



Holistic Resource Management of Texas, Inc.

# Newsletter

Volume 16, Number 4

Winter 2001-2002

## 15TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

### HRM of TX, Inc.—Our Past, Present and Future

By Peggy Jones

What is it that has kept HRM of TX going strong for so many years? Texans have a reputation of being stubborn and fiercely independent, yet for a small organization (our paid membership rarely reaches 200) we have been able to accomplish a remarkable amount over the 15 years of our existence. Our success, in fact, is really about that very independence, tenacity and dedication to making a difference. It is also about coming together for camaraderie and soaking up new information, bringing in friends and neighbors, and handing the baton to fresh energies when we need to. Most of the original members were enlightened by Savory himself, while many of the newer members have never seen the man. All embrace the insights he brought to brittle environment ranching and the decision making model he painstakingly constructed for our use.

Del Rio accountant David Graf, one of the originating members of HRM of TX, remembers the beginnings. Several of his clients had asked him to accompany them in attending the Savory Schools offered by Allan Savory and Stan Parsons near San Angelo in the early eighties. They wanted David to understand Savory's system when helping do their financial planning. Graf was eager to attend because he was also personally interested in the biology being taught. "When Savory set up the Center for HRM in Albuquerque, quite a few Texans were real involved," Graf recalls. He remembers Clint Josey, Bob Steger, Charles Probandt and Claudia Ball were among those who worked to start a Texas Branch in 1986. Graf himself was placed on the board of directors at the first annual meeting, held in Junction.

"From the very beginning we had a stormy relationship with the Center," Graf said. "We had a bunch of strong willed people not always inclined to follow the Center's guidelines or run everything through the Center."

The new branch for Texas & Oklahoma (the Oklahoma group got big enough for their own branch by 1992) made allowances for and actually embraced our often-criticized independent action. We wrote our own bylaws and incorporated in 1987 as Holistic Resource Management of Texas, Inc., a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit. We recognized that our rocky relationship with the Center had a positive result, as it caused us to use the HRM model based on *our* goal rather than *their* goal.

The new Articles of Incorporation defined our purpose, "to promote, organize and sponsor seminars on ecological land and resource management techniques; to demonstrate and conduct research concerning holistic resource management; to provide educational and scientific presentations; to provide consulting and advisory services to interested individuals in Texas, and generally to foster the development of holistic resource management."

see History page 4

### Don't miss these cool HRM events

#### Annual Meeting

*Feb 28-Mar 2, 2002, Kerrville*

The HRM of TX Educational Conference and Annual Meeting preparations are complete. There is an outstanding array of speakers on "Managing Texas Ecosystems for the Next Generation," a theme addressing important issues such as water, wildlife and waste that will affect the way our children and grandchildren live. (see agenda, back cover)

Conference fees have been held low this year to encourage urban, suburban and rural participants to come and learn how our precious resources depend on sound management decisions. Pre-registration fees are \$50 per person for the entire event. After January 20, the fee is \$65. For those who can only make the Saturday session, the fee is \$20 in advance or at the door. Please register by email or by phone to HRM Executive Secretary, Peggy Jones at hrmoftx@earthlink.net or call 512-858-2761 and clearly state your name, phone and the names of everyone in your party. You may mail a check or pay when you arrive.

See AM 2002, page 5

#### Valley Conference

*Jan 24-26, 2002, Edinburg*

The USDA, Holistic Resource Management of TX and Texas Cooperative Extension, along with south Texas soil scientists, explore the benefits of sustainable, organic and conventional methods of agriculture for South Texas and the Rio Grande Valley in a joint effort known as the HRM Valley Conference.

The Valley Conference will be held Jan. 24, 25, 26, 2002 at Echo Hotel and Conference Center in Edinburg, Texas, providing a rich variety of educational and experiential opportunities for learning, networking and socializing with farmers, ranchers, scientists and educators from Texas and Mexico. The conference will look at traditional ways of ranching and farming, as well as holistically natural, sustainable and organic methods.

#### **Bus Tour and International Shopping Spree**

On Thursday afternoon, Jan. 24, conference goers may join a Sustainable Ag Bus Tour to visit a nearby vegetable packing shed, a citrus packing shed, south to the Pharr International

see Valley Conference, page 5

## HRM of Texas, Inc. Officers and Directors

### George Brannies, President

Drawer N  
Mason, Texas 76856  
915-347-5911  
masonnb@ctesc.net

### C. Wayne Hanselka, Vice President

Rt. 3, Box 589  
Corpus Christi, Texas 78406-9704  
512-265-9203  
c-hanselka@tamu.edu

