



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*



## President's Notes



**Bill Pinchak, Ph.D.  
President, TSSRM**

The Odessa meeting was outstanding, and I thank each and every member that made this come to pass. I believe that as President, one finds competent and motivated members, then provide a vision and resources for them to create a program that captures that vision. I am amazed at how well this approach works and specifically worked for Odessa. Knowing the leadership for the San Angelo Meeting and Matt Wagner's visionary approach to land stewardship, we can count on another great meeting in 2011.

The program for the Odessa Meeting focused on back to basics was a valuable focal point that provided all of us with relevant take-home messages. I

particularly enjoyed the mix of topics from water to restoration. I believe our annual meeting is a forum to look back on where we have been and where we are headed based on sound scientific principles and on-the-ground experience. The meeting was very thought provoking, challenged contemporary thinking and exposed us to emerging restoration technologies.

The Past Presidents' Breakfast was a great meeting and discussion. Within this group is our institutional memory and core capacity which we build each year. The Young Professionals were well represented at the meeting. I believe this is in response to the excellent program developed for them, employer support and their professional commitment to excellence. Our award winners captured the true intent of each award. The strength of our awards programs are dedicated Chairs, Committee Members and outstanding candidates. Each of us needs to take the time to respond when the call for nominations goes out every year. The awards directly reflect your individual commitment and input and provide an opportunity for every member to actively be engaged with the Section.

In closing, I want to express my sincere gratitude and thanks to all members involved with the Odessa Meeting.

Regards,

*Bill Pinchak*

### *The Inside Story...*

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## 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](mailto: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](mailto:matt.wagner@tpwd.state.tx.us)

**Ken Cearley, Second Vice President**

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

**Melony C. Sikes, Past President**

16061 Fitzgerald Drive  
 San Angelo, TX 76904  
 H: (325) 835-3025  
 E: [melonytssrm@zipnet.us](mailto: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](mailto: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@sonoratr.tx.net](mailto:rmoen@sonoratr.tx.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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:diazmurraytx@msn.com)

**Kent Ferguson, Director 2009-2011**

PO Box 478  
 Valley Mills, TX 76689-0478  
 O: (254) 742-9886  
 E: [kdferguson2331@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:tony.dean@tx.usda.gov)

**Lee A. Knox, Archivist**

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

## Photo Contest Winners



**Best in Show - DAVID TOLEDO "Rainbow" (Landscape category)**

**Landscape 1<sup>st</sup> place  
 DAVID TOLEDO  
 "Rainbow"**

**Landscape 2<sup>nd</sup> place  
 CLINT ROLLINS  
 "Sunrise"**

**Livestock 1<sup>st</sup> place  
 MARK MOSELEY  
 "Goats Unaware"**

**Livestock 2<sup>nd</sup> place  
 JEN JOHNSON  
 "Sea of Grass  
 Is Never Ending"**

**Outside Texas 1<sup>st</sup> place  
 DEBBIE FERRIS  
 "Grand Canyon Raven"**

**Outside Texas 2<sup>nd</sup> place  
 JEN JOHNSON  
 "Grass Is Always Greener"**



**Reserve Best in Show - DEBBIE FERRIS  
 "Grand Canyon Raven"  
 (Outside Texas category)**

**People 1<sup>st</sup> place – DEBBIE FERRIS – "Rain Dance"**

**People 2<sup>nd</sup> place – JILL HEALY – "Texas Paintbrush"**

**Plants 1<sup>st</sup> – JERRY PAYNE – "Wildflower"**

**Plants 2<sup>nd</sup> – CLINT ROLLINS – "Feather Dalea"**

**Ranching 1<sup>st</sup> place – JEN JOHNSON – "Blue Skies from Now On"**

**Ranching 2<sup>nd</sup> place – MANDI LIGON – "Remnants of Years Past"**

**Wildlife 1<sup>st</sup> place – DEBBIE FERRIS – "Canyon Tree Frog"**

**Wildlife 2<sup>nd</sup> place – ERIC GRAHMANN – "Bobwhite Post"**

## Upcoming Events

**2011 SRM Meeting - Billings, MT**

**2011 TSSRM Annual Meeting - San Angelo**

**2012 TSSRM Annual Meeting  
 Fredericksburg**

**2013 TSSRM Annual Meeting - Ft. Worth**



## Outstanding Rangeland Stewardship Award Matador Ranch - Matador Texas



Matador Ranch is a 130,000-acre working cattle ranch that supports more than 3,000 head of commercial cattle, 1,500 to 2,500 stockers, annually, as well as diverse wildlife management program.

