



*2012 TSSRM President Ken Cearley and Outstanding Young Range Professional Award Recipient Dr. Megan Clayton*

**Texas Section Society for Rangeland Management**  
**Outstanding Young Range Professional Award**  
**Dr. Megan Clayton**

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.

**Education**

Texas A&M University – Kingsville  
Kingsville, Texas  
Ph.D. (Wildlife Science), 2009

Texas A&M University – Kingsville  
Kingsville, Texas  
M.S. (Range & Wildlife Management), 2006

Texas A&M University  
College Station, Texas  
B.S. (Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences), 2003

## **Work Experience:**

### **Assistant Professor and Extension Range Specialist, Texas AgriLife Extension Service**

2010 –Present

- Assist in education of clientele and students, applied research, publication of materials, program planning, and coordination with colleagues and industry groups

### **Postdoctoral Research Associate, Texas Tech University Center at Junction (Junction, Texas)**

Sept. 2009-Aug. 2010

- Conduct research and develop outreach opportunities in the field of Environmental Education.

### **Graduate Research Fellow, Hispanic Leaders in Agriculture and the Environment (Kingsville, Texas)**

Sept. 2008-Aug. 2009

- Texas A&M University System cooperative fellowship. Developed a policy project, attended professional meeting, and shared research.

### **Facilities Specialist, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute (Kingsville, Texas)**

Dec. 2006-June 2007

- Managed the rental and use of building used for meetings, conferences, and large social events.
- Assisted in event planning, coordinating conferences, seminars, meetings, and social events.
- Entered maintenance work orders, collected rental fees, produced invoices, and operated audio/visual equipment.

### **Graduate Research Assistant, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute (Kingsville, Texas)**

Sept. 2003-Nov. 2006

- Studied Rio Grande wild turkeys, investigating relationship between overwinter nutrition and productivity.
- Responsible for carrying out field research and a captive study involving 4 other graduate students and 2-4 technicians.
- Wrote research reports and gave numerous professional presentations and posters.

## **Recent Activities**

Dr. Clayton has been active on a number of committees including Texas A&M University Wildfire Incident Response Team Co-chair, Texas Range Webinar Committee Chair, and Prescribed Fire Advisory Committee member; National Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Committee member; and Texas A&M University-Kingsville Ph.D. Program review committee. She also has been active in numerous internal and external collaborations including NRCS, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Institute, Dow AgroSciences, DuPont, Texas A&M University's Soil and Crop Sciences Department, Texas Water Resources Institute, Biological and Agricultural Engineering Extension Unit, and Wildlife and Fisheries Department.

## **Membership and significant activities in other Professional Societies**

North American Association of Environmental Educators	2010 – Present
Texas Association of Environmental Educators	2010 – Present
Texas Wildlife Association	2007 – Present
Youth Hunt Mentor	2007
Feathered Forces Brigade Counselor	2006
The Wildlife Society (International)	2001 – Present
Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society (State)	2001 – Present
Conservation Camp Director	2011
Scholarship Committee Member	2011
Conservation Camp Director	2009
Conservation Camp Committee Member	2005 – 2012
Texas A&M Chapter of The Wildlife Society	2000 – 2003
President	2003
Career & Graduate School Committee	2001 – 2003
Fundraising Committee	2001 – 2003
Education Chair	2002
Wildlife and Animal Science Graduate Student Organization	2003 – 2009
New Student Manual Committee	2009
President	2006
Secretary	2005
South Texas Chapter of Quail Unlimited	2005 – 2009
Coordinator of Volunteers	2006
Fundraising Banquet Volunteer	2005 – 2008
National Wild Turkey Federation	2006 – 2010
Ducks Unlimited	2007 – 2009
Fundraising Banquet Volunteer	2005 – 2008

## **Awards and other recognition received**

2011	Texas A&M – Kingsville Alumni Focus, Inaugural Javalina Today Magazine
2009-2007	South Texas Chapter of Quail Unlimited Scholarship
2009, 2007	Sportsman's' Club of Fort Worth Harry Tennison Scholarship
2008	Hispanic Leaders in Agriculture and the Environment Fellowship
2008	3rd Place Cottam Reseach Presentation Award, TCTWS
2006, 2005	Houston Safari Club Scholarship Recipient
2006, 2005	TAMUK Agriculture Dept. Outstanding Grad Student Nominee
2006	Texas A&M – Kingsville "Be All You Can Be" Emerging Leader Award
2004	Texas A&M Wildlife Department Outstanding Senior
2003	TX Chapter of The Wildlife Society – Dan Boone Memorial Scholarship

2002 Texas A&M Chapter of The Wildlife Society Scholarship  
2002 Texas A&M College of Agriculture Scholarship

### **Society for Range Management Activities**

Society for Range Management (International) member	2010 – Present
Graduate School Workshop Committee Co-Chair	2012
Graduate Student Research Presentation Judge	2011
Texas Section Society for Range Management member	2010 – Present
Annual Meeting Planning Committee Member	2012
Youth Range Workshop Director	2012
Publication Awards Committee Member	2011

### **Major Contribution to Range Management or Section**

Since her appointment with the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Dr. Clayton has 9 Extension publications in progress, one of which is in review, as well as one which has been published. She is also has under development a South Texas Rangelands website. Regarding referred journal articles, Dr. Clayton is author or co-author of 2 pending submission/resubmission, 1 in review, and 2 published. She also has 4 published abstracts since your appointment with Extension. She has been very active in writing and interacting with mass media with 4 authored and 6 articles as a contributor. She has established 25 applied research projects dealing with a variety of issues including emerging herbicide testing, tanglehead management, and King Ranch bluestem management.

She has an emerging record of requests from county Extension agents for presentations on a variety of range management topics including brush and weed management, prescribed burning, wildlife interactions, and drought management. She has demonstrated effective programming at the district level through agent trainings in 2011 and 2012 and most notably a very innovative Technology-Assisted Range & Pasture Drought Symposium conducted on-site and with Lync at 6 locations. Dr. Clayton's efforts are having an impact on range management in South Texas as illustrated from planned adoption of practices of 77 and 90% related to the Technology-Assisted Range & Pasture Drought Symposium and Karnes & Wilson Rangeland Management Series, respectively. Her program efforts also demonstrate an economic benefit. For example, landowners at a Jackson County educational event reported an expected a total economic benefit of over \$30,000 from their participants in this event.

Since joining Extension 2010, Dr. Clayton has been successful in obtaining grants totaling \$265,618 with direct control of \$108,770. These grants came from 9 different sources, which demonstrate an active search for support funds. She has also been able to obtain gifts for program support including salaries for two interns.

Dr. Clayton has demonstrated that she is building a good professional reputation with her work with SRM and TS-SRM. In addition, she was an invited speaker at one of the Dow Heritage Tours held in 2012. She has received recognition from the Wildlife Society National Leadership Institute and TAMUK Alumni Focus.