### Suzanne Tooley, Secretary

Rt. 1, Box 53-C  
Lampasas, TX 76550  
512-556-3950  
SZT@thegateway.net

### John Heaton, Treasurer

341 Compton School Road  
Crawford, Texas 76638  
254-848-4207  
Ruidoso@aol.com

### Jerry Addison

Rt.1, Box 21  
Bowie, Texas 76230  
817-872-3849  
jerryaddison@compuwise.net

### Forrest Armke

Rt 1, Box 81  
Melvin, Texas 76858  
915-286-4572  
wadeo@centex.net

### Malcolm Beck

7561 E. Evans Rd.  
San Antonio, TX 78266  
210-651-6115  
beckmalcolm@msn.com

### Doak Elledge

P.O. Box 1277  
Pampa, Texas 79066  
delledge@pan-tex.net

### John Cater Hackley

244 West Live Oak  
Jacksboro, Texas 76458  
940-567-3108  
cater@digitalpassage.com

### Mike McMurry

TX Dept. Agriculture  
PO Box 12847  
Austin, TX 78711  
mmcmurry@agri.state.tx.us

### Patricia Q. Richardson

608 Fairfield Lane  
Austin, Texas 78751  
512-471-4128  
d.richardson@mail.utexas.edu

# A Note from the President

by George Brannies

Congratulations to all the hard working Board and members of HRM on an outstanding year. As you read the history of our organization great credit goes to the early members for the unselfish use of their time, energy and money bringing us to this point. Special congratulations and thanks to current director Malcolm Beck for the outstanding conference being scheduled for the Valley January 24, 25, & 26th.

Also special thanks to current director Dr. Wayne Hanselka and his committee ( Dr. Jerry Cooke, Dr. Richard Teague and Mike McMurry) for their efforts in what promises to be the best ever Annual Education Conference to be held in Kerrville Feb.28-March 2, 2002.

We all look forward to renewing acquaintances, and exchanging new ideas and success stories. We really look forward to seeing each of you in January and March.

Respectfully,



George Brannies,  
President

## HRM OF TEXAS MISSION STATEMENT

### To provide encouragement and support of holistic management in Texas THREE-PART GOAL

Quality of Life - We value a healthy ecosystem capable of supporting the people in it, strong family units, financial sustainability, a land ethic, and personal growth and development; while enjoying life and the fellowship of a professionally proactive organization.

Forms of Production / Activities - Practicing holistic management, self-sustaining forms of revenue, facilitating training and education, creating public awareness and forming collaborative partnerships.

Future Resource Base - High biodiversity, a healthy water cycle, a healthy mineral cycle, efficient capture of solar energy, and a harmonious interdependence between urban and rural communities through an understanding of ecological processes; an active membership with respect for diversity, long term productive relationships with public agencies and endowment groups, and proactive networking with other groups that manage holistically.

## Holistic Resource Management of Texas, Inc.

# Newsletter

is published quarterly by HRM of TX, Inc., a non-profit organization. News articles, area updates and photos are gratefully accepted and will be published as space allows. We welcome letters to the editor related to HRM principles or activities. Advertising is available. Direct newsletter correspondence to:

Peggy Cole Jones

2100 Creek Rd,  
Dripping Springs, TX 78620  
phone & fax (512) 858-2761  
hrmoftx@earthlink.net

or

Patricia Q. Richardson

608 Fairfield Lane  
Austin, Texas 78751  
512-371-1885  
d.richardson@mail.utexas.edu

# Events/Announcements

## Membership renewal time is here

HRM of TX memberships run from January 1 through Dec. 31 in each calendar year. It is now December and time to renew your membership. All you have to do is send your check with the membership application on Page 7 to the HRM office at 2100 Creek Road, Dripping Springs, TX 78620. Be sure to include your most current email, website, address, etc. There is a blank for your county this year, so we can create our membership directory to hook you up with your neighbors. If filling out the form is too much trouble, don't worry about it. Just get that check in the mail and we will keep the contact information we currently have for the name on the check. Basic membership is \$35, and you can help support holistic management even more by joining at the active (\$100), sustaining (\$250) or lifetime (\$1,000) levels. The latter three categories include a copy of the *Holistic Management* textbook by Allan Savory.

Your membership in HRM of TX is extremely important. Your dues enable HRM to keep an office and a part-time staff person to help coordinate and implement HRM activities, as well as helping to support the activities themselves and to create a critical mass—make a statement with others that holistic management is the direction we are going. In addition, the member directory will put all paid members in touch with one another for support and encouragement. The work we are doing is important to farming and ranching, as it helps find economically and ecologically sound ways to operate so ranches don't have to become subdivisions. It is also important to the environment, as we teach others to consider carefully the whole that might be impacted by their every decision. It is important to the endowments that help us accomplish our goals that we are a large and dedicated group that works together to achieve those goals.

HRM of TX is your organization. Get involved and help determine our goal, mission and objectives. Contact one of the project leaders listed on page 5. Join your committee of choice and have some fun with the progressive, intelligent people that are HRM of TX.

## Newsletter to add electronic version

In order to save some trees, some postage and printing costs and some time, HRM of TX would like to take the quarterly newsletter to the web. Each newsletter, starting with the Spring 2002 issue will be available in Portable Document Form (PDF) which requires Adobe Acrobat Reader to open it for reading and printing. This is free software easily downloaded.

Just go to <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html> and download the latest version of Acrobat Reader for your computer configuration. Then every time you get a PDF file, clicking on it will open Acrobat Reader and allow you to read and print the document. We use the newest version to create the PDF files, so if you have an old version of reader, you may need to update it.

If you would be willing to receive your copy of the newsletter either by having us email it to you or make it available for you to download from our proposed website, please email your name and email address to [hrmoftx@earthlink.net](mailto:hrmoftx@earthlink.net). We also appreciate your comments about HRM and / or the Newsletter.

Newsletter advertising is available for both the print and electronic versions of the newsletter at very reasonable rates. Currently, each issue of the newsletter goes out to 1000 ag interested households. Ad rates are: Full page \$100 (4 for \$350). Half page \$60 (4 for \$200), Third page \$40 (4 for \$150), Quarter page \$35 (4 for \$100), Sixth page \$25 (4 for \$90). Send your ads camera ready or send your ad info to HRM of TX and let us create your ad at no additional charge. Contact Peggy Jones (512-858-2761 or [hrmoftx@earthlink.net](mailto:hrmoftx@earthlink.net)) for ad specs or additional information.

## Correction: Allday wrote the tips

Christina Allday let us know that the byline on last issue's Educator Tips was incorrect. It should have read "by Christina Allday with Liz Williams." We apologize to Christina and will try to avoid making assumptions in the future.

## HRM of Texas, Inc. Advisory Board

**Joe Williams**  
Past President

**Joel Ham**  
Past President

**Blair Fitzsimons**  
Past President

**Joe Maddox**  
Past President

**Walt Davis**  
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**Bob Steger**  
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**L. Jane Moore**

**Executive Secretary**  
**Peggy C. Jones**  
phone / fax 512-858-2761  
[hrmoftx@earthlink.net](mailto:hrmoftx@earthlink.net)

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# History, from page 1

Our bylaws (amended in 1988, 1989, 1993 and 1996) now provide for 11 directors to serve 3-year terms with a three consecutive term limit. The directors are charged with raising and managing funds for the organization's stated purpose. The board meets in open meetings roughly quarterly in different areas of the state. There is a general membership meeting annually where board members, having been nominated by the advisory board (established Jan. 94), are elected by the membership; and the Board then elects officers (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) to one-year terms (no limit).

Graf recollected, "We struggled with who we were, what the function of the organization should be and what we needed to do for the people of Texas. Everyone was doing it differently." We came together for facilitated retreats to bond with each other and to sort out our common answers to these questions. We defined and redefined our mission from "halting desertification worldwide through Holistic Resource Management" to "dedicated to forming a healthy ecosystem capable of supporting the people in it" to our current mission, "to provide encouragement and support of holistic management in Texas." We formed a solid three-part goal, which has changed very little since 1992. (see page 2 for the goal).

These valuable two-day retreats became the yearly Planning Sessions, where participants socialize in a relaxed setting, review the past year's activities, revisit the goal and mission, and plan objectives for the coming year. Each objective is put through the model and examined for projected outcomes and weak links. If the project passes the testing guidelines and someone volunteers to chair the committee, it is added to the list. Interested parties volunteer to be on the committee and proceed as a team to implement the project. In addition, any member who feels so moved will set up conferences, seminars, field days, public relations opportunities, etc. on his own and on behalf of HRM of TX.

Yearly objectives changed little over the 15 years. While educating those new to HRM was a bigger focus at the beginning and support of those already practicing HRM is currently our objective, educational projects have continued to be a priority year after year. A professionally produced newsletter of theory, anecdotal experiences, research findings, advice from other practitioners, events and contact info has long topped our list. The annual meeting is another primary vehicle for educating and supporting new and existing practitioners. An HRM workshop of 1/2 to 3 days is typically connected to the one or two-day symposium that contains the annual

business meeting, board meeting, lectures, tours and mini workshops. The theme and the location are different each year. Field days / ranch tours are the most popular with our membership and most years have seen 4 to 6 field days each. We have tried to offer enough short courses each year to meet the demand of new practitioners. Each year we choose to work on our public image, seek a larger membership, seek outside funding, and build partnerships with other organizations.

