



Hal Herblin accepting 2014 Outstanding Rangeland Management Award for Jack Ohlrich and 2014 TSSRM President John Walker

Texas Section Society for Rangeland Management Outstanding Rangeland Management Award Jack Ohlrich (Ohlrich Ranch)

Jack Ohlrich of New Braunfels, Texas was born on the original 3000 acre homestead in Comal County which his grandparents settled in the 1850's. Mr. Ohlrich is a true Texas rancher, a straight-shooter and very self-reliant. He has operated the now 1422 acre ranch for approximately 75 years and been an active member of the Comal-Guadalupe Soil & Water Conservation District since 1973.

With the booming metropolis of New Braunfels knocking on his door steps and escalated land prices Mr. Ohlrich has resisted the temptation to sell to keep his land in agricultural production. He has worked with the Natural Resources Conservation Service for decades to install countless conservation practices on his property including prescribed grazing, brush management, prescribed burning, range planting and water development. Through these efforts he has maintained or improved quality livestock forage, wildlife habitat and proper hydrologic functions of the watershed including the Little Blanco which runs through his place.

Mr. Ohlrich recognizes proper grazing as a key management decision. He partners with Hal Herblin an adjoining rancher who runs the livestock on his place. Together they make decisions of how many animals they can run and when to rotate pastures based on current conditions. Livestock are rotated in a single herd through a three pasture system for approximately 6 months out of the year in variable seasons each year. On average, pastures receive 2 months of grazing and 10 months of deferment each year. Due to the proper grazing management higher successional grasses such as big bluestem and yellow indiagrass are common on parts of the ranch. Little bluestem and sideoats grama are re-claiming areas that were invaded by king ranch bluestem. The consistent spring flow & the quality of stream water even through the drought are indicators of Mr. Ohlrich's excellent range management.

Mr. Ohlrich also works with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for wildlife management recommendations. With family and cash hunters they harvest whitetail deer and turkey according to TPWD recommendations. Wildlife habitat has also been improved through proper grazing, brush management, range planting, and prescribed burning.

Mr. Ohlrich received the 2014 Conservation Rancher Award and the 1995 Wildlife Conservationist Award from the Comal-Guadalupe Soil & Water Conservation District. He is a former Farm Bureau director, Edwards Aquifer Board director, and an advisor to the Comal County Regional Conservation Habitat Committee.

With his dedication and love for the land and the ranching lifestyle we are proud to present Jack Ohlrich with the 2014 Outstanding Range Management Award.