Matador Ranch is one of three ranches operated by The Matador Cattle Company, a subsidiary of Koch Industries, Inc., based in Wichita, Kan. Matador Ranch’s vision is to manage its natural resources in a manner that allows it to create real long-term value. That is founded on the market-based approach that all decisions must be made to ensure long-term productivity and sustainability while positioning itself to increase value and capture market opportunities.

Each stewardship decision is measured for its impact on and benefit to wildlife and beef production. Their results show that managing and improving the ranch’s natural resources is compatible with beef and wildlife production. With the challenging aspects of the ranch’s terrain and inconsistent rainfall, Bob Kilmer and his team ensure that all resource decisions made consider not only the primary effects but also the secondary and tertiary effects.



To continuously improve the long-term health and productivity of its renewable natural resources, the ranch employs a number of programs and works with several different organizations. In the early 1980s, ranch management began experimenting with seeding improved grasses – specifically Ermelo Weeping Lovegrass – to supplement the native grasses available. In the late 1980s much of the Matador’s farmland – primarily cotton fields – was converted to improved pasture, specifically W.W. Spar bluestem.

The ranch uses high-density, short-duration grazing cells. It also uses about 3,200 acres of improved pasture in order to rest native grass pastures.

Matador Ranch was an early adopter of artificial insemination to improve cowherd genetics. This technology remains in use with some of the ranch’s heifers bred artificially each year. The ranch has improved the overall performance of its calves in both feeding and carcass traits while maintaining the reproductive performance of its cow herd. The ranch also runs stocker cattle, which are purchased and wintered on native grasses then transitioned to introduced grass pastures within an intensive grazing system. At various times, the ranch will retain ownership of its calf crop or stocker cattle. These cattle are fed in northern feedlots and marketed on various different market grids. Careful resource stewardship has allowed the ranch’s stocking rate to return to one AU/30-acre rate from one AU/ 55-acre rate during drought conditions. During the drought of the late ‘90s, Matador destocked the ranch by 50 percent rather than hurt its resources.

Optimally managing the ranch’s water resources includes brush management, developing more earthen tanks, improving the security of existing dams, managing spring-fed tanks, and utilizing a water piping system to move water from various parts of the ranch. To increase the ranch’s capacity for rest rotational cells, a 50-plus mile wa-



ter pipeline system was built in 1996 and has been expanded. The goal is to install five to 15 miles of pipelines annually into pastures for wildlife and livestock use. Culverts have been plugged along an abandoned railroad right-of-way to provide additional water sources. During the drought, many earthen tanks were cleaned to improve water-holding capacity. Brush has been cleared along roads for better access to hunting sites, which has resulted in improved quail habitat. In areas of historical erosion problems, grasses have been seeded, and old hay bales have been strategically placed in various pastures to thwart wind erosion.

The ranch has strategically controlled brush through mechanical and chemical methods to im-

prove nesting cover for quail and turkeys, while promoting forage production and diversity. Prescribed burning is used along with other conservation practices such as brush control to achieve a more diverse habitat and a higher successional stage on their rangeland. The ranch began a comprehensive prescribed burning program in 2009, as range conditions allowed. Prescribed burning on the ranch is set up through a long-range planning schedule which allows the ranch to better achieve objectives. The mechanical treatments have improved forb diversity by creating soil disturbance. The ranch uses a global positioning system to select the most dense areas of mesquite/brush infestations to spray. Long-range planning for prescribed burning has to be flexible to allow for more efficiency when application time for the burn arrives. Matador Ranch has found that the real key is to properly manage the land following the burn.

