



Volume 15, No. 1

April, 2006

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dennis Doring

President, Kansas Section, SRM

As I sit down to jot down a few thoughts, the window is open and spring is in the air. Redbuds, dogwoods and plums are blooming. The smell of smoke drifts in. Controlled fires are blazing across the landscape, the county here having been blessed with enough spring moisture to make it possible. It is a season of renewal, revitalization...commitment to a new growing season.

I would offer that on occasion producers and professionals associated with rangeland, need to step back and recommit themselves to what it is that brings them so much; not simply in terms of livelihood, but in the fortunate lifestyle for those who live and work on the range in Kansas—the type of rewards that are not something you can place in your hand.

The Kansas Section of the Society for Range Management offers the opportunity to meet with fellow range enthusiasts and discuss what works in their neck of the woods, what management brings them great satisfaction, and see examples first-hand in the field, and at the same time, support the art of grazingland management and the positive impact it can have on the social, economic and ecological aspects of rangeland.

The most valuable asset the Section has is its members. The sum of their in-the-field, on-the-ranch, in-the-test-plot experience is no small amount of knowledge and wisdom; and only when members venture beyond their immediate everyday routines and meet at a Section gathering do we have the chance to share that knowledge and grow as a supporter of grazingland management. Only then do we reap the true benefits of the Section.

SPRING MEETING AND TOUR

I have organized the spring SRM section meeting to be April 28 and 29 at Garden City, Kansas. We will have the business meeting at the Finnup Center for Conservation Education at 312 East Finnup (near the zoo exit) from 4 to 6 p.m. Dinner will be on your own. A tour of the Oasis Ranch will follow on Saturday from 8:30 to 11:00 a.m. Meet at the parking lot near the Finnup Center. Topics to be viewed and discussed are land ownership arrangements, sand sage prairie management for wildlife, federal programs assistance with rangeland management and research needs to return cropland to sandsage as water levels decrease.

Charlie Lee

Motels in Garden City

Best Western Wheat Lands Hotel
1311 East Fulton Street
800-333-2387

Best Western Red Baron
East Hwy 50 & 83 Bypass
800-333-4164

Comfort Inn
2608 E. Kansas Avenue
800-424-6423

Holiday Inn Express
2502 East Kansas
800-HOLIDAY

National 9 Inn
123 Honeybee Court
800-333-4164

Plaza Hotel
911 East Kansas Avenue
800-875-5201

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

<http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/kssrm>

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EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Subscriptions to the Bluestem Bulletin are available to non-SRM members at \$5 per year. Send remittance payable to the Kansas Section, SRM to Walter Fick, Dept. of Agronomy - TH, Kansas State Univ., Manhattan, KS 66506.

If you would like to receive the Bluestem Bulletin via e-mail please contact me at the above address or at (785) 532-7223 or whfick@ksu.edu.

I encourage members or other readers to submit information to include in the Bluestem Bulletin. Announcements regarding meetings, field days, etc. are welcome. If you would like to write an article related to rangeland management please do so and send it to me.

Submission deadline for the next issue of the Bluestem Bulletin: August 15, 2006

Kling L. Anderson Lecture

The 15th annual Kling Anderson Lecture will be presented on May 3, 2006 by Dr. Patrick I. Coyne of the Western Kansas Agriculture Research Center at Hays. Dr. Coyne, a former student of Kling Anderson, received his B.S. in agronomy from Kansas State University in 1966 and his Ph.D in range science and plant physiology from Utah State University in 1969. Dr. Coyne's presentation is entitled, "Spatial technology applications in precision agriculture and natural systems: integrating the GPS and GIS components." The lecture will be presented at 4 p.m. in 1018 Throckmorton Hall on the campus of Kansas State University in Manhattan.

Tallgrass Legacy Alliance

The Tallgrass Legacy Alliance is holding a field day on May 11, 2006 at the Bill Sproul Ranch near Sedan, KS in Chautauqua County. The ranch is located on State Highway 166, four miles west of the State Highways 99 and 166 junction. Chan Gates of Coldwater, KS will be on hand to discuss grazing methods. Additional topics include: brush control, drought management, plant identification and prairie conservation. The Kansas Section, SRM will be represented. Meeting will begin with a lunch provided at 12 noon. Please RSVP to the Chautauqua County Extension Office at 620-725-5890.

