



2014 Outstanding Young Range Professional Award Recipient Dandy Kothmann and TSSRM President John Walker

Texas Section Society for Rangeland Management Outstanding Young Range Professional Award Dandy Kothmann

Education:

- 1999 Graduate of Texas A&M University with a degree in Rangeland Ecology and Management -Graduated Magna Cum Laude.
- Instructed Agrostology and Rangeland Plant Taxonomy labs for Dr. Steve Hatch while an undergraduate at Texas A&M University.

TSSRM Member Activities:

- Dandy is currently serving as a director for TSSRM. Her director term is for 2013-2015.
- She has coordinated the Collegiate Plant ID contest for 4 years (2007-2010).
- She has worked with university faculty to recognize outstanding students at the Lubbock and Nacogdoches annual meetings.
- She served as chair of the Youth Activities Committee for 3 years (2010-2012), working to organize the Youth Range Workshop, where she has served as a director, cabin counselor, or volunteer since 2003. Coordinated major fundraising event at the Fredericksburg Annual Meeting.
- She has also served on the Publication Awards Committee for 5 years.
- She served on the Annual Meeting Planning Committee in 2012 for Fredericksburg.
- She chaired the College Activities Committee for 2 years (2007-2008).

Employment Experience

- Dandy began her professional career with the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board in San Angelo, Texas. She was one of the first persons hired to help plan and administer the North Concho River Watershed Brush Control Program.
- Served as Rangeland Management Specialist with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) at Eden, Texas.
- Served as Zone II -NRCS Technology Transfer Specialist for 5 years. The position served a 51 county area of west Texas. During her tenure she served on numerous technology teams at the national level. She also served as an instructor for NRCS Conservation Boot Camp.
- Currently serves as District Conservationist with NRCS at Junction, Texas

Awards

- A. H. Walker Memorial Scholarship-1997
- Harvey E. Guinn Scholarship-1998
- John M. Weston Scholarship-1998
- Outstanding Junior, Department of Rangeland Ecology and Management, 1997
- Outstanding Senior, Department of Rangeland Ecology and Management, 1998
- Senior Merit Award, Texas A&M University, 1999
- Texas Section-SRM Student Plant ID Contest, 1st Team & High Individual, 1998
- Outstanding Conservation District Employee, Region II of the Association of Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Districts, 2000
- Multiple special act or service awards from the National Headquarters of the Natural Resources Conservation Service for serving on national level teams; 2003, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2009

Statement from Nominator:

I have known Dandy since 1980. I met her when conducting a prescribed burn on her family's ranch. She was introduced to rangeland management at an early age. I had the privilege of being her 4-H plant identification and range evaluation coach from her second grade year through her senior year in high school. She received many team and individual awards in plant identification and range evaluation at the local, district and state levels.

Dandy has a passion for the stewardship of the rangeland resource. It is very evident in the way she and her husband, Curtis, manage the grazing on the ten (10) sections of the Forked Lightning Ranch that they operate in Menard County. The range health of the ranch is improving, even during the current drought conditions.

Dandy also has a great deal of passion when it comes to rangeland stewardship education. She has been very active with the Youth Range Workshop and TSSRM plant identification contests for many years. Dandy has committed her life to the rangeland resource. She is a positive role model for those wanting to pursue a career in a range-related field.