In the past 20 years, income from hunting has grown steadily – and sometimes exponentially – at the ranch. With the opportunity to cater to clients who desire trophy animals, in 2008 Matador Ranch expanded its wildlife program to include a lodge and other assets designed to satisfy customers. In addition, the ranch is applying its livestock breeding knowledge to a deer breeding program aimed at not only developing client-preferred trophy animals for the ranch but also to market does and bucks to a growing Texas and national market. The ranch's wildlife management program is multi-faceted, and all decisions are evaluated with the livestock business in mind. For its deer program – which includes both whitetail and mule deer – the ranch conducts annual fall helicopter surveys to determine density, sex ratios, and fawn survival. Surveys guide harvest recommendations and monitor herd health. Harvest data is collected from all deer taken on the ranch. Harvest management goals for deer include no more than 10 percent of the available mule deer bucks and 15 percent of the available whitetail bucks. Turkey harvest has been limited to less than 30 percent of mature gobblers each year and varies depending on range conditions.

In their own words Matador Ranch states, “As stewards of the land, we have to fully partner with Mother Nature. To successfully do that in the face of prolonged droughts, we have to optimally conserve our natural resources, or we will be out of business. As a result of our dedication to market-based principles and strategies, Matador Ranch has achieved a number of successes in ensuring that its natural resources are not only being used to produce a customer-preferred product but also that it is improving the base resource for the long term.”

Matador Ranch believes that the ranch's long-term viability and success is based upon our company's business philosophy – Market Based Management®. MBM empowers employees to think like owners and positions them to respond to the desires of the marketplace. The ranch has a strong tradition and history, yet they are focused on marrying that with the innovations of the 21st century. Their branding patterns may be more rooted in 1900, but their breeding systems employ the best information and technologies available. Koch Industries expects all its subsidiaries to be industry leaders. Matador Ranch has proven that industry success can in fact be accomplished with rangeland stewardship leading the way. The Texas Section Society for Ranch Management is proud to announce the 2010 recipient of the Outstanding Rangeland Stewardship award is the Matador Ranch, Matador Texas.

## TSSRM Fellow Award

### Paul Loeffler



At a young age Paul Loeffler knew he wanted to work with the land. It all started with a strong ranching background, and he has been active in management and operation of the family ranching and farming enterprises in several locations in Texas ever since. With his focus on the land, this young man graduated high school in Junction, Texas, then pursued a degree in Rangeland Resources Management from Texas A&M University in 1979.

Shortly after graduation, Paul began his Rangeland Management career with the then Soil Conservation Service. He provided technical assistance to landowners in conservation planning and management practice implementation on range and cropland operations. Later, he served as the primary technical staff in conservation planning and implementation of range, wildlife and cropland practices. He was the primary lead in development, implementation and management of cost-share contracts under the Great Plains Conservation Program.

In 1982, Paul took a position with his current employer the Texas General Land Office. He currently coordinates a regional field office – responsible for uplands land management section of the Asset Inspections Division. He serves as lead technical staff responsible for range resource evaluation and surface lease administration on 616,000+ acres of Permanent School Fund (PSF) lands. He is responsible for management plan development and implementation on state land properties of significant size, economic base and productivity. He serves as technical staff on special projects including property acquisition and disposition, special use proposals and environmental compliance. He is also responsible for all real property appraisal assignments in the western portion of the state; including PSF lands, Veterans Land Board properties and other state agencies' real property. These agencies often have scattered smaller properties, making individual management difficult, and he has been able to successfully assist these agencies in selling off these scattered properties and purchasing larger contiguous tracts of land. Several of these actions have had high political visibility/reaction – and he has successfully navigated his way through. His work on property appraisal has led to a variety of contacts from folks looking to lease hunting properties in a variety of West Texas locations. This experience has allowed him to work effectively in the development and management of flexible grazing leases on the school lands. In addition to traditional livestock grazing leases, he has been able to consider innovative proposals – one currently accepted surface lease use is for an advanced paramilitary training location prior to deployment to Afghanistan.

Paul is the General Land Office's representative on the NRCS State Technical Committee. Being chosen to represent a state agency on rangeland issues is indeed an honor and recognizes his experience with rangelands across the state.