The annual meeting of 1992 featured a panel of agencies, environmental organizations and landowner groups warring over the endangered species act. By demonstrating that the core values of all these groups are the same, facilitators Peggy Sechrist and Naseem Rakha were able to introduce the holistic management process as a powerful consensus-building tool. The panel chose to further explore this avenue to resolve management conflicts for all of Texas. They expanded to become the PlanIt Texas Coalition



and, with the help of a generous grant from the Meadows Foundation, took on the management of a central Texas ranch to prove whether or not a property could be managed in accordance with all government regulations, satisfy all environmental organizations and still please the landowner with the condition and profitability of the land. The project was a huge success and the lessons learned were disseminated to the public through field days, videos and a landowner's manual of techniques and resources.

In the early days we were mostly membership supported through dues, workshops, ranch tours and auctions at our annual meetings. Finances have always been a major worry for HRM of TX, but somehow members always seem to come up with support for whatever we want to do. Clint Josey, and later Blair Fitzsimons, used their savvy to seek grants and pledges so the branch could afford to hire an Executive Director. In June of 1989, Wanda Gillman was hired to set up an office with computerized records, mailing list and communications with the Center, as well as market HRM events and newslet-

ter advertising. When she left in October of 1990, the group reverted to volunteer action, supported by Clint Josey's secretary, Janet Samford.

In early 1993, with Blair Fitzsimons as president, organization fundraisers had secured enough monies to be able to hire Peggy Sechrist as Executive Director. Peggy had been a big force in HRM since the beginning. She had been unavailable for this position in the past as she worked for Texas Dept. Agriculture, then the Center for HRM, but her drive, leadership and PR talents had long been a mainstay of HRM of TX.

Many HRM leaders felt strongly that if we can bridge the gap between HRM of TX and the TX A&M University system, get them to embrace the HRM philosophy and spread it through their extension network, much of our mission will be accomplished. As Peggy Sechrist became more involved in networking with other organizations such as S.A.R.E. (Sustainable Ag Research and Education), S.A.W.G. (Sustainable Ag Working Group) and various academic committees and task forces, our reputation for grounded, positive results began to grow. In 1995, HRM of TX and Texas A&M set up a forum to explore each others ideas, get to know each other personally as well as professionally, and accept what philosophical differences might exist while building a relationship on common ground. While HRM's approach to education is different—providing people with a value based decision making model to help them reach a holistic goal vs. A&M's research driven development of tools to treat various problems and educating people to use the tools — the common ground lies in our values of a healthy ecosystem and sustainable practices to improve ecosystem health.

Since that date, we collaborate with A&M extension on many of our field days and annual meetings. We had always had a few rogue agency and academic representatives on our board, but lately the attitude has begun to change. Now HRM of TX is considered an alliance worth pursuing.

It was spring of 1994 when Peggy Sechrist stepped away from her staff position to work on her personal goals, while staying extremely active in HRM of TX. But HRM was once again without a staff person to provide the coordination, connections and continuity we had come to rely on. Once again Clint Josey hit the phones and drummed up member pledges so we could afford to hire Jane Moore as Executive Director in December 1997. When her stint ended in the spring of 1999, HRM was eager not to let much time pass before contracting with another staff person, this time Peggy Jones as Executive Sec-

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## History, con't.

retary, who still serves in that position. Email makes it possible to communicate with the directors, advisors and project leaders on a weekly basis. HRM staff is officially contract labor. The position has varied from half to three-quarter to full time with an administrative assistant or coordinator. The salary varies with the job and the times. Current philosophy on staff is not to go with what we can afford, but to decide what we need, then find the money to have it.

Member surveys in 1993 and 1999 have helped determine who the members are and what they want from HRM: primarily ag households with advanced degrees and an active participa-

tion in HRM events. They read the whole newsletter and are especially interested in the annual educational conferences and practitioner field days. Although our membership is small, we always have good turnout at our events. Annual meetings and some field days average well over a hundred participants.

HRM of TX is preparing for our 16<sup>th</sup> year. We have decided to seek more grant funding and not pressure our membership so much to support our activities. We want to focus more on following up with new and old practitioners, find more creative ways to get people the training they need. We have chosen to continue our annual meetings and to host the International Gathering in Texas next time. We were successful in seek-

ing a National Fish & Wildlife Foundation grant to continue the newsletter, create a website, a member directory and introduction to holistic management booklet, a new brochure, a demonstration project at the Reed Ranch and ecosystem education for urban sixth graders at the Hornsby Bend water treatment facility near Austin. We will continue with work on the LaCopita demonstration ranch in south Texas, a three-day educational conference in the Rio Grande valley and our usual slate of field days, workshops and board meetings. Our Advisory Board will host its yearly symposium and the PlanIt Texas Coalition will wrap up its outreach phase and disband. Sounds like another typically busy year for HRM of TX.

