

2005 Outstanding Achievement Awards

The **Outstanding Achievement Award** is presented by the Society for Range Management for outstanding achievement to members and other qualified individuals and groups working with rangelands.

The Outstanding Achievement Award has been subdivided into two groups: Research/Academia; and Stewardship (ranchers, agency professionals, consultants).

Dr. David C. Ganskopp

Dr. David Ganskopp has advanced our understanding of livestock behavior and has used this knowledge to design prescriptive grazing strategies. He has developed new techniques and approaches to grazing research, and is willing to share his knowledge with anyone who has an interest. His dedication to improving our understanding and management of rangelands makes him a major asset to the profession.

Dr. Wayne Hamilton

Wayne Hamilton is a widely recognized leader and innovator in the development of integrated brush management systems technology for Texas rangelands and decision-support systems for range

management planning. He has made numerous significant contributions, including two books, and has contributed to the development of future rangeland resource managers and scientists through his teaching activities at Texas A&M University. Wayne has been a Director and President of the Texas Section, and has served as the Director of the Center for Grazinglands and Ranch Management for the Texas A&M University System since 1995.

Dr. Douglas E. Johnson

Dr. Douglas E. Johnson is an individual with tremendous experience as an educator and researcher. His diverse interests – weeds to watersheds, animal behavior to rangeland resources, are all linked by an abiding interest in Geographic Information Systems. Several of his innovations are mimicked across the globe.

Dr. Johnson is completely dedicated to rangeland and the betterment of the people associated with them.

Dr. Robert A. Masters

Dr. Robert A. Masters is widely recognized for developing integrated systems to manage invasive plants and improve rangelands. For the past two

decades, he has developed new tools and strategies to help land managers more quickly convert marginal and highly erodible cropland to productive grasslands and restore degraded rangeland.

Dr. Jack A. Morgan

Dr. Jack A. Morgan is internationally-recognized for significantly advancing the understanding of ecosystem response mechanisms governing plant and soil adaptations to elevated CO₂ in semi-arid rangeland ecosystems. His research findings have already significantly impacted public policy and the future direction of global change research, especially on how management may mitigate effects of elevated CO₂.

Dr. H. Wayne Polley

Dr H. Wayne Polley is internationally-recognized regarding the effects of several global changes [atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂) enrichment, altered precipitation patterns, intensified disturbances and plant invasions] on ecological processes that control the productivity and species composition on mesic rangelands. His use of a novel experimental apparatus to study responses of an intact rangeland to a continuous gradient of

atmospheric CO₂ has provided research findings that are directly applicable to land managers, researchers, policy makers and the general public.

Jack D. Alexander

Jack Alexander has been a leader in applying credible science to rangeland management through his work as a scientist, consultant and rangeland management specialist.

He has played an instrumental role in *Tapping the Top and the Student Employment Workshop*. These programs have been an important part in transforming young people from students to professionals.

Larry D. Butler

Dr. Larry D. Butler is recognized nationally as the USDA-NRCS leader and spokesman for rangeland resource management and has dedicated his career to transferring range management technology to ranchers and range professionals. He provided leadership for development of the NRCS National Range & Pasture Handbook, Ecological Site Description

Program, and a public service announcement on rangelands that aired nationwide. Larry is a respected leader in the areas of enterprise diversification and multiple uses of rangeland resources and has made significant contributions to the scientific literature on these subjects.

Fermin G. "George" Chavez

George Chavez has been a highly active member of the SRM for over 25 years. He has served in numerous positions, including New Mexico Section president. George has been widely recognized for his outstanding work at the regional and national levels in developing technical information for grazing land management.

Tamara DeCock

Ms. Tammy DeCock is presented Outstanding Achievement Award for her continued service and dedication to improving the management and conservation of rangeland resources and the rangeland management profession. Ms. DeCock has an enviable record of public service both paid, as an NRCS rangeland conservationist, and voluntary, as a leader in the education of both

youth and adults as to the management and stewardship of rangeland resources. Her long-term service and passion in advancing the art and science of rangeland management makes her a most worthy candidate for a SRM 2005 Outstanding Achievement Award.

Curtis M. Johnson

For outstanding accomplishments in rangeland analysis and monitoring techniques, rangeland health assessment, and pro-active noxious weed inventory, control and management and for exemplifying the highest ideals of range science in developing uniform and consistent “state-of-the-art” technological inventory and assessment methodologies.

Robert M. Thompson

For his love, dedication, commitment, and passion for over 50 years of sustained outstanding accomplishments in rangeland botany and taxonomy and rangeland inventory and monitoring, and for exemplifying the highest ideals of Range Management in conducting range research, practicing range ecology, and implementing applied range technology.

2005 Outstanding Young Range Professional

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. This award is presented as an encouragement for outstanding performance by young men and women entering the profession of range management.

Chad S. Boyd

Dr. Chad Boyd has made exceptional strides in rangeland research for an early career scientist. He has been able to focus on high impact issues, specifically riparian management, water quality, and sage-grouse habitat. He has the vision to conduct very relevant research and the energy and intellect to see that the research is delivered to the managers and policy-makers who need the information.

Wendy Gardner

Ms. Wendy Gardner teaches at the University College of the Cariboo in Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada.

Ms. Gardner is an outstanding rangeland expert, a prolific writer, and a superb teacher

known for a no-nonsense approach with a science-based format which motivates as well as educates. She is active in several natural resources organizations in addition to SRM.

She is an elite athlete competing in events such as Raid to the North Extreme, Ironman Canada, and the Ironman Hawaii. Her students admire her academic skills and her commitment to fitness.

Lance Vermeire

Dr. Lance Vermeire, USDA-ARS Fort Keogh Livestock and Range Research Laboratory, Miles City, MT is being honored for outstanding contributions to the rangeland management profession through the conduct of a highly relevant and effective research program, in concert with a highly visible and effective technology transfer program, and for continued superior service to the Society for Range Management.

2005 Sustained Lifetime Achievement Awards

The **Sustained Lifetime Achievement Award** is presented by the Society for Range Management to members for long-term contributions to the art and science of range management and to the Society for Range Management.

Daniel L. Merkel

Daniel Merkel served as range conservationist with the Soil Conservation Service at the district, area, state and national levels. Mr. Merkel provided leadership in the Plant Materials Program and helped develop two PMC's in New Mexico & Colorado. Mr. Merkel's last assignment was to EPA Region 8 where he helped EPA view rangeland management as a positive force in water quality protection instead of a cause of pollution.

Mr. Merkel is a respected leader within SRM. He has been active in every section in which he has lived; he has attended every annual meeting since 1961; served as SRM President; and his work has made us a better profession and Society. For these reasons, SRM is honored to present the Sustained Lifetime Achievement Award to Daniel Merkel.