Paul has been a member of the TSSRM since 1976. He has been an SRM Certified Professional in Rangeland Management since March 2001. He has served as the TSSRM Plant ID Contest – Proctor/Grader for 18 years. Served as the TSSRM Advisory Council representative for 4 years and served as Chair-elect and Chair in 2007-2008. He has additionally been responsible for the Masonic Range Science Scholarship, co-chair 1990 to present, and responsible for collecting candidate packets, selecting judges, distributing review packets, obtaining individual judges scores, and final tabulation. The scholarship has grown in value and recognition, as there are now inquiries from international students who are looking to attend college in the United States and from colleges far beyond those traditionally thought of as “range” schools.

Paul has served as Texas Section SRM Director, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, 1<sup>st</sup> VP and President. He has served the Youth Range Workshop as Director for 20 years, Youth Activities Committee for 20 years and served on almost all other TSSRM committees over the past 20 years.

Paul has been instrumental in teaching range management at the 4-H Club level for 12 years and at the state level for 20 years at the Texas Youth Range Workshop. Somehow he also finds the time to stop by and assist the High School Youth Forum delegates with their final development of their paper presentations.

Paul has given the Society for Range Management, specifically the Texas Section, countless hours of voluntary hard work and effort. He has time and time again gone the extra mile to advocate rangeland stewardship and, most importantly, inspire youth to see the value of rangeland resources. He is a true friend and advocate for the Texas Section Society of Range Management. The Texas Section Society for Range Management is proud to announce the 2010 Recipient of the Fellow Award, Paul Loeffler.

## Outstanding Rangeland Management Award 77 Ranch



The 77 Ranch is located in northwestern Navarro County in the Blackland Prairie ecological region of Texas. Approximately 2,160 acres make up the ranch which includes numerous small ponds and wetlands that provide excellent habitat for various wildlife species. Owners Gary and Sue Price have been ranching in the area since 1976, when they acquired their first ranch near the town of Blooming Grove, TX. Gary's educational background includes a degree in Animal Science from Texas A&M University. Prior to ranching full time, Gary managed a ranch in Lamar County and spent fifteen years working for Jen-Sal Animal Health Company, which in-

cluded a six-year stint with the feedlot industry in the panhandle of Texas.

Since acquiring the initial portion of the ranch 34 years ago, Gary's has implemented a comprehensive rangeland management program to optimize rangeland conditions. The ranch is primarily a cow-calf operation that utilizes conservative stocking rates and a two-herd rotational grazing system using 30 unique pastures. Flexible stocking rates are set by balancing forage supply with animal demand. The majority of the eastern rotation has been in a rotational grazing system for over 50 years. Gary has several areas that are considered to be functional, tall grass prairie ecosystems that support a cattle operation. Essentially, grazing management has been conservative to optimize livestock performance while maintaining range condition and health.

The 77 Ranch operates primarily as a cow-calf operation but derives income from a variety of other avenues. Selection of cattle genetics have been chosen to optimize calf value at market. Initial breeds selected were F-1 type Hereford Brahman crossbred cows bred to Charolais bulls. Recently, the herd has been transitioning to a Super Baldie cow to reduce cow size and produce a three-quarter Angus calf to target the certified Angus All Natural Markets. Marketing and value-added strategies have included preconditioning calves with age and source verification and selling directly to an all natural buyer. Alternative economic enterprises developed on the ranch include: Wetland and water development, wildlife management and restoration (stocking bass, quail habitat restoration, turkey release cooperatively with TPWD), hunting and fishing leases, harvesting nuts from 150 native pecans, marketing unwanted 2-6" cedar elm trees to DFW and Austin metroplexes and marketing of high quality hay to horse owners.

From a trend standpoint, areas that were initially in a tall grass prairie climax community continue to maintain the same level of species diversity and sustainability. Rangeland restoration and reseeding has also been a practice implemented on the ranch. Portions of the ranch were historically used for cotton production and were reseeded to a mix of native grasses including big and little bluestem, sideoats grama, switchgrass and eastern gamagrass. A noteworthy example of restoration efforts is a demonstration project on Hwy 55 that reseeded native plant species of the tall grass prairie that includes a sign describing the project to the public. Brush clearing and control efforts have been an important part of the rangeland restoration on the ranch as well.

