



## March 2023

### A note from Jenny

*Jenny Pluhar, Executive Director*



Spring has sprung in south Texas and on the coastal prairie. How do we know? The most reliable weather predictor in the world, honey mesquite, is leafing out. If you are considering mesquite control this year, pay attention to when it breaks bud in your pastures and make a

note on the calendar. That information along with soil temperature and other growth characteristics help you ensure a properly timed chemical application.

Hope to see some of you at the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Convention and Trade Show. We have a big booth presence in conjunction with the Grazing Animal Nutrition Lab (GAN Lab) and the Center for Grazinglands and Ranch Management. You can't miss us, we are on the "end cap" of an aisle!

I keep hearing that La Niña may be receding and the El Niño weather pattern strengthening. Here in the Panhandle, we would welcome that news. We have had high winds for several days now. I told my husband on our way to town the other day that our farmer neighbor was going to have to pay taxes on the other side of the highway because that's where all his soil was going.

Remember, if grazing management was easy, they'd call it "rocket science!" And that is what makes what we do so darn fun!

### A note from Stephen

*Stephen Diebel, Chairman*

I hope this finds everyone with green grass and maybe some clouds on the horizon. Texas GLC is getting ready for a busy year with our regional coalitions planning workshops, pasture walks, etc. Look at the regional map in this newsletter and find contact information to get



involved with a regional GLC in your area. Regional groups focus on issues and challenges unique to their area.

Look for us at TSCRA trade show...we'd love to talk to you about TXGLC.



## A note from Morgan

*Dr. Morgan Treadwell, Technical Advisory Committee Co-Chair*

We are pleased to welcome Dr. Morgan Treadwell, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Range Specialist, as Co-Chair of the TXGLC Technical Advisory Committee.

Morgan Treadwell, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor in the Rangeland, Wildlife, and Fisheries Management Department at Texas A&M University. She is also an Extension Range Specialist for Texas AgriLife Extension Service in San Angelo. Her research and extension efforts target prescribed burning, grazing management, population ecology of native perennial grasses, and fire effects. She and her husband ranch near Fort McKavett running Dorper sheep and an Angus cow/calf operation with their 3-year-old daughter, Pecos, calling all the shots. In 2020, Treadwell Cattle Company was awarded the Outstanding Rangeland Stewardship award from Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers, Texas Grazing Land Coalition, and Texas Section Society for Range Management.

---

## Meet Madeline!

Madeline Milner, State Rangeland Management Specialist, Texas NRCS, joined NRCS Texas in July of 2021 and is currently working as a part of the ecological sciences team. Madeline works alongside the other state technical discipline leads to provide guidance on technical planning through Texas' expansive grazing lands. Before coming to Texas, Madeline served as the Area Range Specialist for NRCS California, Area 4. She attended New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, NM where she earned a bachelor's degree in range science with a minor in soil science. While she a student at NMSU, Madeline worked for the Bureau of Land Management in the Carlsbad Field Office and the Las Cruces District Office as an intern in the Geographic Information Systems Departments for three years. While working in California, she completed a Master's in Natural Resource Management with a focus in Rangeland Ecology from Colorado State University. She is originally from El Paso, Texas, where most of her extended family still resides.



---

## Coastal Prairie GLC Report

*Matt Machacek, Rangeland Management Specialist, USDA-NRCS*

Spring is in the air on the Texas Gulf Coast. In late February, we are blessed to have soil moisture in most of the area and 85 degree temps,

which is making our prairies come to life. Meanwhile our livestock are chasing green as Rescuegrass, Vetch, and Texas Wintergrass kick into high gear! You can tell a lot about a grazing manager by seeing their country this time of year. Is it solid green? Is it solid brown? If I had to choose one or the other, it would be solid brown. This tells me that a ranch was lightly stocked and the warm season grasses went into their dormancy period with plenty of energy (carbohydrate reserves) to support a prosperous start in the spring. Solid green on the other hand tells me they had a rough year last year, and that they will face plenty of competition from annuals and forbs this spring. What I like to see is a mixture of both green and brown this time of year. This tells me that you moved to leave the majority of your warm season forages healthy over the winter and they provided enough stockpiled forage for your livestock up until now. I also tells me that your have a diversity of forages, and your stock can take a bite of green over the winter with enough quality to balance out the low quality dormant vegetation. You may ask, "why would you settle for low quality forage for your livestock." The answer is simple, for most, it is the most economical way to keep our animals fed. Our GLC board conducted forage testing this fall, and we determined that during the winter that phosphorus is the most limiting nutrient. Phosphorus is the mineral of reproduction! Over the winter we have found that increasing our phosphorus levels is money well spent. As our green comes on this spring, we hope to cut this back to reduce our supplementation cost as growing forage is more nutrient dense.

