

# TVMA QUARTERLY CLIP

MARCH, 2006

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## 2006 CONFERENCE: KERRVILLE TX, 10/23-25/06



Make your plans on joining TVMA for our 2006 Annual Conference in Kerrville, TX, on October 23-25, 2006!

We'll be at the **YO RANCH RESORT HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER**, 2033 Sidney Baker, Kerrville, TX 78028.

A block of rooms have been guaranteed for our conference at great rates. Each of the 200 guest rooms are spacious with a western décor. Single or double rates are \$75 per night. The hotel has excellent Family Suites with separate split-wood "forts" with bunk

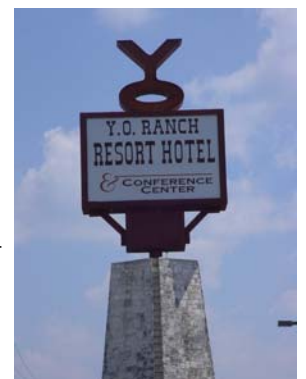
beds give the kiddos their own place, yet close to mom and dad. Many of the suites have fireplaces. Family Suite rates are only \$149 per night. Rates for a 1-bedroom suite is \$175 and the 2-bedroom suite goes for \$250 per night. To encourage you to enjoy the beauty and excitement of the hill country, the hotel has extended these rates three days before and after the conference.

**You must call the YO Ranch Resort Hotel & Conference Center directly at 830-257-4440, or 1-877-YORESORT (1-877-967-3767) to reserve your guest room.** Be sure to mention that you are attending the Texas Vegetation Management Association Annual Conference. Room block cutoff date is September 23, 2006.

This is a beautiful property and a great venue for our annual conference. The hotel is rich in character and filled with antiques, artifacts and remembrances of an era 100 years past. The entrance lobby greets you with old West memorabilia and over 40 exotic game trophies. The hotel is named after the historic Y.O. Ranch which once encompassed over 600,000 acres of the Texas Hill Country. Kerrville offers a wide variety of activities; museums, spectacular scenery, theaters, ranch tours, horseback riding and much more.

Jim Cruser, your 2005-2006 Vice President and 2006 Conference Program chair has already held several planning meetings and detailed planning for the 2006 Conference is well on its way. Check the TVMA web site ([www.tvma.net](http://www.tvma.net)) for the latest updates!

**Make your plans to join us in Kerrville!**



## PRESIDENTIAL UPDATE

Greetings from Sachse Texas. Unfortunately I don't have a nice picture with 10 point deer to stand by like the past president.

Well, finally we are getting some well needed rainfall to get all the weeds growing so many of our applicators can stay busy. With the state still way below the average rainfall hopefully the periodic rains will continue over the next few months.

Since our last clip we have add two key board meetings to begin plans for the 2006 Conference and to undertake any other industry issues. We had our last board meeting in Austin Texas on January 11, 2006 at the TX Dot office. Jim Cruser and his committee has signed a contract with the YO Ranch Resort Hotel in Kerrville. This will be an excellent locations and a lot of fun activities for you and your spouse. Also at the last board meeting Howard Pierson, Research Chair has hired a university grad student to perform a literature search for unpublished research, on going and existing

research such as new surfactants data, resistance management programs, mode of action, damage prevention and drift, just for a few topics. All information is to be published on PDF format on a CD after all data has been collected.

We had two key speakers at the past board meeting. Earl Chilton with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and David Kostrum with Texas Department of Agriculture. Earl made a presentation on the invasive species council. Earl indicated that the sole purpose for creating the council was because perhaps Texas was missing out on some federal funds because they did not have such a council. It was indicated that those States who had invasive species council had been more effective in securing federal funds.

David Kostrum from TDA also provided comments to the TVMA Board about noxious weeds list but that it was very limited. Most noxious weeds are left up to local commissioners to determine what needs to be done.

They are currently struggling through this process to provide the correct list of noxious and invasive species. So as you can see there are many challenging issues in the state that will or may impact things in our business from a legislative point.

As a chairperson of the nominating committee, it is my responsibility to encourage all members to run as candidates for upcoming positions. Being a member of the TVMA Board is a rewarding experience that really keeps you in tuned to the industry challenges. If you are interested in being a part of the TVMA let one of the board members know. Our next board meeting is on April 27, 2006 at the TXDOT building in Austin Texas. The meeting starts at 9:00 AM. All members, as always, are welcomed to attend.

Thank you for supporting TVMA. Ray Erwin



Ray Erwin, BASF, TVMA's  
2005-2006 President

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO SPONSOR A 2006 CONFERENCE EVENT?