Wildlife management has focused on bobwhite quail, and efforts have centered on habitat management. Involvement in the Western Navarro Bobwhite Restoration Initiative (WNBRI) has provided the opportunity to implement landscape scale population monitoring with annual spring call counts and a quail nest depredation project in 2009.

Water quality has been optimized by the conversion of cropland to wetland. These areas were established in wetland plant species for the primary use of waterfowl. This has minimized sediment loading, erosion and other water quality issues. Subsequently, it has provided an alternate source of revenue for the ranch. This specifically includes the recent conversion of a 40-crop field to a wetland through a cooperative project with Ducks Unlimited.



Gary has both the formal education and practical experience as it relates to grazing management. He is a leader of conservative grazing management and has developed a keen awareness of wildlife management (both population management and habitat management). He is often called upon to provide a ‘producer’s perspective’



on ranch and resource management at educational programs. Examples of his knowledge are reflected in his leadership roles with the following groups: Navarro County Extension Livestock Committee (1990 to present; chairman 1992-1994), Trinity Basin Conservation Foundation Board of Directors, Western Navarro Bobwhite Restoration Initiative, Texas Coalition – Grazing Land Conservation Initiative (GLCI) Board of Directors, Blackland Prairie GLCI Chairman, and many others.

As one Extension Range Specialist put it, “Gary’s ranch is the exemplary model of rangeland management and restoration in the Blackland Prairie and is why his place has so often been the location used for tours and field days.” Gary has been a leader among his fellow landowners and ranchers for many years. Starting in 1990, Gary began serving on the Texas AgriLife Extension Service Livestock Committee, assisting with educational programs and outreach efforts on a county basis. From 1992 to 1994 he served as the Chairman of this committee and continues to serve on it today. Through

this avenue he recently provided leadership and support to county-level programs. In 2008 he hosted a Grazing Management Workshop on the 77 Ranch with 87 people attending. Attendees were able to observe the impacts of his rangeland resource management strategies and enhance their knowledge of native plants in the Blackland Prairie ecological region. In 2009 he provided cattle for a Grazing and Stockmanship Workshop that were used for a cattle-handling demonstration.

Gary’s leadership has expanded beyond traditional cattle and ranching roles. He has played a pivotal role in the development of the Western Navarro Bobwhite Restoration Initiative (WNBRI). WNBRI is a cooperative of landowners who are managing approximately 30,000 acres with the goal of enhancing bobwhite quail habitat and populations. Activities of this group have included field days, rangeland restoration activities and four annual quail call counts. Gary also serves on the Board of Directors for the Trinity Basin Conservation Foundation (TBCF). TBCF is a group that focuses on natural resource management practices and programs that positively impact the Trinity River watershed. Gary served as a cooperator in 2009 on a Quail Nest Depredation Demonstration conducted by the County Extension Agent and Texas Parks and Wildlife Technical Biologist. Another wildlife species that Gary has focused on is the Rio Grande turkey when his ranch served as one of three release sites in Navarro County in 2009. Gary is a member of the Texas Coalition-Grazing Land Conservation Initiative (GLCI) Board of Directors and currently serves as Chairman of the Blackland Prairie GLCI regional Coalition.

Investing in tomorrow’s natural resource managers is also a high priority for Gary and his wife Sue. They have hosted a joint program with Texas Wildlife Association (TWA) called L.A.N.D.S or Learning Across New Dimensions of Science on his ranch. This program has partnered two schools (one in Dallas and one in Blooming Grove) together for a hands-on natural resources training. This effort includes a field day at the ranch where youth are instructed about plant identification, wildlife management, rangeland management, watershed function and much more. Gary also devoted much of his time as the Chairman for the Navarro County Youth Exposition Commercial Heifer Division, serving as the Chairman from 1998 to 2007. As Chairman, Gary coordinated the record books, interviews, exams and exhibition for 4-H and FFA youth. In 2004 he donated a heifer to the winner of the division.



This type of service and dedication to cattle production and natural resources should not and has not gone unnoticed. In 1995 Gary Price was selected as the Navarro County “Farmer of the Year”. This award is given annually to the farmer and/or rancher who provides exemplary leadership, work-ethic and dedication.

