



BLUESTEM BULLETIN

Kansas Section, SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT, Newsletter
To Foster Advancement in The Art Of Grazing Land Management

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President's Corner

Chris Tecklenburg

President, Kansas Section, SRM

Business, Updates and Other

Greetings Kansas SRM board, members and guests! I would like to take this opportunity as my last newsletter as President of KS-SRM to thank all board members, past presidents and members for making KS-SRM a successful section in the year 2013. Thursday, January 30, 2014 will be our winter/spring meeting in conjunction with Kansas Natural Resources Conference at the DoubleTree by Hilton Wichita Airport. My year term as president of KS-SRM will be fulfilled. The year certainly has come and went. At first, the KS-SRM presidency position seems overwhelming. I was reassured in the fact that it is not one person but many who run successful societies. This position quickly becomes very gratifying. It is a privilege and an honor to serve as President for Kansas Section Society for Rangeland Management. I encourage members to inquire and choose to run for the board of directors and second vice president when the opportunity exists.

On November 15, 2013 there was a SRM Membership Outreach conference call. Below are some of those meeting highlights in conjunction with KS-SRM highlights:

SRM Launches Stewardship Newsletter—Providing Leadership for the stewardship of rangelands based on sound ecological principals. This newsletter features practical, easy to read information about what is happening in across the country, no scientific citations necessary. Check it out on the national SRM site on a quick link on the left side of the page. <http://www.rangelands.org/stewardship.shtml>

SRM Annual Meeting--Registration is now open for the 2014 Annual Meeting, Technical Training and Trade Show "From Dusty Trails to Waning Wetlands" February 8-13, 2014 – Orlando, Florida <http://www.rangelands.org/orlando2014/> SRM meeting mobile app coming 2014.

Section Membership Reports—There are over 4000 members nationally. Kansas is currently just over 100 members. Membership numbers are up. This is great news. To become a member of SRM and the Kansas section follow this link <http://www.rangelands.org/membership.shtml> We continue to welcome ideas and ways to improve outreach to members and non-members for meetings, becoming members etc.

Technology tools—Discussion on ways to use social media sites to reach members as well as recruit new members. We heard from other sections how they are currently using sites such as facebook, twitter and others for outreach-education and electronic ballot for elections.

KS-SRM website—A new website for Kansas SRM should be unveiled late 2013 or early 2014. <http://ks.rangelands.org/>

I want to leave with a comment that hopefully challenges you. It is simply "challenge yourself". To some this might mean the ultimate--giving up a tradition. A tradition could be a behavior that has been passed down from generation to the next. To others, challenging yourself might mean listening to what others have to say. Challenge yourself could be breaking the tunnel vision effect. Tunnel vision is a narrowness of viewpoint resulting from concentration on a single idea, opinion, etc., to the exclusion of others. You know the saying "The more you know the less you thought you knew"? I continue to learn something new every day. That is a challenge. Learning something new in the field of Rangelands is an awesome experience that will last for a limitless amount of time. This could be the ultimate challenge to you. Breaking the barrier and broadening your mind and think about the field of Rangeland beyond the plant id, plant production, fences, water supplies and animal performance. I leave with a challenging question that I would like you to answer without regards to your daily JOB—How do You measure success? Please, feel free to e-mail with comments or questions to chris.tecklenburg@ks.usda.gov

**Biographies and Ballot on inside
for Kansas Section, SRM election**

**KANSAS SECTION
SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT
BOX 303, MANHATTAN, KS 66505**

<http://rangelands.org/ks>

Chris Tecklenburg	President
Dusty Tacha	First Vice-President
Will Boyer	2 nd Vice-President
Kevin McFarland	Director
Myra Richardson	Director
Alex Miller	Director
Aaron Ball	Director
Brian Zinke	Secretary/Treasurer
Jordge LaFantasie	Past President
Livia Olsen	Webmaster
Jessica Casey	Historian
Walter Fick	Newsletter Editor

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Please vote for the candidates of your choice. I look forward to seeing many of you at our meeting in Wichita on January 30. If you would like to contribute an article related to rangeland management please do so and send it to me at whick@ksu.edu.

CANDIDATE'S BIOGRAPHIES

Second Vice-President

Elmer J. Finck is a member of SRM since 1997. He became a member after talking to Jim Stubbendieck at a North American Prairie Conference when he was told that if you really want to save grasslands you should become a member at both the national and state level. Elmer received his BS in Wildlife and Fisheries Management and his MS in Plant Ecology from the University of North Dakota. He then went to Kansas State University to study behavioral ecology of a grassland bird and was awarded a PhD in 1983. Elmer stayed at KSU to do his post-doc and became the associate director of Konza Biological Station. He was instrumental in establishing the bison herd on Konza Prairie and also studied the effects of grazing and burning on small mammals and grassland birds. In 1989 he became a faculty member at Emporia State and their

University where he served as a professor of biology in the areas of wildlife management, conservation biology, mammalogy, and ornithology. He also managed the ESU Natural Areas with fire and grazing. His students and he studied a wide variety of mammals and birds in the tallgrass prairies of the Flint Hills and their responses to burning, grazing, and other management procedures. In 2001 he moved to Fort Hays State University where he became the Chair of the Department of Biological responses to burning, grazing, and other management procedures. In 2001 he moved to Fort Hays State University where he became the Chair of the Department of Biological Sciences. His current research interests are on habitat fragmentation and grazing and its effects on birds and mammals in the mixed and short grass prairie systems of western Kansas. In particular, he is exploring the effects of continuous grazing and short duration grazing in the Red Hills of Kansas, the effects of CRP on grassland birds, the response of birds to the invasion of eastern redcedar, and the effects of "guzzlers" in the short grass prairie on mesocarnivores and upland game birds.