Last week we had a 40 degree day with 30 mile per hour winds on the Powderhorn Wildlife Management Area for our Coffee on the Prairie event. Boy was it cold, but we had around 15 prairie enthusiasts attend to learn about prescribe fire and Spike treatments on running live oak. If you missed it because of the weather, our partners at TPWD are doing an encore tour on March 31st from 8:30-1:00. This is a great opportunity to learn from the best on how to restore coastal prairie. Please RSVP to [Shannon.barron@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:Shannon.barron@tpwd.texas.gov).

If you are up the coast around the Seguin area, we are having a Agri-Land Resources workshop on March 7th from 9:00 - 4:00. Yours truly will be discussing Adaptative Grazing Management along with others discussing important topics for the area. CEU's are provided and you will need to RSVP at [www.almorcd.org](http://www.almorcd.org).

I hope you have a great start to the growing season, and please reach out ([matthew.machacek@usda.gov](mailto:matthew.machacek@usda.gov)) if we can assist you in obtaining better results this time next year.

---

## Effective Rainfall

*Frank Price, Chair, Concho Valley GLC*

As the ongoing dry spell continues over a wide area. The question of 'How much rain does it take to be effective?' becomes an even more relative issue than during higher rainfall periods. The answer lies within numerous 'What ifs?' most of which the rangeland manager has no control over. Humidity, wind, cloud cover, temperature and length of time until the next rain event are all things that the manager has no control over and can't do anything to change. But the most important of all variables that the manager does have control over are the health of the plants on the ground, the density of those plants and the amount of litter covering the ground. (Litter being, dead plant material that has fallen on the soil and is in a state of decay.)

Some managers would say 'It is dry and has been for a long time, there is no way I can improve on those things.' Preparation for the ongoing drought began during the last good growing conditions and continues even during the dry spell, by proper grazing rate and giving adequate recovery time for those plants by removing the animals from the pasture

for predetermined periods of time. This preparation does not happen by chance alone, it takes planning and diligence of initiation. Then replanning after observing livestock, plant recovery, economic conditions, and rainfall, this is called 'proper grazing management'. When this 'plan' is put in place density of cover -over time- will approach 100% coverage, healthy root systems provide healthy soils that retain moisture and ground litter covers the soil lessening the evaporation rate caused by all of those variables that the manager has no control over.

The current drought is hurting good managers and poor managers alike. Those that have prepared for current conditions are faring much better than others, even to the point of growing a little forage where good ground cover-healthy soils are prevalent.

### THE BETTER IT GETS, THE FASTER IT GETS BETTER

Take note that this photo (below) is along a formerly erosive creek bank. Recovery of creek areas is one of the first places an effective grazing program influences.

Follow [Frank on Facebook](#) to see more of his posts.



---

## Jenny Pluhar receives the Society for Range Management W.R. Chapline Land Stewardship Award

The Texas Grazing Land Coalition Board would like to recognize TXGLC Executive Director Jenny Pluhar for receiving the Society for Range Management W.R. Chapline Land Stewardship Award. Jenny was honored at the Society for Range Management meeting in Boise, ID in February.

The W.R. Chapline Land Stewardship Award gives special recognition to members of the Society for Range Management for exceptional accomplishments and contributions in the application of the art and science of range management to specific to rangeland entities and to wildlife and domestic livestock on such lands. Jenny was joined by her daughter, Logan, in Boise when she accepted the award (photo below). Congratulations, Jenny!



