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Trailblazer Award Recipients Honored

Outstanding individuals from Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas chapters were honored at the 34th Annual Convention and Trade Show held June 25-27, 2008, in Galveston, Texas. These individuals were nominated by their local chapters to receive Trailblazer Awards due to the hard work and dedication they put forth in their local ICA chapters.

Horace I. Drisdale, Plum Texas

Mr. Drisdale joined the Colorado valley Chapter about 6 years ago and has been instrumental in promoting the annual BBQ/Placemat/ Auction and adds a unique perspective.

Wesley Ratcliff, Oakwood Texas

Mr. Ratcliff has had a very diverse history. He has been a university professor, a manager of an IBM corporation, he started his own business, served in the army, attaining rank of Captain and was an Aeronautical Engineer for NASA during a lunar mission. He sits on the board of directors for ICA, serves as president of the East Texas Chapter of ICA and runs a cattle operation in Oakwood.

Brian Malaer, Gonzales Texas

Brian is the newly elected president of the Gonzales ICA chapter. He has been instrumental in recruiting new members, and reenergizing the older members. He is currently a state director, and serves on both the Legislative and Membership Committees.

Carolyn John, Seguin Texas

Carolyn is a lifelong cattlegirl. She has served her chapter in many capacities, most recently as president. She and her husband have been ICA members for about 7 years. Carolyn serves on the state convention committee for the state board

Don Bell, Weaver Texas

Don has been an active participant in the Northeast Texas Beef Improvement Organization since its inception. In addition to his personal ranching operation, he is a partner to

the family owned business of 62 years in Sulphur Springs. He has organized and hosted the chapter's annual scholarship skeet shoot for the past 3 years. The chapter honored Don for his tireless work and his generous financial support of ICA.

Kathy Waltmon, Jasper Texas

Kathy pretty much manages their small cow/calf operation. Her husband says, "She can handle anything that needs to be done on a day to day basis such as feeding, loading or unloading for vet visits or auction barn trips, dragging and spreading poop in the pastures, repairing fences, and rounding up "escaped" cattle...I am honored to work with her everyday."

Laurie Miller, Floresville, Texas

Laurie and her husband, Windy, have been the driving force behind South Central Texas ICA from the beginning. Laurie serves as secretary to the chapter and tirelessly promotes ICA. She keeps ICA in the news through her articles and photos. She is truly an asset to ICA!

Richie Devillier, Winnie, Texas

Richie is currently president of his chapter and a member of the board of directors. He serves on the By-Laws committee. He works hard for the chapter in many ways and is a family man to the core. He is an exemplary ICA member.

Debbie Riley, Winnie, Texas

Debbie is the "go-to" woman for Southeast Texas ICA. She has been the secretary for the chapter-taking care of membership, chapter reports and anything else that is thrown her way. She is a "woman of many hats."

Gary DuFour, Victoria, Texas

Gary has been enthusiastic rancher and hay raiser for the past 11 years. He has been in the Victoria Chapter for 5 years, has been a director for 3 years, and currently writes the Victoria ICA Chapter Newsletter.

Thanks to all of these 2008 Trailblazer Award winners for their tireless dedication to their chapters and to the Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas.