

## Kerr County Soil & Water Conservation District

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<https://www.facebook.com/kerrcoswcd>



Meet Sid! I've hidden him inside this  
Newsletter. The first person to find him and  
post it on the Kerr County SWCD's  
Facebook page gets a prize!

~Missie Dreiss, Kerr County SWCD District Technician

## Congratulations to our 2023 Scholarship Recipient!



Photo by Katea Riederer

**Elizabeth Scales** is a graduate of Tivy High School and plans to attend Angelo State University. After graduating with a degree in Animal Science, Elizabeth's goal is to work for the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service as a Natural Resources Agent. "With my chosen profession being with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Services, I will play a large role in the advocacy of agriculture towards younger generations. Not only do County Agents teach others about agriculture, but they create a safe environment for curious minds."

says Elizabeth. "Elizabeth is a young lady who is not afraid to try new things, keeps a positive attitude, and has the personality to spark up a conversation with anyone." says Mrs. Jennifer Smith, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service 4-H Agent and Youth Instructor for Kerr County. "Elizabeth is an exceptional young woman. She is a highly self-motivated student with a great desire for learning. She is a responsible, hard-working, and dedicated student, and these character traits are reflected in her academic performance. She wants to be an AgriLife Extension Agent and eventually own her own cattle ranch. In a world where agriculture and science careers are still male dominated, we need young women like Elizabeth that are willing to take the challenge.", says Mrs. Ana Carolina Espinosa, of Tivy High School. Congratulations again to Elizabeth "Lizzie" Scales!



## KERR CO. SWCD NEWS

Kerr County Soil & Water Conservation District July 2023 Volume 13, Issue 3

### New District Conservationist Named



Howdy! For those I have not yet met, my name is Nathan Orsak, recently selected District Conservationist for the USDA – NRCS, Kerrville Field Office. I am a graduate of Texas A&M University, with a Bachelor of Science in Renewable Natural Resources and a minor in Rangeland Ecology & Management. I have worked in the Kerrville Field Office since July 2020 as a Soil Conservation-

ist and transitioned into the District Conservation position this past May. Cole Jacoby remains here in Kerrville as our Resource Team Leader, while I have assumed the day-to-day responsibilities as DC. It has been my privilege working with Kerr and Real County landowners / residents over the years and I look forward to continuing that assistance. Please stop by the office or give us a call to discuss any conservation needs you may have.

Kerr County Blend  
\$45 per bag (5lbs.  
bag covers 1acre)

*Little Bluestem*

*Sideoates Grama*

*Switchgrass*

*Green Sprangle top*

*Plains Bristlegrass*

*Sweet Clover— Yellow Blossom*

*Sweet Clover—Silver River*

*Burr Medic Clover*

*Native Sunflower*

*Foxtail Millet*

*I try to keep this mix in my of-  
fice at all times!*



Bermudagrass  
\$55 per 5lbs  
bag (Seeding rate  
is 2lbs per 1000)

*This is great for your  
yard!*

**Ask me about Turner  
Turf (Timeless)**

#### District Directors:

Zone 1

Barbara Oates

Zone 2

Jack Thorn, Vice-Chairman

Zone 3

Paula Russ, Secretary

Zone 4

David Symm

Zone 5

Jack Clarke, III, Chairman

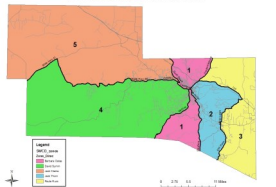
#### District Clerk

Denise Griffin

#### District Technician

Missie Dreiss

Kerr County SWCD Zone Map 2018



#### Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

##### Resource Team Leader

Cole Jacoby

##### District Conservationist

Nathan Orsak

##### Programs Assistant (Farm Bill)

Katy Meador

##### Rangeland Specialist

Christian Hopkins

##### OFFICE HOURS:

NRCS 8:00-4:30 Mon-Fri

SWCD 9:00-3:00 Tues-Thurs

(830) 896-4911x3



Texas Section Society for Range Management

# YOUTH RANGE WORKSHOP

Stewardship

Leadership

Management



## George Holekamp Belt Buckle Awarded at the Annual Youth Range Workshop

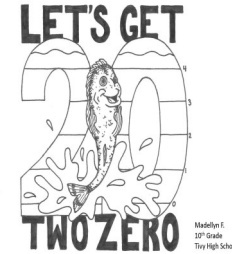
"TSSRM Youth Range Workshop 2023 was a huge success despite the incredible temperatures! Thirty-four high school aged youth from across the state came together for a week in Junction, Texas for the 69th annual Youth Range Workshop. Activities and presentations included plant identification, collecting, and pressing, soil health, principles of ecology, grazing and wildlife management, prescribed burning, brush management, range planting and many more. The campers visited and learned from two local ranchers, toured the Kerr Wildlife Management Area, and swam in the headwaters of Johnson Creek. This was all made possible by our amazing donors and sponsors, an excellent group of students and our hard working and outstanding adult directors and speakers. We're already looking forward to and planning for the 70th TSSRM Youth Range Workshop.", said Rode Mills, *Rangeland Management Specialist Natural Resources Conservation Service.*

Kerr SWCD participated in the Youth Range Workshop's field day at the Kerr Wildlife Management Area. The SWCD served the campers and staff lunch. After lunch, the Kerr SWCD hosts a public speaking contest and awards one camper with the George Holekamp Belt Buckle Award. Colt Nelson won this year's contest, for demonstrating outstanding public speaking skills and knowledge on his chosen ecological topic. The Youth Range Workshop incorporates this contest and Belt Buckle Award into their program each year.



## 20th Annual River Clean Up

2023 UGRA River Clean Up Art Contest Grand Prize Winner  
Design will be printed on 2023 River Clean Up T-shirts



2nd Place Winner



3rd Place Winner



The top artists in UGRA's River Clean Up art contest to design the event t-shirt were recognized recently by UGRA's Outreach and Education Committee Chair, Maggie Snow. The design contest winner, Madellyn Fiedler, received a certificate of achievement and a \$100 check. This is the third time Madellyn's art has won top prize in the contest as her designs were also featured on the 2019 and 2021 River Clean Up t-shirts. Second place winner, Riley Russ, and third place winner, Rynlee Fiedler, received certificates of achievement and \$50 and \$25 checks, respectively. Rynlee just finished 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Hal Peterson Middle School, Riley was a 7<sup>th</sup> grader at Hal Peterson as well, and Madellyn recently completed 10<sup>th</sup> grade at Tivy High School. "Thank you to all who submitted a design for our 20th annual River Clean Up. I hope your participation increases community awareness of the need to keep our river clean and healthy," said Snow.



The winners of UGRA's River Clean Up Art Contest were recently recognized. Pictured left to right: UGRA Natural Resources Specialist, Matthew Wilkinson; 2<sup>nd</sup> place winner, Riley Russ; contest winner, Madellyn Fiedler; and UGRA Board Treasurer and Outreach and Education Committee Chair, Maggie Snow.

The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual River Clean Up will be held on July 22, 2023 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Flat Rock Park. The first 400 volunteers will receive a free t-shirt with Madellyn's artwork highlighted on the front. Visit [www.ugra.org](http://www.ugra.org) for more information and register to participate in the River Clean Up today!

**Let's Keep Our River Clean**