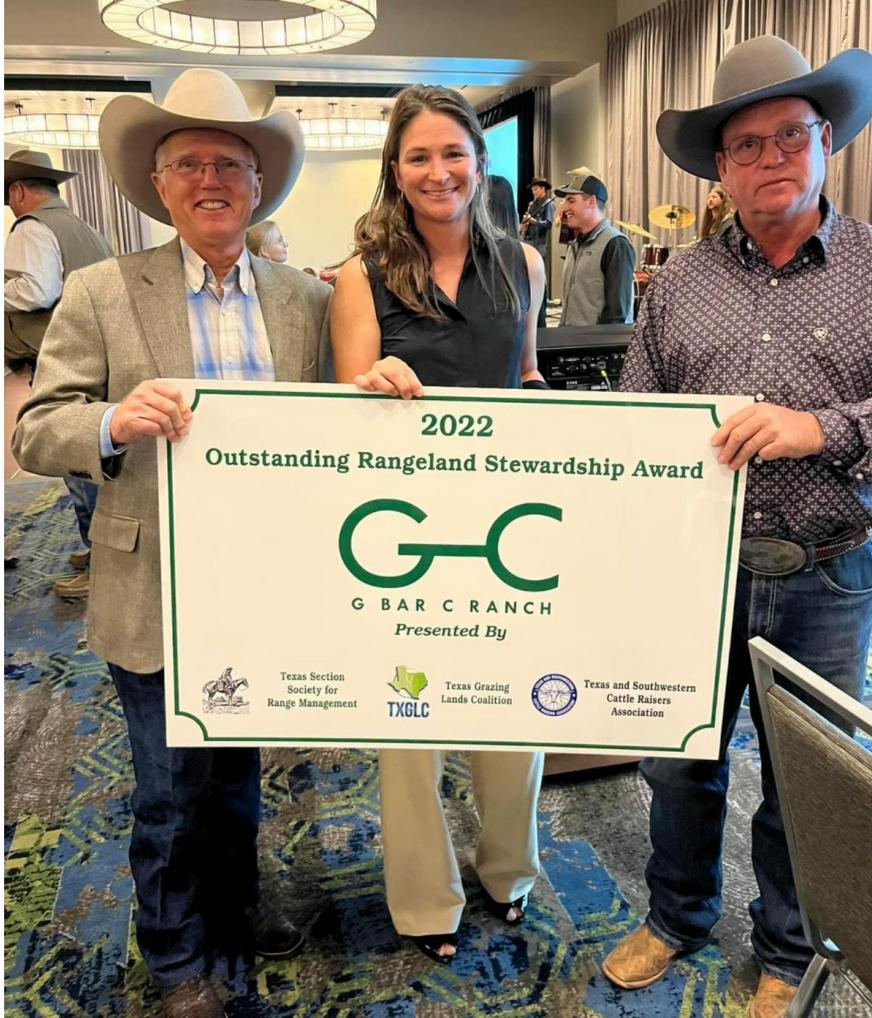
---

## G Bar C Ranch receives the Outstanding Rangeland Stewardship Award

The Texas Grazing Land Coalition, Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers, and Texas Section Society for Range Management co-sponsor the Outstanding Rangeland Stewardship Award, and the winner for 2022 was the G Bar C Ranch located in Cooke County, Texas. The ranch is owned G.C. and Mary Ellis and Meredith Ellis.

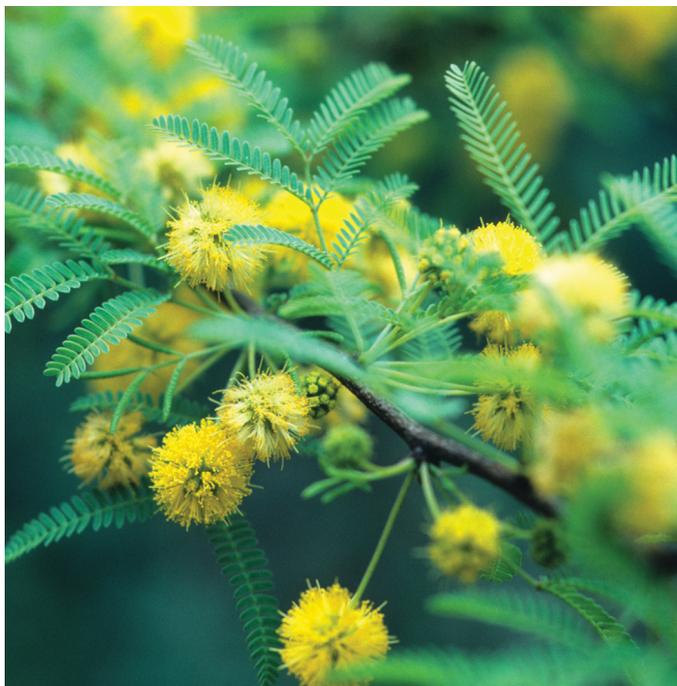
G Bar C will now go on to compete for the NCBA Environmental Stewardship Award Program (ESAP), but will compete in the regional competition first. To learn more about the G Bar C Ranch, please [click here](#) to be taken to the poster submitted by the Texas Section Society for Range Management to the Society for Range Management Excellence in Rangeland Management (ERM) Poster Contest held at the Society meeting in Boise, ID in February.