In 2007 Gary and Sue Price were selected as the recipients for the Leopold Conservation Award for Texas from Sand

County Foundation and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). This award is part of the Lone Star Land Stewards Awards Program, and each year TPWD seeks to recognize land stewards from each of the 10 ecological regions in Texas.

“Each new endeavor must fit our long-term plan of economic and ecological sustainability. Their impact must improve the condition of the land, be sustainable and mesh with our quality of life goals. We understand the awesome responsibility of stewardship we have to the land and our community. We like to share what we believe and what we have learned from others. A land ethic is not easily taught or learned, but rather it is acquired over time through years spent on the land observing successes and failures in trying to live “with” the land and all its components.”

Gary Price has proven himself to be a steward of natural resources. He has a working knowledge of ranch management and cattle production and a passion for conservation. He has also passed his knowledge and passion on to his son who currently works on a ranch in the rolling plains of West Texas. Gary’s diligence and commitment make him rise above his peers of fellow landowners and ranch managers. TSSRM is proud to announce the 2010 recipient of the Outstanding Rangeland Management Award to Gary Price and the 77 Ranch.

## **TSSRM Grass Roots County Agent Award**

### **Pascual Hernandez**



Mr. Pascual Hernandez’s educational background includes a BS in Biology and MS in Animal Science from Angelo State University. He has served as an Extension educator in three counties: Tom Green, Ward and currently Sutton starting in 1997. These counties are primarily range and livestock counties. Adult educational programs have encompassed numerous areas of rangeland management. Examples of these programs include: Rangeland Leasing Conference, Winter Burn Workshop, Rangeland Pesticide Workshop, Rangeland Monitoring Workshop, RAWHIDE (Ranching Aimed at Wildlife Habitat Improvement and Diversification of Enterprises), Numerous Weed and Brush Control Programs, Numerous Livestock Health and Nutrition Programs and much more.

Youth educational programs have been just as impressive, including: Serving as a coach for numerous 4-H Range Plant Identification

Teams and 4-H Range Evaluation Teams. Pascual’s accomplishments include placing at numerous contests and advancing many teams to the State 4-H Roundup Range Contests in College Station, TX. Pascual has sent numerous youth to Youth Range Workshop, State Youth Water Camp, West Texas Veterinary Workshop, Bobwhite Brigades, Buckskin Brigades, etc. Additionally, he has served as an advisor for 4-H livestock projects with a special focus on sheep, goats and cattle. Pascual has provided leadership in coordinating the National 4-H Wool Judging Contest and the annual Wool and Mohair Show hosted annually in Sonora, TX. He has also served as Superintendent for the District 10 4-H Range Evaluation Contest and Helper for the District 10 4-H Plant Identification Contest. Other youth activities include natural resources field days, Photography and Wildlife, etc.

Pascual has partnered with numerous agencies, private organizations and volunteers to host State Youth Water Camp (1999-2004) and West Texas Veterinary Workshop (2001-2010). He is an active member of the Sutton County Predator Management Association.

Pascual is a knowledgeable educator who has dedicated his career to working with landowners, ranch managers and county youth. His service has been exemplary and has gone above and beyond the call of duty. He has committed many hours, evenings, weekends and miles to organize rangeland education programs and to assist youth in participating in natural resource opportunities. Pascual is never one who is looking for the credit but is constantly working behind the scenes. He has a passion in working in the area of rangeland and natural resources and is highly deserving of this recognition. TSSRM is proud to announce the 2010 recipient of the Grass Roots County Agent Award to Pascual Hernandez.

## Outstanding Young Professional Award

### Chad Ellis



The Outstanding Young Range Professional Award is presented by the Society to an individual member who has demonstrated extraordinary potential and promise as a range management professional.

This year's recipient is one in which the Texas Section is fortunate to welcome back to Texas as one of its former members and a truly outstanding young professional. Since graduating with his Master's degree from Angelo State University in 2001, no other young member of SRM has excelled so quickly through the ranks of NRCS and GLCI. Chad Ellis began his range career as a rangeland management specialist in San Angelo, Texas. Thereafter, he moved to Brackettville followed by a move to Alpine. From Alpine, he accepted the position of State Rangeland Management Specialist-GLCI Coordinator for the state of Florida.