Putting on an annual conference is an expensive proposition, and the annual conference is what provides our Association with the funds to manage and promote the programs vital to the vegetation management industry in Texas. One way you can help TVMA is to sponsor or co-sponsor an event at the annual conference. Sponsoring or co-sponsoring any of the breakfasts, coffee breaks, or luncheons is a

great way to help the Association and get special recognition and thanks for your efforts. While the TVMA Board of Directors is working on sponsorship levels, here is some preliminary guidance:

- Breakfast Sponsor: \$500; Co-Sponsor: \$250; Minimum suggested: \$150
- Banquet Sponsor: \$3,000; Co-Sponsor: \$1,500; Minimum sug-

gested: \$500

Thanks to the **LCRA** and **Craig Johnson** for providing trophies and gift certificates for the Scholarship shooting events in 2006. Thanks to **Advance Applicators** and **Robert Lane** for furnishing TVMA shirts to our 2006 TVMA Board of Directors.

To inquire about sponsorship opportunities, just give any TVMA Board Member a call.



## SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF KERRVILLE AND THE TEXAS HILL COUNTRY

If you haven't visited Kerrville and the Texas Hill Country in a while, you're in for a real treat! Kerrville is just southwest of Fredericksburg. The conference hotel is on State Highway 16 (Sidney Baker) just south of Interstate Highway 10. During October, the weather should be great with average highs in the low 80's and lows in the 50's.

Lots of things to do in this beautiful part of the State. Downtown Kerrville has just undergone a revitalization project which invites you to stroll past antique shops as well as contemporary galleries. The nationally-acclaimed James Avery Craftsman has its headquarters in Kerrville and the visitor center on the Harper road is open Monday through Saturday. Try visiting Stonehenge II on FM 1340 to see a replica of the original Stonehenge in England as well as Easter Island statues. The Hill Country Shooting Sports Center, just outside of Kerrville hosts 5 skeet, 5 trap and 5 bunker fields.



The Museum of Western Art is home to the Cowboy Artists of

America and hosts outstanding works in the traditions of Remington and Russell. The Hill Country Museum, located in the restored mansion of Captain Charles Schreiner portrays the affluent life of early Hill Country days. The Kerr Arts & Cultural Center is home to over 600 member artists working in various mediums.

Starting October 25, 2006, the Kerr Arts & Cultural Center will host the Annual Texas Furniture Makers Show. If you can hang around until the weekend, the Kerr County Fair kicks off on October 28, 2006 as well as "Celebration Hill Country," a unique festival offering a variety of food, drink and local talent.



If you enjoy exotic game or birding, Kerrville is the place to be. Exotic game animals began to be introduced to the Texas Hill Country over 60 years ago and due to efforts of local ranchers, there are now vast herds of species which are now endangered in their country of origin. It is estimated that over 100,000 exotic game animals, representing over 45 species are in the Kerrville and

Hill Country area. Birders might get the opportunity to see the *Golden Cheeked Warbler*, the *Black-capped Vireo*, the *Green Kingfisher*, and the *Zone-tailed Hawk*.

Fishing, canoeing and kayaking are all outstanding along the Guadalupe River, and of course hunting whitetail deer, turkey and quail is a favorite pastime in this area. The Riverside Nature Center allows you to discover the native beauty of the Texas Hill Country with over 140 species of trees, some rare and endangered, an outstanding collection of native Hill Country plants, and over 200 species of wildflowers.

Kerrville-Schreiner Park is open year-round and is located along the beautiful Guadalupe River.

The Lost Maples State Park, while 1 1/2 hours away from Kerrville, is a unique area of rugged limestone canyons, plateau grasslands wooded slopes and clear streams. This state park hosts the only Maple forest in Texas.

All this cool stuff plus an outstanding TVMA Conference! It just couldn't get any better! For more information, see the Kerrville Convention & Visitors Bureau web site at <http://www.kerrvilletexascvb.com/index.htm>



## TVMA KICKS OFF RESEARCH EFFORT

During the January 11, 2006 Board Meeting, **Howard Pierson**, Chair of TVMA's Research Committee, was authorized to fund a project which will be of great benefit to TVMA members.

The project's goal is to do an extensive literature search for unpublished, ongoing and current research on vegetation-management topics of interest to the membership. Items to be assessed include resistance

management, mode-of-action, surfactants, damage prevention, drift mitigation, weed identification, etc.

The Research Committee has awarded this work to a current graduate student at Texas A&M University.

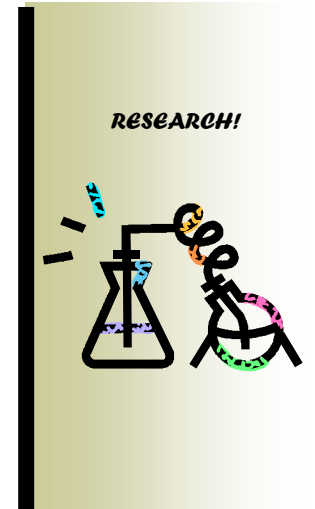
The work is to be completed by July 1, 2006.