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## Valley Conference, from page 1

Bridge to see how importation of fruits and vegetables are handled at the USDA / APHIS import facility there. Learn the protocol of inspection for pesticides, insects, diseases, & contraband. Next stop is Weslaco, the USDA / TAMU Combined Agricultural Research Facility, the largest such research site in the USA. The bus will then cross the border into Progresso, Mexico for a shopping spree to the Multi-Story Shops, Street Vendors, \$1 shoe shines and the Pharmacias for low price prescriptions, most by same US Drug Companies, (so bring your prescriptions). Dinner is Dutch treat in a Progresso hot spot famous for cabrito spitted over coals. Bus departs for Edinburg at 7:30 pm sharp.

### **Friday; Jan. 25.**

7-8 am *Registration*

8 am *Introductions*

*Dr. Wayne Hanselka*, Texas A&M Range management specialist, will provide more coverage of HRM ranching.

*George Brannies*, successful rancher; will show and tell how he doubled the stocking rate on his own ranch the holistic way.

*Break*

*E.K. Chandler*, a soil scientist, will speak on "Working with the soil and Nature to Improve production."

*Noon buffet*

*Dr. Joe Bradford*, USDA scientist; speaking on, "Sustainability of no-till systems"

*Dr. Larry Zibilske*, soil microbiologist; on "Harnessing the power of soil microbes"

*Dennis Holbrook*, the first successful organic farmer in Rio Grande Valley, will tell us how he succeeds.

*Bay Laxson*, organic farmer from Carrizo Springs, is "Doing what they said couldn't be done"

*Thomas Hurr*, successful Valley composter; will speak on "Low energy input composting for ranchers and farmers"

### **6:00 PM dinner buffet and speakers**

*Dr. Jerry Quisenberry*, Director of USDA South Texas, speaks on "The USDA plans for South Texas and Rio Grande Valley."

*Malcolm Beck*, lifetime student of nature, on "Using new and strange sources of energy to enhance plant health to overcome stress of freezing weather, insects and diseases."

### **Saturday Session Workshops**

8 am *Barbara Storz*, Hidalgo County Agricultural Extension Agent gives opening address

*Malcolm Beck* - Soil and Water conservation and the Carbon Cycle. (2 hr program)

*Malcolm Beck* - Understanding the Insects / Biological Insect control. (1.5 hr program)

### **Conference to close at noon**

Early Registration conference fee for the two days, Friday and Saturday, is \$45 per person. This includes an all-you-can-eat buffet for lunch and dinner on Friday. The Thursday afternoon bus tour fee is \$30 and includes soft drinks and passage into Mexico. Dinner is on your own. Saturday workshops alone are only \$10 per person. Trade Show booths are available at \$100 each. This is an excellent opportunity for industries and organizations to reach hundreds of farmers and ranchers on both sides of the Rio Grande and all over Texas.

Register with HRM Exe. Secretary Peggy Jones via phone (512-858-2761) or email hrmoftx@earthlink.net by January 20, 2002 to be assured of a seat on the tour bus and meals on Friday. Pay appropriate fees when you arrive.

The Echo Hotel and Conference Center is located in Edinburg on 281 business 1 mile south of courthouse, going south through town watch for H.E.B. on left side then Albertson on right, the next block on right is the Echo.

For Hotel reservations call 1-800-422-0336. Rates are quite reasonable and range from \$39.95 to \$81.95. Full breakfast is included, as well as

coupons for free drinks in the bar. The hotel offers airport shuttle and free access to the health club. The Echo has 100 rooms with plenty of easy parking. Overflow accommodations are right across the street. Register early, as this is a popular trucker spot in January.

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## AM 2002, from page 1

The Conference Hotel is Inn of The Hills Resort and Conference, 1001 Junction Highway in Kerrville. They are holding a block of rooms at the special HRM of TX rate of \$72. Call 830-895-5000 for reservations by February 7 and be sure you say you are with Holistic Resource Management to be guaranteed the group rate. To offer participants greater flexibility in the costs of the conference, all meals are "on your own," but we hope everyone will dine together at the Inn's Alpine Lodge where breakfast and lunch buffets and the evening meals are excellent and reasonably priced.

Pastries will be available with hot and cold drinks during our breaks. While on the extended lunch break, participants will travel on their own to the The Kerr Wildlife Management Area, located 23 miles northwest of Kerrville, on Ranch Road 1340. There, evidence of the Kerr's research on such tools as cedar breaks, fire, rest and grazing will be examined with time at the sites for your questions. As we wrap up the afternoon demonstrations at 5pm, HRM will host an informal reception with beer, wine and finger foods at the McCoy Camp section of the Kerr WMA. Stick around for socializing and networking, or head on out to dinner on your own.

