



By Gary Frasier

# Frasier's Philosophy

I get very excited when I go to a meeting and see young people actively participating and trying to find more information. This was never more so than at the SRM meeting in Reno, NV, this year. As you walked down the halls there were many groups of these "future SRM members" lining up to go into various student activities such as the Plant ID or Undergraduate Range Management Exam contests. There were posters by college students vying for the "Rangeland Cup." There were high school students presenting their papers in the High School Youth Forum contest. These are all in addition to the graduate students competing in the poster and formal presentations contest.

This issue of *Rangelands* has the theme of "Youth and Young Professionals." In it you will find the winning papers from the High School Youth Forum, the Rangelands Cup posters, and all the winners of the various student contests. Look them over. You will be impressed.

At the Reno meeting I was standing in the trade show area and saw several young college students looking over the various booths. They were very interested in the variety of information available. I was approached by one group and asked how they could become more involved in SRM activities. I suggested that one way would be to become involved in SRM committees at both the Section and International level. As we talked one student expressed an interest in *Rangelands*. With more discussion she indicated a willingness to serve on the *Rangelands* Editorial Board. I took her offer and she is now one of the *Rangelands* Editorial Board members. Although she was not able to participate at the Editorial Board meeting in Reno, which was held prior to our discussions, she has been a valuable Editorial Board member contributing to reviewing some of the papers in this issue of *Rangelands*. I would challenge all other SRM committee chairs to seek out and recruit some of these young members. They will bring excitement and enthusiasm to your committee. Try it. You will like it.

These young professionals, be they undergraduate students, graduate students, or recently graduated members, are the future of SRM. They are interested in the proper management of the world's rangelands. I think it behooves us to keep them in SRM. They are very concerned with where SRM is going. They think SRM is the proper instrument to tell the world the proper way to manage our lands. We cannot afford to lose these people from our ranks. Many of our current SRM members are getting along in years, both age-wise and in terms of service to our organization (this editor included). The Society needs the new ideas and enthusiasm that these young professionals can provide. And in speaking of young professionals, I include the young people who are continuing to manage ranches and grazing lands. I know some of them do not consider themselves to be professionals because they live on the land. They are our "first line" professionals. They are the ones that will make the rangeland resources sustainable for the future generations. The rest of us can only provide them with the tools to do the job. A rancher or land manager who is doing a good job is invaluable. My hat is off to them.