A CONSERVATION FARMER OR RANCHER IS ONE WHO:

USES THE LAND FOR WHAT IT IS BEST SUITED

TREATS IT ACCORDING TO ITS NEEDS

IMPROVES ITS PRODUCTIVENESS

COOPERATES WITH NATURE AND OBEYS HER LAWS

LEARNS TO LOVE AND CARE FOR THE LAND

ALWAYS LEAVES IT BETTER THAN THEY FOUND IT

(Excerpt from talk given by Louis P. Merrill, SCS, Fort Worth, TX, 1949)

SRM Honor Awards

The deadline to nominate individuals for SRM Awards is April 30. These awards include:

Frederic G. Renner
W.R. Chapline Land Stewardship
W.R. Chapline Research
Fellow
Outstanding Achievement
Outstanding Young Range Professional
Sustained Lifetime Achievement

Descriptions of each award and the nomination procedure can be viewed at the following website: http://www.rangelands.org/about_honorawards.shtml.

Previous Award Winners from the Kansas Section

W.R. Chapline Research - Clenton E. Owensby, 2004

Fellow - Arthur J. Armbrust, 1996
Fellow - Gerald W. Sharp, 1978 (Posthumous)
Fellow - Gerald W. Tomanek, 1977

Outstanding Achievement
- Paul D. Ohlenbusch, 2004
- Sharp Bros. Seed Company, 1981
- Kling L. Anderson, 1972

Special Award for Distinguished Service
- Gerald W. Tomanek, 2002

Kansas Section, SRM Awards

The only two awards presented by the Kansas Section are the Excellence in Grazing Management (EGM) Award and the Trail Boss Award.

The objective of Excellence in Grazing Management Award is to give credit to those who have demonstrated excellent skills and knowledge in practicing sound grazing management of their range and associated forage crops. Recognition will be given to rangeland operators for excellence in the application of grazing management, with due consideration to their knowledge and skill. Recognition for this award is not competitive.

Anyone exhibiting a high standard of grazing management and meets the criteria for this award will be recognized. Nominations may be submitted by members of the Society for Range Management, by non-members who are NRCS Conservationists, county agents, or other range technicians who are well acquainted with the operator's ranching operations and management. The Kansas Section, SRM will provide a certificate and/or other appropriate token (s) for those who merit recognition. The Section last presented an Excellence in Grazing Management Award in 2000 to Milfred Drinkgern, Marysville, KS. Prior to that time, the Kansas Section had presented 13 EGM Awards.

The Trail Boss Award is given to a rancher or an individual that has had a significant influence on or other noteworthy accomplishments in the field of range management. A recipient of the Trail Boss Award must be a person who 1) has demonstrated a sincere interest in the development and/or application of range management principles, 2) consciously looks ahead to the improvement of rangelands and to the sound utilization of range resources, and 3) is active in community, state, regional, or national programs which foster sound land use, resource conservation, or the betterment of the range livestock industry. Any member of the Kansas Section, SRM may submit a nominee for the Trail Boss Award. Nominations shall include a biographical sketch of the nominee and summary of their accomplishments or contributions which relate to the stated criteria. Dr. Walter H. Fick is the only recipient of the Trail Boss Award since formation of the Kansas Section in 1992. Fick received the award in 2004. Previous recipients from Kansas that received the Trail Boss Award from the K-O Section were: Art Armbrust, 1984; J. Wendell Eggerman, 1983; and Gerald Tomanek, 1974.

Nominations for the Excellence in Grazing Management and Trail Boss awards should be sent to:

Awards Committee
c/o Dennis Doring
P.O. Box 153
101 West Jerome
Niotaze, KS 67355-0153

Nominations for Section awards are due July 15.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- April 28-29 Kansas Section, SRM Spring Meeting and Tour, Garden City, KS
- May 4 Beef Cattle and Forage Crops Field Day, Mound Valley, KS
- May 10 Kansas Grazing Lands Coalition Initiative, Winfield, KS
- May 11 Tallgrass Legacy Alliance, Bill Sproul Ranch, Sedan, KS
- June 13-14 Low-Stress Livestock Handling Shortcourse, Hamilton, KS
- June 18-23 Nebraska Range Shortcourse, Chadron, NE
- July 11-14 Kansas Range Youth Camp, Rock Springs 4-H Camp
- July 22-26 Soil and Water Conservation Society's Annual Meeting, Keystone, CO
- July 23-26 North American Prairie Conference, Kearney, NE
- August 7-8 Nebraska Grazing Conference, Kearney, NE
- August 22-24 Adult Range Management School, Rock Springs 4-H Camp
- August 29-31 Adult Range Management School, Scott Lake Methodist Camp