During Chad's time in Florida, he developed a prescribed grazing incentive for EQIP and developed strong collaborative efforts with Florida Grazing Lands Coalition to develop outreach programs for grazing management issues. In addition, he served as an advisor to the Florida Cattleman Association, USDA-ARS, and the University of Florida for technical research and development. Chad also served as an advisor to Florida State University for their research for small scale producers. Lastly, he worked closely with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Service for the development of their Grazing polices and with the Florida Department of Agriculture to develop cow/calf and equine "Best Management Practices".

During his time in San Angelo, Brackettville, and Alpine, Chad was instrumental in the installation of 185 miles of fences, 25 watering facilities, and 115 miles of pipelines. In addition, he was responsible for the implementation of brush management on over 100,000 acres, prescribed burns on 20,000 acres, range plantings on 20,500 acres, and diversions on 25,000 acres. He wrote prescribed grazing plans on over 600,000 acres and riparian CCRP plans for over 5,000 acres. He has presented 15 formal presentations at producer-oriented and scientific meetings. In addition, he has published numerous articles and co-authored peer reviewed publications as well. Chad has served on the Board of Directors for the Florida Section for the Society for Range Management. He also served as a Co-chair of the annual TSSRM meeting held in Del Rio, Texas. Currently, he is serving as Rangeland Management Specialist for the Central National Technology Support Center with NRCS.

The Texas Section Society for Range Management is proud to announce that Chad Ellis is the 2010 recipient of the Outstanding Young Range Professional Award.

## Publication Award Winners

### *Technical Category*

**Woody Plant Encroachment paradox:  
Rivers Rebound as Degraded Grasslands  
Convert to Woodlands**

by Bradford Wilcox and Yun Huang

### *Popular Category*

**Estimating Grazeable Acreage for Cattle**  
by Jason Hohlt, Robert Lyons, C. Wayne Hanselka,  
and David McKown

### *Special Category*

**Brush and Weeds of Texas Rangelands**  
by Charles R. Hart, Barron S. Rector, C. Wayne Hanselka,  
Robert K. Lyons, and Allan McGinty

## 2011 Incoming Officers

### *2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President*

**JEFF GOODWIN**  
Cleburne, Texas

### *Director*

**DR. BILL FOX**  
Temple, Texas

### *Director*

**DR. PONCHO ORTEGA**  
Kingsville, Texas

## Outstanding Contribution to Rangeland Management

### Mark Moseley



Mark Moseley's passion for Rangeland Management, love of the land, and leadership started at a very young age. As evidence, in 1967 this individual was selected as Trail Boss for the Youth Range Workshop. This young man from Rochelle, Texas went on to follow his passions and graduated from Texas Tech University with a degree in Range and Wildlife Management. For the past 30+ years this individual has devoted his time, passion, and leadership to forward the science and art of rangeland management through a career with SCS-NRCS. He started as a Rangeland Conservationist in Colorado City and Junction, Texas, District Conservationist in Jayton, Texas, Area Range Conservationist in San Angelo, Texas, and State Range Conservationist in Stillwater, Oklahoma. He is

currently a NRCS Rangeland Management Specialist in Boerne, Texas and serves as Texas State Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI) Coordinator.

Mark has promoted Rangeland Management over the past three decades through hundreds if not thousands of Field Days, Workshops, Ranch Tours, etc. He has spoken to ranchers about the benefits of proper grazing management, brush management, and on and on. He has inspired not only Texas ranchers, but Oklahomans as well with his knowledge, experience, and passion for the ranching industry and the promotion of grazingland stewardship. He is additionally one of the States strongest advocates for prescribed burning.

As a GLCI Liaison for Texas, Mark has worked closely with numerous groups, organizations, agencies and governments to discuss grazing management and prescribed burning opportunities. Other federal agencies such as the Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) have been inspired by his tremendous knowledge on plant identification and rangeland management.

Along with tremendous knowledge and expertise in grazing lands management and prescribed burning, this individual has assisted in the progress of Ecological Site Description (ESDs) development for Texas. In 2009, he reviewed and approved 66 Ecological Site Descriptions (ESDs) for the state of Texas encompassing 15,634,000 acres. Since 2005, he has reviewed 239 ESDs encompassing 88,900,000 acres.