Also be sure to check out their [website](#) and follow [G Bar C on Facebook!](#)



## The answer is KNOW!

In order to speak the language, one must know the words - similarly, on rangelands knowing which plants are growing in your pastures and how to manipulate them to meet your forage goals is crucial. Every month we will explore a new plant in our newsletter.



## Huisache

*Vaschellia farnesiana*

*Write-up by Jenny Pluhar:* Huisache (*Vaschellia farnesiana*, formerly *Acacia farnesiana*) is a shrub native to Texas that is prized by a few people and cursed by many. Huisache is a multi-stemmed shrub with a distinctive growth form. Leaflets are smaller than mesquite and other related Acacias, with 10-25 pair on each leaf. It is a legume, and prized for honey production and as an ornamental plant.

It might be a case that too much of a "good thing" is harmful. Huisache is leafing out along the coastal prairie, where it has been an aggressive invader to native coastal prairies. Some say it only takes over where the

native prairies are abused or overgrazed. However, that is absolutely not true. Huisache aggressively moves onto some of the healthiest native coastal prairies, essentially resulting in them being nearly void of grass - a huisache desert if you will.

Huisache is related to mesquite, but the physiology is quite different. Ranchers seeking to control huisache are often recommended similar chemical protocols as those used for mesquite. The Coastal Prairie regional GLC coalition ranchers teamed together years ago to try different chemicals and protocols and after years of trials, have settled on a three chemical mix at a low, suppression style rate, applied three times in fairly quick succession (preferred over two years if conditions are favorable). The protocol spreads the risk as opposed to one application and the cost of the treatment is nearly the same as one application. The key seems to be hitting it repeatedly when it is hurting after the last application and spreading the risk of getting the timing absolutely perfect.

More information about the Coastal Prairie GLC Huisache Program is available from Brett Huegele, [361-649-5550](tel:361-649-5550).

To learn more about [Huisache](#), visit [Plants of Texas Rangelands](#), the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Virtual Herbarium.



*The photo below is vegetation before and after huisache control on Vidauri Ranch.*



---

## 2023 TSSRM Youth Range Workshop

Do you know a high school student between the ages of 14 and 18 who's interested in learning more about range management? Make sure to tell them about the Texas Section Society for Range Management Youth Range Workshop!

TSSRM Youth Range Workshop will be held this summer June 18 - 23, 2023 at the Texas Tech University Center in Junction. It provides the opportunity for ~40 Texas high school students from across the state to learn about range ecology and natural resource management. Any high school student who is interested in learning more about natural resources management is eligible to attend.

The purpose of YRW is to prepare students to be knowledgeable leaders in their communities regarding the value of rangelands, the services and products they provide, and the importance of stewardship of our natural resources. Our emphasis is on stewardship, leadership and management of natural resources. These lessons will serve participants well in the future regardless of what career path they choose or where they live.

YRW participants are taught by a diverse group of volunteer instructors including ranchers, educators, scientists, conservationists, university professors, young professionals, consultants, certified prescribed burning professionals, and even a couple of grizzled old veterans of range management. The directors and instructors represent a wide range of age, experience, interests, and areas of specialization, but they are all dedicated to the management of Texas rangelands and working with younger generations to help them understand and appreciate the value of

our soil, water, plant, and animal resources.

The students spend six days of intense activity in the field and classroom immersed in activities including:

- plant identification and plant collection
- studying species composition and plant community dynamics
- conducting forage inventories
- learning the grazing and browsing habits of livestock and wildlife
- learning habitat management principles and techniques for various species of wildlife
- conducting field tests to determine the benefits of vegetation on infiltration and runoff rates as well as soil erosion
- learning about soil health
- assisting with a prescribed burn on a local ranch
- and how all of these things are tied together
- 

Hands-on learning is the focus, whether it is collecting plants, assisting with an actual prescribed burn, clipping and weighing vegetation, measuring soil temperature, participating in the operation of a rainfall simulator, or learning to use the latest phone app for range management.