John Jackson: I will proudly serve the Kansas Section of Society for Range Management, if elected. I jointly own and operate Agricultural Management Group, Inc. (AMG). I work in agricultural and rural development, training, natural resource management, and project assessment and design. I participated in a workshop of the Society for Range Management's Science Education Council, reviewing range curriculum to ensure rangeland professionals are prepared to manage rangelands and to revise curriculum and Office of Personnel Management standards at Society for Range Management Annual Meeting, Oklahoma February 2013.

I conducted activities for USDA, World Bank, USAID-funded projects and other clients in 35 countries, 35 states and on four Indian Reservations. Projects involved livestock and grazing, land reform, market development, irrigation water management, range surveys and assisting NRCS converting range site descriptions to Ecological Site Descriptions. I provide

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John Jackson comments cont'd

range management and monitoring, water management, and human resources services on the Ute Mountain Farm & Ranch Enterprise, on the Ute Mountain Ute Reservation in SW Colorado.
Certification / Activities:

Certified Member, American Society of Agricultural Consultants, President in 1998.

Post Conflict Rehabilitation Effort in Afghanistan, George Mason University, June 2002.

Member Quivira Coalition: Dedicated to environmentally sustainable ranching.

Texas AgFinance Certificate in Advanced Ranch Management at the King Ranch Institute for Ranch Management, Texas A&M University – Kingsville, October 2012.

I have had the pleasure of cooperating with a fair number of excellent rangeland professionals, helping our company implement these activities. I hold a degree in animal science, with a minor in agronomy. My first job in Iran (US Peace Corps) was at 2000 meters in a dry land steppe environment that had been overgrazed for centuries.

I want to give back to the profession of range management in the form of my time and varied experience. I feel the Kansas Section of Society for Range Management is on track with its involvement in youth camps and supporting continuing education through its range schools. I would like to see Kansas Section of Society for Range Management take a larger role in Kansas' natural resource organizations. Our rangeland professionals are the people who actually see producers on a daily basis. They are vital to informing others about how good management benefits our environment and ecosystems.

Director

Jessica Casey: I am from McCracken, Kansas and I am currently pursuing a Master's degree in biology with emphasis in rangeland management from Fort Hays State University. My graduate thesis research is focused on timing and intensity of cattle utilization on yellow bluestem (*Bothriochloa ischaemum*) and native blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*) in the southern mixed-grass prairie. I also received my B.S. degree (2011) from FHSU, in biology with emphasis in botany. During my

summers as an undergraduate, I conducted the National Resources Inventory (NRI) in Kansas, Colorado, and Nebraska under contract with the NRCS. I also spent a summer helping a graduate student with grassland nesting birds study in Gove County, KS. I currently serve as the Kansas section's Historian. I am honored by the nomination.

Justin Edwards is a native of Iowa. He received a B.S. in Forestry from Iowa State University in 2012. He has been a conservation coordinator at Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico and gain experience with patch-burn grazing while in Iowa. He began an M.S. program in range science at Kansas State University in August 2013. His career goals are to work for Extension in a land grant university or for the federal government in the conservation area.

Helena Harmison: I am from Dighton, Kansas and am currently finishing up my Bachelor Degree in Conservation Biology and Biodiversity, I will graduate in December 2013. Currently I am working on an undergraduate research project, focused on plant community dynamics and functional soil properties in a seventy-year-old reclaimed grassland. Since October 2011 I have worked at Sternberg Museum of Natural History as a Herbarium Assistant. In May 2013 I was hired by the USDA-ARS in Cheyenne, WY as a Biological Science Aide, doing mostly vegetation sampling in short-grass prairie. I have also volunteered with Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism on vegetation sampling projects.

Zachary Roth: I was born in Newton, Kansas and raised on a farm North of Sublette, Kansas. Most of the operation was irrigated corn and wheat. In the winter we ran stockers on wheat pasture. I attended Garden City Community College before transferring to Fort Hays State University in 2007. I received my Bachelor degree in biology, with emphasis in plant biology and conservation biology from Fort Hays State after the fall semester of 2010. While attending college I conducted National Resources Inventory (NRI) on Rangelands in Kansas, Nebraska, and Colorado for three summers. I started working for the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Phillipsburg, Kansas in March 2011 as a Soil Conservation Technician. I have worked with farmers and ranchers on numerous projects from various agricultural engineering to completing grazing plans. I look forward to serving the Kansas Chapter, SRM if elected.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 12-14	American Forage & Grassland Council Annual Conference, Memphis, TN http://www.afgc.org
January 22	Prescribed Burning Workshop, Rock Springs 4-H Camp
January 30-31	Kansas Section, Society for Range Management Meeting in conjunction with the Kansas Natural Resources Conference, Wichita, KS http://www.kansasnrc.org
February 5	Prescribed Burning Workshop, Minneapolis, KS
February 8-13	Society for Range Management Annual Meeting & Trade Show, Orlando, FL http://www.rangelands.org/events
February 12	Prescribed Burning Workshop, El Dorado, KS