Mark has been a member of the Texas Section and SRM for 35 years. He has served as President of the Texas Section SRM in 1986, and has also been president of the Oklahoma section. He served on the TSSRM Board of Directors from 1980-1982. He has served on numerous TSSRM committees such as the Youth Activities and Information and Education committees. He has additionally, served on several national committees.

Mark has also contributed to written rangeland management knowledge. He has authored and co-authored with many of his peers, numerous publications regarding rangeland management, plant identification and grazingland stewardship. His professionalism has led him to the acceptance of several milestone awards; 2007 Outstanding Achievement Award for Stewardship from the Society of Range Management at the 60th Annual meeting in Reno, Nevada; 2008 Outstanding Alumnus Award acceptance at Texas Tech University Department of Natural Resources Management; and 2009 NRCS Rangeland Management Specialist of the Year

The contributions to the field of rangeland management made by this gentleman are numerous. However, Mark's arguably greatest contribution is his legacy of training young rangeland professionals. He has been a positive influence and mentor to countless young rangeland professionals by providing experienced hands-on training and has been a leader by example through his professionalism and passion for rangeland ecosystems. The Texas Section Society for Range Management is proud to announce the 2010 recipient of the Outstanding Contribution to Rangeland Management Award to Mr. Mark Moseley.

## TSSRM Grass Roots NRCS Award

### John Paalik



John Paalik has worked for the SCS/NRCS for more than 35 years as a range conservationist, District Conservationist and in his present position as a Natural Resource Manager. He has responsibility for managing five counties on his team and has provided technical assistance through conservation planning to farmers and ranchers in many areas of Texas. John has also worked with civic groups, local government agencies, state and federal agencies and is a member of Texas Section Society for Range Management. As a professional and dedicated employee for the NRCS, John is always ready and willing to help with hosting field days, seminars, and training with new employees.

John gives back to the community what has been given to him; he has a passion for educating youth and de-

livering the resource conservation message. He has a passion to teach young people the importance of identifying plants and how to manage natural resources. For more than 20 years, Paalik has been working with plant identification and land judging teams, and as a former 4-H'er on Cooke County and Texas A&M University plant identification teams, he always wants to give back to youth through natural resources education. For the second consecutive year, the Young County 4-H Range Evaluation Team won a national title as the 2010 Reserve Champion at the 59th Annual National Range Judging Competition held on May 6 in Oklahoma City. Historically, Oklahoma has the distinction of having hosted the National Rangeland Judging Contest annually since 1952. Thousands of youth and young adults qualify for the national contest by participating in local, regional, and state contests throughout the United States. It takes many hours of training by young dedicated individuals to reach this level of competition, and with John as the head coach, they have accomplished honors that few have.

The Texas Section Society for Range Management is proud to present the 2010 Grass Roots NRCS award to John Paalik of Graham, Texas.

## Friend of TSSRM

### Alice Westmoreland



Alice Westmoreland has been associated with the Texas Section SRM's bimonthly *Grass Roots* newsletter for over 15 years. She has worked with Nick Garza, the previous editor, for almost 10 years assisting the editor with newsletter design and layout.

For the past 5 years she has assisted the current editor, Jeff Goodwin, with the design and layout for the current editions. Four years ago, the TSSRM *Grass Roots* newsletter made some significant changes. The newsletter went from a black and white with partial color edition to a full color document. The newsletter also made the transformation from a hard copy only to a predominantly electronic publication. Now over 90% of the TSSRM membership receive their newsletter or download it from the TSSRM website electronically. She has provided instrumental assistance to the editor during this process. She continually offers

her much valued experience, time, advice to every edition. She has a true passion for her work and is very team oriented.

She gets paid a nominal small fee for her time and assistance; however, that fee is pennies compared to her worth to the Section. She has worked behind the scenes for over 15 years assisting the Section and helping to make the *Grass Roots* newsletter a success. She is one of our true unsung heroes and is in every sense of the word a "Friend of TSSRM". The Texas Section Society for Range Management is proud to present the 2010 Friend of TSSRM award to Alice Westmoreland.