Once received, the TVMA Board of Directors will determine the best manner to get this great research

information out to the TVMA membership.

We will likely post this information and any future updates on our TVMA web site.

We hope this will be an outstanding service provided to TVMA membership and will help you find current, topical research on your vegetation management needs.



## TVMA SPONSORS CEU TRAINING EVENTS

Under the leadership of **Rick Bennett**, TVMA's Training Committee Chair, TVMA sponsored three pesticide applicator CEU events during January 2006.

In Austin, the Lower Colorado River Authority furnished a training room in one of their facilities and the CEU Training was provided by Telge-Northcutt Training, LLC. Thanks to **Craig Johnson**, former TVMA Board of Director and to all the fine folks at LCRA for allowing us to use your beautiful facility.

Two other CEU training events were held during January in cooperation with the Texas Cooperative Extension. One event was held in Hockley and the other event was held in Baytown.

Between the three CEU training events, over

200 pesticide applicators received CEU credits as necessary to maintain their Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA), Texas Structural Pest Control Board (TSPCB) licenses.

**Rick Bennett** is looking at the possibility of expanding our training to include other use-categories. For example, we are evaluating whether forestry, and aquatic subjects would be beneficial to the membership. If you have any suggestions on what type of CEU training you would like to see to help maintain your TDA or SPCB license, give Rick a call or send him an email. His contact information is on TVMA's "Leadership" page at [www.tvma.net/leaders.htm](http://www.tvma.net/leaders.htm).

One of the items TVMA is exploring is hosting

routine CEU training seminars throughout Texas. Training is one of our core Association missions and we continually explore ways to bring good training to our membership.

To keep up with all the upcoming TVMA-sponsored training activities, check the TVMA web page at [www.tvma.net](http://www.tvma.net).



Students at TVMA's 2005 Training Seminar!

## 2006 CONFERENCE PLANNING WELL UNDERWAY!

Thanks to the organizational talent and hard work of TVMA Vice President **Jim Cruser**, AEP Texas, Corpus Christi, planning for your 2006 Conference Program is well underway.

Helping Jim are the following TVMA members:

**Rob and Wendy Brooks, Stan Jones, Richard Karber, Robert Lane, Michelle McAfee, Scott Dunham, Craig Johnson, Robert Burnside, and Paul Northcutt.**

While our 2006 Annual Conference will be geared so that you can receive TDA, SPCB and International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) credits, you will also gather a wealth of information useful to your vegetation management program. Here's some of the topics on the 2006 Preliminary Agenda:

- Tree Care
- Drift Minimization
- Formosan Termites
- Oak Wilt
- Wildlife Management
- Aquatic Plant Control
- Laws and Regulations
- ROW Environmental Issues & Concerns

We are also evaluating the possibility of a tour of the Kerr Wildlife Management Area.

On Monday, October 23, 2006, we will kick off with our Annual Training Seminar designed to help personnel sit for the TDA Pesticide Applicator Examination. We will probably start this extensive training session around 10:00 am on Monday. The TDA examination will be given on Wednesday, October 25, 2006. Last year, TVMA boasted a 100% passing rate. We can't guarantee this rate, but we can guarantee that this will be an excellent way to prepare you or your personnel for the TDA examination.

We will also host two fun scholarship fund-raising events on Monday October 23: (1) We will host a golf tournament at one of the excellent courses in Kerrville, and (2) we will host a Skeet / Sporting Clay shooting event!

On Tuesday evening, we hope to host a "Texas Hold-Em" Social.

Details are still being finalized at this point, so keep current by checking the TVMA web page for the updated conference agenda.

We will have an extensive exhibit hall where the manufacturers, distributors and contractors will display the latest on their products, equipment and services. This is a valuable place to pick up the latest literature and information on

the new items available to assist you in your vegetation management program.

Also this year, we are exploring activities which might be beneficial for spouses or guests of our attendees. **Wendy Brooks** is heading this initiative so if you have any suggestions, please give her a call or send Rob Brooks an email (See the Leadership Page for contact information).

And speaking of **Rob Brooks**, we will again be awarding scholarships to deserving college students who hope to pursue a career in some facet of vegetation management. If you know of a deserving student, help them access the scholarship registration forms on our TVMA web page, or call Rob for more information.

To raise funds for our Scholarship Program, we will also host a "Silent Auction" at our Kerrville Annual Conference. Please consider donating an item to be auctioned off. It could be anything you think someone would enjoy having.

Make your plans now for Kerrville in 2006. It should be an excellent annual conference, full of educational and entertainment value.

Registration forms are now available on the TVMA web page!

