attachment:

Color_Plants_Ron_Hilliard_Wildflowers.jpg

Body of Email:

*Wildflower photo taken on Hwy 82
between Gainesville and Nocona.*

Ron Hilliard

Stillwater OK

Email:

Phone:

Email Digital Photos to:

Texas.PhotoContest@rangemail.org



Prescribed Burn Tour Set for April 30 "Fire Appreciation Day"

By Steve Byrns

ROBY – A prescribed burning field day will be held from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. April 30 at the Rolling Plains Quail Research Ranch located 11 miles west of Roby on U.S. Hwy. 180.

Two Texas Department of Agriculture continuing education units will be available for those with a private applicators license.

Dr. Dale Rollins, Texas AgriLife Extension Service wildlife specialist at San Angelo, said the field day will showcase a number of burns conducted at the research ranch over the past year and should be of interest to range and wildlife managers as well as ranchers.

Rollins, who also serves as the ranch director, refers to the event as a "Fire Appreciation Day."

"I use the term 'appreciation' to market several of my programs, especially those which can be controversial," Rollins said. "Appreciation has several contexts, including 'to value or admire highly,' 'to judge with heightened awareness,' and 'to be cautiously or sensitively aware of.' All of these apply to the use of fire as a tool for range and wildlife management."

Rollins said prescribed burning has received increased scrutiny lately, especially given the damage caused by large wildfires in the Texas Panhandle and elsewhere in recent years. He is quick to point out that those wildfires were not caused by prescribed burning.

"Prescribed burning is a lot more than just throwing a match," he said. "With proper planning and training, burning can be safe and effective. We'll highlight the plans and procedures we use here."

The quail research ranch was established in 2007 with the mission to "preserve Texas' wild quail hunting heritage for this and future generations." Rollins uses fire as his "adjustable wrench" to reach that goal; something he said more land managers should consider.

He said a properly executed prescribed burn can accomplish multiple objectives simultaneously for less than \$7 per acre.

"One of our objectives is to determine the plant responses to seasonal fires so we can eventually tweak our burn timing to achieve the most desirable impact for quail," he said. "Most of the prescribed burning in Texas has been done in late winter, but we've seen some pretty incredible forb responses to fires conducted last August."

Rollins said the program's formal talks will be kept to a minimum to promote comments and insights from attendees. Fire weather forecasters will be on hand to discuss their forecasting tools, since an accurate, real-time weather forecast is critical when conducting a burn.

Cost of the tour is \$10 for those who preregister by April 23, or \$20 at the door. Registration includes lunch and refreshments. Participants are encouraged to preregister to assist with meal planning.

In the event of inclement weather, the program will be moved to the Roby Community Center.

The tour is sponsored by the research ranch, Texas AgriLife Research, and AgriLife Extension's Quail Decline Initiative. For more information or to pre-register, contact Rollins at 325-653-4576 or e-mail:

d-rollins@tamu.edu



It is understood that if this application is accepted, a check for \$280 must be submitted by **May 30, 2010** to cover the applicant's meals and lodging expenses, made payable to TSSRM Youth Activities. Transportation cost to the workshop site and return home will be the responsibility of the local sponsoring group, nominator or participant.

Sponsor (Group/Organization)

C/o Name of Responsible Person

Address

City State Zip

Email _____

Phone _____

County Extension Agent/Ag Science Teacher
(Please print or type)

County Extension Agent/Ag Science Teacher
(Signature)

Address

City State Zip

Email _____

Phone _____

Extending the knowledge learned and gained to others is one of the highest goals of this program.

Participants are exposed to actual land management practices and decisions through field trips to ranches, and a wildlife management area.

These field trips bring out facts on goals of landownership and the responses of vegetation to practices conducted for livestock, wildlife, recreation and range restoration. *All examples will be real-life applications.*

It is not all work! Fun activities are also planned.



June 20-25, 2010 marks the 56th Consecutive Annual Youth Range Workshop.

56th Annual Youth Range Workshop



Training tomorrow's leaders today in range and natural resource management, and the stewardship of natural resources

June **20-25**, 2010

held at:
**Texas Tech University
Junction Campus**

Sponsored by:



**Texas Section
Society for
Range Management**

Rangeland - it covers **59%** of the state of Texas.



Management needs of rangelands are as diverse as the state - and require innovative approaches for good management. Each part of the state is unique and no two management approaches will achieve the same results, even on adjacent properties.



Users of rangelands are also varied. Most people think only of beef cattle, but wildlife, and humans are also users. *Remember, rangelands are a type of land - not a land use.*

This Workshop is structured to provide critical knowledge in the areas of:

- Stewardship
- Rangeland Ecology
- Plant Species and Growth
- Plant-Soil-Water Relationships
- Primary and Secondary Succession
- Watershed Management
- Range livestock and wildlife needs
- Tools of range and natural resources management and restoration
- Landowner Goals & Objectives



- Impacts of Management Decisions
- New Technology
- Rangeland Monitoring (including photopoint establishment and monitoring using yearly and seasonal photographs, and fecal sampling).