The Saturday session, back at Inn of The Hills in Kerrville, is designed to arm you with the tools you need to network with agencies and neighbors for better decisions in land management. Textbooks will be available for purchase.

We hope to see all of you there.

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# HRM of TX members gather to make plans for 2002

Twenty-one members of HRM of TX gathered for the annual planning meeting at Willow Creek Ranch in Mason October 17-18, 2001, following an advisory board meeting.

Membership was discussed at length with concerns about how to: 1) get new members to join with enough training to “own” the organization, 2) get existing members to stay active, and 3) find out why old members left and get them to come back.

It was decided that while we need the critical mass and the activity of a large membership, we can't sell it to people. We will have a structured means to recruit members, but not make it a major focus for this year.

## *The Goal and Mission*

After much discussion about the goal, the group decided to add a clause to the Future Resource Base to indicate how we see ourselves as an organization. The words were Jim Reed's “An active membership with respect for diversity, long term productive relationships with public agencies and endowment groups, and proac-

tive networking with other groups that manage holistically.”

Participants identified the primary log jams interfering with the progress toward our mission and goal as: 1) Financial, 2) Manpower (number of volunteers), 3) Courses too long (we need to break up training), and 4) Lack of follow-up and support.

## *List of possible activities for 2002 and beyond:*

The group first identified the possible activities that would take us toward our goal, then prioritized them into this order:

- 1) Annual Meeting in 02, 03 and 04
- 2) Regional HM schools
- 3) Grants
- 4) Newsletter
- 5) Field Days
- 6) Follow-up program
- 7) Host an international gathering of HRM practitioners
- 8) La Copita ranch demonstration project.

This list intentionally left off the projects we are already committed to completing:

1) NFWF Grant project—4 newsletters, a member directory and how-to booklet, website, the 02 Annual Meeting, 6th grade education at Hornsby Bend and restoration and education on the Reed Ranch.

2) Advisory Seminar - a yearly event to be designed and produced by the advisory board

3) Membership - to be individual responsibility to everyone to bring in new members.

4) HRM Valley Conference

5) PlanIt Texas completion of funded projects

The next step was to identify the outcomes, potential funding sources and the potential log jams of each project so we could better decide whether or not to take it on. If it is a go, we identified a committee and project leader.

## *Annual Meetings:*

*Desired Outcome:* education, enthusiasm, fun, networking, fellowship, new faces (new members), name recognition, visibility, professional respect and award recognition.

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## NFWF honors HRM of TX with matching grant

The grant proposal outlined in your summer newsletter has been approved unanimously by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation! This grant will match roughly one to two with challenge funds raised by HRM of TX through dues, pledges, other grant donations and in-kind services to fund several projects related to HRM's educational objectives. NFWF will pay the bills up to \$33,800, while HRM will raise \$84,500 in donations and in-kind services for the project

The projects covered by this grant include the 2002 annual educational conference Feb. 28-March 2 in Kerrville, four issues of the newsletter, our own website and part time webmaster, a new brochure, introduction to the practice of HRM booklet and member directory, wetlands habitat and demonstration areas on the Reed Ranch near Corsicana, and ecosystem education for urban 6<sup>th</sup> graders at the Hornsby Bend wastewater treatment facility near Austin.

The grant projects began in September 2001, so are already underway. With a project termination date of August 31, 2002, all these projects need to hit the ground running. There's lots to do! Project leaders will be putting a time frame together to get things done by the end of next Summer. Preliminary design is already underway on the website and other written materials, the annual conference committee is ready to start advance publicity on an exciting group of land management topics.

The Reeds are excited about the Reed Ranch being a part of the NFWF Project. Jim and Judy

report that this project fits in well with the holistic goals they set early on when they took over the family ranch. They hope to demonstrate to others how healthy wildlife habitat, wetlands, and a profitable cattle operation can go hand-in-hand to create an economically stable and sustainable ranch.

They're now making contact with other groups such as the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the Natural Resources Conservation Commission, Ducks Unlimited, personnel from the Blacklands Prairie Nature Trail Study, and the East Texas Waterfowl Habitat Initiative to attempt to make the project even more far reaching.

The 6<sup>th</sup> grade ecosystem education project began in August with a meeting of Hornsby Dunlap Elementary School teachers and their principal, plus key partners (City of Austin Water/Wastewater Center for Environmental Research, University of Texas, Travis Audubon Society, Colorado River Watch Foundation) and volunteer mentors (high school students to retired professionals). Hornsby Dunlap School serves students from an economically disadvantaged, ethnically diverse urban neighborhood in Austin. Dates were set for field study, one morning per month throughout the school year. Hornsby Bend is the City of Austin Biosolids Management Facility. It has 1200 acres, including 160 acres of evaporative ponds (habitat for over 300 species of birds), agricultural fields where biosolids are land applied, three miles of

Colorado River riparian habitat, a five-acre greenhouse, a research center, seminar auditorium and laboratory.