To learn more, please visit the [TSSRM YRW website](#) or follow them on [Facebook!](#)





## Upcoming events and opportunities

**Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers (TSCRA) Convention**  
Fort Worth, TX | March 24-26, 2023  
<https://cattleraisersconvention.com/>  
*Texas GLC will be located in booth #1039.*

**Plant Party - Everything Pollinators**  
Webinar | March 29, 2023  
[More information and registration here.](#)

**Marketing and Stockmanship School**  
Fredericksburg, TX | March 29 - April 1, 2023  
[More information and registration here.](#)

**Coffee on the Prairie Event - Encore Tour**  
Powderhorn Wildlife Management Area | March 31, 2023

RSVP by emailing [shannon.barron@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:shannon.barron@tpwd.texas.gov).

**Water Law Overview & Update**

Webinar | April 6, 2023

[More information and registration here.](#)

**Hemphill County Cattle Conference**

Canadian, TX | April 25-26, 2023

<https://www.hemphillcotxbeef.com>

**Wild Pigs in Texas**

Webinar | May 4, 2023

[More information and registration here.](#)

**Needmore Ranching Field Day**

Canadian, TX | May 6, 2023

Information TBA

**Prairie Restoration Workshop**

Mattox Prairie - Yantis, TX | May 23, 2023

Information TBA

**Algal Blooms and Management**

Webinar | June 1, 2023

[More information and registration here.](#)

**Texas Plant Conservation Conference**

Fort Worth Botanic Garden | August 14-15, 2023

[More information here.](#)

**Grazing Through the Green Mountains NatGLC Vermont Fall Bus Tour**

Burlington, VT | September 5-7, 2023

<https://www.grazinglands.org/vermontbustour/>

---

## Love the Land - A Texas GLC Podcast

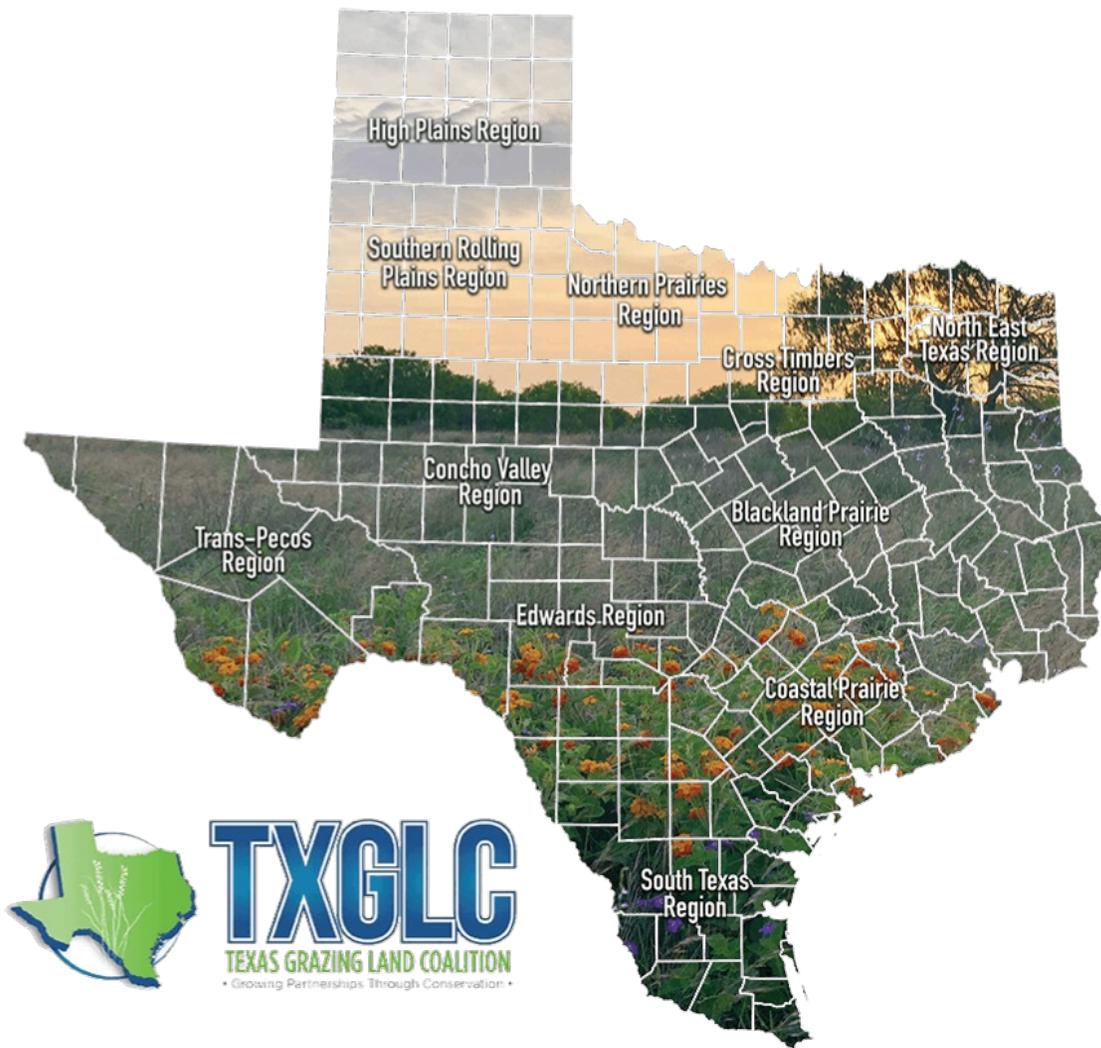
Did you know Texas GLC has a podcast? It's called [Love the Land](#), and you can find it wherever you get your podcasts.