This workshop has **many hands on activities**: plant id and collecting, plant species composition, total ranch planning, stocking rate evaluation, etc. Special sessions are held on water and total resource management.

The dynamic curriculum is constantly changed as increasing importance is placed on the landowner's ability to make sound environmental, social and economic decisions.



Sponsors are often sought out by the students attending. Consult with your 4-H club/FFA Chapter leader for ideas. One can also contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District for potential leads.

Youth should be at least 14 years of age and have finished eighth grade but not have finished high school.

Applications are accepted by mail and can be completed by tearing off the form at right and completing both sides or printed from the following web site:

Applications/information, see the web at: www.rangelands.org/texas/youtheducation.htm

Application for Youth Range Workshop

June 20-25, 2010

Full Name _____

Preferred Name _____

Male ___ Female ___ Date of Birth _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Email Address _____

has been nominated to attend the 2010 Youth Range Workshop representing

_____ **4-H Club/FFA Chapter**

in _____ County.

Applicant's T-shirt size (circle one):

S M L XL XXL

Mail Completed Application form to:

TSSRM Youth Range Workshop
%Mr. Hoyt Seidensticker and Barron S.
Rector, Workshop Co-Coordinator
1822 FM 473
Boerne, Texas 78006

Applications are accepted year-round and 40 participants will be selected for each workshop.

2010 YOUTH RANGE WORKSHOP ANNOUNCEMENT

PURPOSE: To recognize outstanding youth, develop leadership, rub shoulders with professionals and provide a stimulating but in-depth educational experience and training for youth interested in practical range, ranch, and natural resource management.

DATE AND LOCATION: June 20 - June 25, 2010
Texas Tech University Campus – Junction, Texas

SELECTION OF: Applications will be accepted until 40 participants are selected. **Youth 14-17 years of age and who have completed the 8th grade** are usually best able to benefit most from the workshop. It is helpful to County programs if participants have a year of high school left following the Workshop as youth who participated can serve as leaders for training other youth.

No alternate delegate is needed. If you find that after acceptance and notification, your youth participant is unable to attend please notify us by phone or in writing and we will contact the next randomly selected application.

Records of work projects or interest in range or natural resource management should be used to select an applicant.

All nominations should be registered and active 4-H or FFA members and willing to fully participate in **all** activities of the Workshop.

Nominees may be of any race, color, religion or national origin.

ENROLLMENT: Until 40 applications have been accepted. Application **must** be submitted and signed by the County Extension Agent or Agricultural Science Teacher. Youth selected and their leaders will be notified as soon as possible following their selection. Nominee and sponsors will be notified by mail.

COST: Expenses for meals, lodging and supplies for the week-long Workshop will be **\$280** per participant. This does not include transportation to or from Junction, Texas. This fee must be raised locally (e.g. bank, Chamber of Commerce, service club, soil and water conservation district, etc., having funds for such educational purposes). Checks for \$280 must be submitted after notification of acceptance, payable to **TSSRM Youth Activities**. **Do not send a check until you receive notice of applicant's acceptance. Refunds will be possible minus administrative fees after camp is completed.**

SEND APPLICATION TO: Youth Range Workshop - Co-coordinators, Hoyt Seidensticker and Dr. Barron S. Rector, 1822 FM 473, Boerne, Texas 78006
phone no. (210) 414-6603, fax (830) 336-4697

* For Office Use Only *
* Date Recd.: _____ *

APPLICATION FOR 2010 YOUTH RANGE WORKSHOP

DUE BY: Until 40 applicants have been received

On the basis of records, interest, and outstanding range work.

Full Name _____ Preferred Name _____

Male _____ Female _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____ Email Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Home Phone _____

has been nominated to attend the 2010 Youth Range Workshop representing

_____ **4-H Club/FFA Chapter** in _____ County

Please circle one of the above

APPLICANT'S T-SHIRT SIZE (circle one adult size): S M L XL XXL

It is understood that if this application is accepted and following notification, a check for **\$280** must be submitted by **May 30, 2010** to cover the applicant's meals and lodging expenses. Transportation cost to the Workshop site and return home will be borne by the local sponsoring group, nominator or participant.

County Extension Agent/Ag Science Teacher

(Please print or type)

Please supply us with the name and address of the Applicant's Local Sponsor/Organization.

County Extension Agent/Ag Science Teacher
(Signature)

Sponsor (Group/Organization)

c/o Name of Responsible Person

Address

Address

City

Zip

City Zip

County

Email Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone: _____
Office Home

Phone: _____
Office Home

Mail applications to Youth Range Workshop, co-coordinators Hoyt Seidensticker and Dr. Barron S. Rector, 1822 FM 473, Boerne, Texas 78006. **Applications will be accepted** until 40 applicants have been selected.