Teachers selected 25 sixth graders (by need and interest) from a total of 80 students. A panel of key partners interviewed each of these 25 youngsters and chose 12 (THAT WAS HARD)—six boys and six girls. These students must make up the schoolwork they miss during the field study mornings and maintain good grades, so their desire to participate in the program is a serious commitment of responsibility. Our objective is to give these students experiential place based learning opportunities to get them thinking about ecosystem processes and our impact on them.

Our September study morning introduced us all to the special 6<sup>th</sup> grade study plot, a third of an acre of forest/meadow habitat. We began to map, identify vegetation, take soil and air temperatures and learn to not stand in fire ant mounds or sit in poison ivy. Our October study morning was a superb first ever Travis Audubon Youth Birding Camp. Sponsors provided the gift of binoculars, bird field guide and birding journal to each student. They learned how to identify birds using their field guide, and they started their bird observation “life list”. We finished with a pizza lunch and the award of birding camp graduation certificates.

This grant will be a huge help to our non-profit, which is always financially challenged to achieve our objectives.

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# Planning, con't.

**Potential Funding:** registration, grants, membership dues, co-sponsors (corporate sponsors / tradeshow / other organizations and agencies), donations.

**Log Jams:** reaching more people (more diverse media coverage, sponsoring extension agents)

**Location and Committee:** 03 (see below) 04 can use the location we don't use for 03. 04 Committee to be determined at 02 business meeting in March.

**Hosting the International Gathering as our 2003 Annual Meeting:**

**Desired Outcomes:** celebrate Holistic Management, advanced training, mend fences and build relationships with: Allan Savory, other agencies, other states and countries, Forest Service & National Grasslands, education, enthusiasm, fun, networking, and fellowship.

**Potential Funding:** registration, grants, supporting ranchers

**Log Jams:** funding, personnel (include The Center and OK in the planning), weather and location.

**Location Suggestions:** Site to be a working ranch, well managed holistically, easily accessible by land or air and with nearby accommodations. **Site Selection Committee:** Forrest Armke

(915-286-4572)- chairman, Joe Maddox, John & Linda Heaton, Jim & Judy Reed, Peggy Jones, Bob Steger and Doak Elledge. **Planning Committee:** Pat Richardson (512-471-4128)- chairman, Peggy Sechrist, Peggy Jones, Christina Allday, Andy Braman (from the center), Suzanne Tooley, Jim & Judy Reed, and Richard Teague.

## **Regional Schools:**

**Desired Outcomes:** address drought issues and water control issues, education, resource sustainability, collaboration and memberships

**Funding:** up to the committee

**Log Jams:** time, insufficient promotion

**Committee:** Bob Steger (915-835-4583)- chairman, Wayne Hanselka, Forrest Armke, Peggy Sechrist and Walt Davis

## **Grants:**

**Desired Outcomes:** funding for all our projects, salary for our staff

**Funding:** Board has allocated \$1,000 to get professional grantwriter Madge Winks started. Grants will then provide funds to keep her writing for us.

**Log Jams:** getting the background info to Madge, identifying projects and funders

**Priorities:** La Copita, Regional Schools, International Gathering

**Committee:** Peggy Jones (512-858-2761), Peggy Sechrist (830-997-2508), Pat Richardson (512-471-4128) - co-chairs, + Madge Winks

## **Newsletter:**

Left as-is, with the intent to explore electronic publishing for those who are willing to receive pdf files instead of printed and mailed copies.

**Committee:** Peggy Jones (512-858-2761), Peggy Sechrist (830-997-2508), Pat Richardson (512-471-4128) - co-chairs

## **Field Days:**

**Desired Outcomes:** education, new members, fellowship, eyes-on / experiential

**Committee:** Mike & Suzanne Tooley (512-556-3950), John & Linda Heaton (254-848-4207)

## **Follow-up Program:**

**Desired Outcomes:** more successful practitioners, gathering new members, facilitate other groups

**Committee:** Red River Graziers (N. TX grazing club) to investigate how to make it work and make recommendations on how to start it. Jerry Addison (940-872-3849), Richard Teague, John Hackley, Charles Griffith, Walt Davis & Clint Josey.

## **La Copita Demonstration Ranch:**

**Desired Outcomes:** management club in that region, site for visiting group education, field days, collaborated management, eco-tourism model, education / research

**Committee:** Peggy Sechrist (830-997-2508), Wayne Hanselka, George Brannies - to get detailed budget ready for grant work.