If you have never listened to or subscribed to a podcast, they're like an on-demand radio show. Here's a "how to" tutorial:

1. Download a podcast app on your phone. If you have an iPhone, there is already one downloaded on your phone.
2. Open app. Use the search tool to find specific podcasts like "Love the Land" or categories like "agriculture."
3. Listen to a single podcast or subscribe and get new episodes added to your library any time they are released.
4. Love the Land podcasts are 30-45 minutes.



## Regional Coalitions



## Regional Coalition NRCS Grazing Specialists

### **Southern Rolling Plains GLC**

Matt Coffman  
matt.coffman@usda.gov  
325-573-6317 x3

### **High Plains GLC**

Megan Armstrong  
megan.armstrong@usda.gov  
806-731-8731

### **Edwards GLC**

Kason Haby  
kason.haby@usda.gov  
830-426-2521 x3311

### **Blackland Prairie GLC**

Colter Gerald  
colter.gerald@usda.gov  
254-435-2355 x3

**Concho Valley GLC**

Grant Teplicek  
 grant.teplicek@usda.gov  
 325-655-3521 x7367

**Trans-Pecos GLC**

Rode Mills  
 rode.mills@usda.gov  
 432-837-5846 x3

**South Texas GLC**

Pepe Martinez  
 jose.martinez3@usda.gov  
 361-592-0309

**Coastal Prairies GLC**

Matt Machacek  
 matthew.machacek@usda.gov  
 361-235-0440

**Cross Timbers GLC**

Haden Hargus  
 haden.hargus@usda.gov  
 817-594-4672 x3900

**Northeast Texas GLC**

Brandon Bing  
 Brandon.bing@usda.gov  
 903-729-7174 x106

**Northern Prairies**

Haden Hargus  
 haden.hargus@usda.gov  
 817-594-4672 x3900

**State Range Conservationist**

Madeline Milner  
 Madeline.milner@usda.gov  
 254-724-9805

CONNECT WITH TXGLC



## Texas Grazing Land Coalition

Executive Director

Jenny Pluhar | jenny.txglc@gmail.com | 806-679-8729

### Officers:

Chair - Stephen Diebel  
 Vice Chair - Tony Dean  
 Secretary - Lee Burton  
 Treasurer - Bob McCan  
 Past Chair - Gary Price  
 Past Chair - Rooter Brite

### Board Members:

Tracy Tomascik  
 Scott Petty  
 Michael Vance  
 Jim Bob Cave  
 Frank Price  
 Mike Rivers  
 Ron Sosebee  
 Kent Ferguson  
 Tim Edwards  
 David Kitner  
 Brett Huegele  
 Jessica Tate  
 Rob A. Brown

Texas Grazing Land Coalition | 106 S. Main St., Victoria, TX 77902 <https://texasglc.org>

[Unsubscribe peters.kimgrace@gmail.com](mailto:peters.kimgrace@gmail.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by jenny.txglc@gmail.com in collaboration with



Try email marketing for free today!