

## **Pedernales Soil and Water Conservation District 218**

The Pedernales Soil and Water Conservation District was organized as a political subdivision of the state on August 8, 1944 and covers Blanco County in the Texas Hill Country. The District includes all of Blanco County, an area of approximately 460,160 acres. The Pedernales SWCD's goal is to assist landowners and operators with development of conservation plans.

The basic concept of an SWCD is that districts are designed to deliver a local program, based on local needs that best conserves and promotes the wise and judicious use of our renewable natural resources. Soil and water conservation districts do not aim toward power. They work to bring about the widespread understanding of the needs of soil and water conservation. In addition, they work to activate the efforts of public and private organizations and agencies into a united front to combat soil and water erosion and to enhance water quality and quantity in the state. Through a Memorandum of Agreement with USDA, the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) works closely with and provides technical assistance to soil and water conservation districts.

The PSWCD district is actively involved in conservation priorities that include brush management, water quality and quantity, livestock grazing and wildlife upland habitat management. Funding for the conservation work is provided through the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) and the Water Supply Enhancement Project, Natural Resource Conservation Service – Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), and Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) Creekside Project. The district often will host a Field Day to inform landowners on these various topics.

The current Board of Directors for the Pedernales Soil and Water Conservation District are: Ralph Ebeling, James Odiorne, Roy Bruemmer, Anne Holt, and Amber Fry. Most of our Board of Directors have served with Pedernales for over 20 years each with a combined total of 95 years.

The PSWCD district host the Annual Soil Stewardship Breakfast on top of Whittington's Mountain in celebration of Soil Stewardship Week. This is a beautiful place for Blanco County Landowners to gather and fellowship while listening to a message on conservation from one of our local church leaders.

The district also participates in the state conservation awards program by submitting nominees each year for their conservation efforts. The Pedernales SWCD has won Outstanding District a few times over the years as well as receiving Runner Up several times.

In partnership with *Progressive Farmer*, the district assists with the Annual Blanco County Farm Safety Day Camp. This is a day for the Blanco County 5<sup>th</sup> graders to attend and receive information on how to keep themselves safe when they are out on a farm. Our directors and staff supply the resources and trainers for this event.

It is the purpose of SWCDs to instill in the minds of local people that it is their individual responsibility to do the job of soil and water conservation. The Pedernales Soil and Water Conservation District has succeeded in assisting in this process now for 75 YEARS!



Roy Bruemmer received the 25 Years of Service Award



Ralph, Jim, Amber, Roy and Anne



Ralph Ebeling 20 Year Service Award



Whittington Mountain View for Soil Stewardship Breakfast