



2013 TSSRM President Jeff Goodwin, Outstanding Achievement Award Recipient Dr. Bob Knight, and his past and present plant team members

Texas Section Society for Rangeland Management
Outstanding Achievement Award
Dr. Bob Knight

The Fellow award is given each year by the Section in recognition of exceptional service to the Section and its programs in advancing the art and science of range related resource management. I think you will agree with me that this year's recipient has far exceeded those expectations.

He joined the faculty at Texas A&M University in 1981 as an Assistant Professor; was promoted to Associate Professor in 1987 and became Associate Department Head in 1990. He is currently an advisor and program leader for the Rangeland Ecology and Management degree, the Renewable Natural Resources degree and the Master of Natural Resources Development.

His research program is concerned with land management impacts on hydrologic processes. Dr. Knight's teaching responsibilities in undergraduate and graduate courses have included

classes pertaining to Natural Resources and Ecosystem Management, Wildland Plants of North America, Wildland Watershed Management, Range and Forest Watershed Management and Wetland Delineation. He is advisor to the [Range Club](#) Student Chapter, [Soil and Water Conservation Society](#) Student Chapter, and [Alpha Zeta](#). He coaches the [TAMU Plant Identification Team](#). He has been active in both the state and national levels in the [Society for Range Management](#) and the [Soil and Water Conservation Society](#)

Dr. Knight's work with young people is phenomenal! He has worked with TSSRM's Youth Range Workshop at Junction for many years. One person said she had never thought of going into Range Science until she went to "Range Camp", then she ended up getting two degrees in Range. Dr. Knight started coaching the TAMU Plant Identification Team in 1980 and has, over the last 33 years, coached over 130 students. He has taken a plant identification team to every international SRM annual meeting since 1980. But he has done so much more than just coach them. He has been their advisor, friend, mentor, parent, a shoulder to lean on; he has been there for these kids whenever they needed him, during college and after, for whatever reason. These 130 "kids" are currently scattered from Texas to Hawaii and many of them are still utilizing the skills they acquired while on the Plant ID team at TAMU. We have not yet tracked down all 130 but here is a partial listing of what they are all doing and how many in each profession.

Dr. Knight has used his own money when necessary to get the teams to contests when plant sales were not enough to cover the cost of plane tickets, motel rooms, and van rentals; he has suffered through countless college romances, stomach virus epidemics at out-of-state contests, migraine headaches, hormonal girls, the dawn of the cell phone age, Face Book, weddings, scared, homesick freshmen in his Intro to Range Management classes, plant-collecting trips near and far (including clandestine night-time plant collecting from McDonalds restaurant flower beds), blowups and meltdowns, babysitting/diaper changing duties, course scheduling and rescheduling, and myriad other college-kid woes during his time as a college professor and plant team coach.