## **Working to provide encouragement and support of holistic management in Texas**

*Holistic Resource Management of Texas, Inc. is a non-profit organization made up of ranchers, farmers, public land managers, educators, conservationists, and others who are interested in finding economically and ecologically sound ways to manage land.*

Categories of membership: \$35—Basic \*\$100—Active \*\$250—Sustaining \*\$1,000—Lifetime

\*Includes the textbook, *Holistic Management*, by Allan Savory

Annual membership dues entitle you to:

- Subscription to the quarterly *HRM of Texas, Inc.* Newsletter
- Membership directory
- The privilege to vote for and serve as director of *HRM of Texas, Inc.*
- Free admission to *HRM* field days
- The opportunity to be notified of and participate in management clubs, field days, practitioner panels and other educational opportunities to assist with the application of *Holistic Resource Management*.



Please complete, detach and return the form below with a check for your dues.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (day) \_\_\_\_\_ (evening) \_\_\_\_\_ (fax) \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

Committee preference: \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Category: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check for desired membership category payable to *Holistic Resource Management of Texas, Inc.*

and send to: **HRM of TX c/o John Heaton, 341 Compton School Road, Crawford, Texas 76638**

For more information contact: Peggy Jones (512-858-2761), John Heaton (254-848-4207) or George Brannies (915-347-5911)



101 Hillview Trail  
Dripping Springs, TX 78620

Holistic Resource Management of Texas, Inc.

# Newsletter

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## HOLISTIC RESOURCE MANAGEMENT OF TEXAS EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE AND ANNUAL MEETING

February 28 - March 2, 2002

Inn of the Hills, Kerrville, Texas & Kerr Wildlife Management Area, Hunt, Texas

## MANAGING TEXAS ECOSYSTEMS FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

**February 28 (Thursday), Inn of The Hills**  
5-7pm - Registration, Reception (cash bar)  
Dinner on your own

### March 1 (Friday), Inn of The Hills

7:30-8:30 am - Registration  
8:30-9:30 am - Welcome and Introductions  
*George Brannies, President, HRM of TX, Inc.*  
Objectives  
*Dr. Jerry Cooke, Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept.*  
Invocation  
Posting of the Flag  
Welcome to Kerrville  
*Susie Burditt, Kerrville Chamber of Commerce*

#### Session I

#### Land Use Issues and Ecosystem Management Inn of the Hills

9:00 am - Trends and Patterns in Land Use and Ownership  
*Neal Wilkins, Texas Cooperative Extension*  
9:30 am - Land Use and Water Quality and Quantity  
*Phillip Wright, NRCS*  
10:00 am - Break  
10:30 am - Our Ecological Footprints Along the Path to Sustainability  
*Dr. Dick Richardson, Univ. of Texas*

11:00 am - Ecosystem Management on the Kerr Wildlife Management Area  
*Bill Armstrong, Texas Parks & Wildlife*  
11:30 am - Lunch on your own

#### Session II

#### Holistic Resource Management In Practice

Kerr Wildlife Management Area  
1:45 pm - HRM on the Kerr WMA  
*Don Frels, Texas Parks & Wildlife*  
2:00 pm - Break into groups for tour of Kerr  
30 min. each + travel, 5 locations:  
• Cedar Brake  
*Donnie Frels, Project Leader, TPWD*  
• Hot Fire/Grazing  
*Bill Armstrong, Biologist, TPWD*  
• Cool Season/Cow Bird Trapping  
*Mitch Lockwood, Biologist, TPWD*  
• Water  
*TAEX*  
• Long Term Rest -  
*Dr. Jerry Cooke, Biologist, TPWD*  
5:00 pm - Reception & Discussion, Kerr WMA  
Dinner on your own  
**March 2 (Saturday), Inn of the Hills**  
7:00am - Board of Directors Meeting/Breakfast  
8:00am - Membership Meeting, HRM of TX

#### Session III Networking, Partnerships & Participatory Assistance

*Misty Summer*

9:00 am - Sources for Information Where Do I Look?  
*Dr. Don Steinbach, Texas Cooperative Extension, Retired*  
9:20 am - Who's Minding the Store? A Closer Look at Wildlife Management Cooperatives  
*Dennis Gissell, Texas Parks & Wildlife*  
9:40 am - Coops From a Producer Perspective  
*Ms. Lange, Goliard County*  
10:00 am - Break  
10:30am - Pros and Cons of Prescribed Fire  
*Dr. Charles Taylor, TX Ag Experiment Station*  
10:50 am - The Edwards Plateau Prescribed Burning Coop  
*Mr. Curry Campbell, Past-President & Rancher*  
11:10 am - Essential Follow-up to Educational Workshops  
*Dr. Richard Teague, TX Ag Experiment Station*  
11:30 am - Wrap-up Discussion  
*Mike McMurry, TDA, HRM of TX*  
12:00 pm - Adjourn

For registration information,  
see Annual Meeting, page 1