



## **TESA Newsletter—Annual Meeting Highlights July 2015 Annual Meeting New Braunfels**

The Texas Extension Specialists Association Annual Board Meeting was held at the T Bar M resort in New Braunfels.

A good time was had with families, friends, and coworkers! There's something about getting away from the office and going into the depths of the earth that takes the edge off. Maybe, its thinking about the WHAT IF'S in life, or the smiles and funny questions shared 180 feet below the surface. Visiting Natural Bridge Caverns took folks' minds off of the everyday stress and slowed things down for a short time.

While back at camp (T Bar M) there was 42 playing, swimming, movies, popcorn by the campfire and laughter filling the summer air. All while sharing new ideas on improving old ways of managing things. Not to mention, NOT reinventing the wheel, with colleagues throughout Texas.

### **News**

We were blessed to have had Steve Byrns as our 4-H Foundation representative for nine years. Sarah Hamm, Executive Director of 4-H, presented Steve with a 4-H Foundation Award for his dedicated service.

Dr. Joe Mask will be the new 4-H Foundation representative. He is Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist, Young Veterinary Sciences at Texas A&M AgriLife Extension with the Institute for Infectious Animal Diseases. Please join us in welcoming Dr. Mask!

### **Mark Your Calendars:**

**Dec. 8-9** – Brownwood - Winter Professional Association Board Meeting

**May 3-4** – Brownwood - Spring Professional Association Board Meeting

**July 11-13** - [Annual Meeting at La Torretta Lake Resort & Spa in Conroe](#)

### **TESA Board Meeting:**

- The **Promotion Task Force** led by Nancy Granovsky presented recommended changes to the proposed *Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Professional Career Ladder System for Extension Program Specialists*. The work of this task force has concluded. Nancy recommends TESA appoint a new taskforce to continue working with Administration. She suggested looking at different ways TESA can help with the structure of the promotion website and make changes that may be needed within the professorial rank of promotion.
- DeDe Jones, our new President, has appointed a new taskforce and is moving forward with Nancy's suggestions. The new taskforce will be available to meet with administration throughout the year.
- The 4-H Foundation has up to \$750 grants available for agents and specialists who have programs or activities that support 4-H. Awards are given three times per year.

## **Mentors:**

Question, in your career, have you ever felt overwhelmed with nowhere to turn? Let's say you are put in a room with a desk, chair, phone, a friendly welcome, the door closes, and you're on your own. Wouldn't it be good to have someone in your subject field to call? Someone who could guide you along the way from the time you hear that door close?

If this WAS YOU, please think about reaching out and helping others by becoming a mentor. TESA is working on a program that pulls together mentor groups to help new AgriLife employees throughout Texas. "We are all Ambassador's for AgriLife!"

## **Awards:**

### **Outstanding Support/Friend of Extension Specialists Award - 2015**

David Gibson, Texas Corn Growers

### **Family and Consumer Sciences - 2015**

Meilana Charles, McLennan County

### **4-H and Youth Development - 2015**

Arvitta Scott, Brazos County; Joan Gray-Soria, Gray County

### **Agriculture and Natural Resources – 2015**

Team-Alexa Reed, Sherman County; Austin Voyles, Oldham County; Dale Dunlap, Wheeler County; Mike Bragg, Dallam/Hartley Counties; JR Sprague, Libscomb County; Scott Strawn, Ochiltree County; Tanner Young, Briscoe County

### **TESA Scholarship Award – 2015**

Morgan Payne

### **Support Service Award - 2015**

Ronda Fisher

### **Professional Development Grant - 2015**

Paul Pope received a \$1,800.00 grant from the Texas Extension Specialists Association. This grant is offered once a year to all TESA members.

## **Membership:**

- New members of TESA are NOT required to pay first year dues and get first year annual meeting registration FREE
- If you are a current member, don't forget **membership renewal** and payment of dues. A renewal form is on the TESA website.
- Check out the **TESA website** to find out more about the association: <https://tesa.tamu.edu/>

**New Officers 2015-2016:**

- President— DeDe Jones
- President-Elect— Steven Klose
- Secretary—Janet Hurley
- Treasurer— Dean McCorkle
- Historian—Emmy Williams
- Past-President— Diann Mitchell-Linger
- Past-Past – President – Mac Young

Diann Mitchell-Linger

TESA Past President