**"Really enjoyed the 2005 conference. Nearly all of the classes had something to offer to my job and had things that I can apply to it to make it better"**

*Want to get involved in helping to make our 2006 Conference the best ever?*

*Call Vice President Jim Cruser and volunteer to help on the 2006 Conference Committee!*

## LEGISLATIVE CHANGES OF INTEREST

Several legislative changes occurred during the Texas 79th Regular Legislative Session. Here are some items which might be of interest to members: Source: 2005 Sine Die Report: ([www.agr.state.tx.us/iga/tda.SineDie05a.pdf](http://www.agr.state.tx.us/iga/tda.SineDie05a.pdf))

**House Bill 7—Workers Compensation Commission:** The Sunset Commission found that the basic regulatory structure for worker' compensation in Texas had not been effective for injured workers or efficient for employers and insurance carriers providing services to Texas businesses. As a result, the Texas Workers' compensation Commission was transferred into the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) The Office of Injured Employee Counsel (OIEC), a new state agency was created for the sole purpose of helping injured employees.

**Senate Bill 1:** Included a \$500,000 grant to TDA to establish a feral hog abatement program. Grants will be provided to researchers to study, develop and implement innovative methods to control the growth of the feral hog population in the state.

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) will receive about \$3.7 million to support existing brush control projects and implement new

ones.

**House Bill 505—Discharge of Firearms Across Property Lines:** Makes it illegal to knowingly discharge a firearm across a property line.

**House Bill 506—Hunting over Flooded Property:** Makes it illegal to hunt wild animals and birds over privately owned land that has been submerged under public waters unless the hunter in question owns the submerged land.

**House Bill 255—Dispatch of Mortally Wounded Animals:** Allows an individual who finds a mortally wounded animal to humanely kill it.

**Senate Bill 1273—Texas Farm and Ranchlands Conservation Program:** Establishes the Texas Farm and Ranch Lands Conservation Program to enable and facilitate the purchase and donation of agricultural conservation easements designed to conserve water quality and quantity, wildlife and plant species.

**House Bill 107—Personal Responsibility for Food Consumption:** Prohibits actions against persons alleging injury relating to an individual's weight gain due to food consumption. A manufacturer, seller, trade association, livestock producer or agricultural producer is not liable under any law of this state for

any claim arising out of weight gain or obesity caused by the long term consumption of food. A person other than the individual on whose weight gain, obesity or health condition is based may not bring a civil action.

**House Bill 901—TDA License Renewals:** House Bill 901 which became effective on September 1, 2005, changed the expiration dates of Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) licenses. In addition, HB 901 required that license fees be prorated when not issued for an entire year. Currently, all commercial and noncommercial pesticide applicator licenses expire on February 28 of each year. HB 901 ensures that all TDA licenses are effective for one year from the date issued or renewed. TDA states that this revision will "provide a better turnaround time to customers and create less confusion about license fees."

**House Bill 2313—Noxious and Invasive Plants:** Establishes TDA as the sole authority for the control of noxious and invasive plant species within the State of Texas. This prevents local municipal governments from adopting ordinances and rules prohibiting the importation of such species. TDA currently publishes and maintains a list of noxious and invasive plants.



*Rich Hendler, Dow AgroSciences, serves as your TVMA Legislative Chair!*

*Would you like to get involved on a TVMA committee?*

*Just call any TVMA Board member and let them know!*

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**TVMA'S LEADERSHIP TEAM**

Your Current TVMA Leadership Team works hard to make this Association beneficial to the membership. If you have any suggestions or comments, please contact any of the following people:

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**TVMA's next Board of Directors Meeting will be in Austin on Thursday, April 27, 2006 All TVMA members are encouraged to attend.**

The meeting will be held at the Texas Department of Transportation Offices at 150 East Riverside Drive, Austin, TX, on the 5th floor of the north tower of Building 150. A map to the meeting location can be found on the "Leadership" page of the TVMA web site.

For more information, please call Paul Northcutt, TVMA Secretary-Editor at 512-933-9930. or email Paul at pnorth@sbcglobal.net.

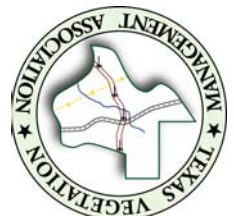
**L E A D E R S   I N   V E G E T A T I O N   M A N A G E M E N T**

TVMA strives to be the educational resource for professional vegetation managers within Texas.

Not only does TVMA host an annual conference, where you can hear outstanding technical presentations from experts across Texas and receive Continuing Education Units to maintain your applicators license, but we also host continuing education training workshops during the year at various locations around Texas.

Always check the web site at [www.tvma.net](http://www.tvma.net) for the latest training opportunity, or call Paul Northcutt, TVMA Secretary-Editor if you have any questions or comments about TVMA!

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