



# **BLUESTEM BULLETIN**

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

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Volume 18, No. 1

August, 2009

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

### **Doug Spencer**

President, Kansas Section, SRM

Who'd have thought that late July in Kansas could be so pleasant with highs in the upper 70's to low 80's and morning temperatures that have some people wearing jackets. Field work is more than welcome with that kind of weather but keeps me away from the computer to get newsletter information put together. I'll try to summarize some of the things that are occurring.

The Kansas Section hosted the Range Youth Camp at Camp Mennoscah near Murdock, KS on June 29<sup>th</sup> through July 2<sup>nd</sup>. Presenters included individuals from the Kansas Natural Resources Conservation Service, Kansas State University Research and Extension, Kansas Rural Center, and Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. We had 22 high school students attend with many receiving scholarships via their local conservation district or other local groups. The camp is something our section can be proud of as we are now educating second and third generation campers!

The Section has designed and purchased new "Excellence in Rangeland Management Award" signs thanks to past president Keith Harmony and others. The last award was given back in 2000 which means there should be a backlog of potential award winners just waiting to be nominated. The application for awards can be found on the Kansas section website at: <http://ks.rangelands.org/awards/awards.html>. Originally we wanted the applications submitted by a July 30<sup>th</sup> deadline but due to short turn around time, late nominations will be accepted. Just make sure you get them to Rebecca as soon as possible. I know there are many deserving individuals out there and it's a fantastic

way to inform the public about the Kansas Section of the Society for Range Management.

The Kansas and Oklahoma sections are planning a joint meeting on October 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> in Alva, Oklahoma. A section meeting for Kansas is tentatively scheduled for the evening of the 6<sup>th</sup>. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. The joint meeting will include morning presentations with field tours in the afternoon. As soon as the details are finalized, we'll be posting information on the section website and via a newsletter. We'll present signs and awards during the banquet to those who are nominated and approved for the "Excellence in Rangeland Management Award".

The SRM Board of Directors has voted on and approved the location for the 2013 SRM Annual Meeting. That location will be Oklahoma City, OK. SRM's Executive Vice-President, Ken Johnson, will attend the joint section meeting (October 7-8, 2009 in Alva, OK) and give everyone a better idea of the details. I'm sure that the Oklahoma section will be seeking volunteers and if there are individuals that can assist, please lend a helping hand.

I'd be glad to hear from section members on ways that we as a section can be more effective in accomplishing our society's mission: "to promote the professional development and continuing education of members and the public and the stewardship of rangeland resources". I hope you'll take the opportunity to provide valuable input to our section through attendance at our section meetings or through contacting a Kansas section board member.

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

<http://ks.rangelands.org>

Doug Spencer	President
John Henry	First Vice-President
Cade Rensink	2nd Vice-President
Rebecca Lyons	Director
Joan Gienger	Director
KC Olson	Director
Dustin Tacha	Director
Alex Miller	Secretary-Treasurer
Keith Harmony	Past President
Mike Haddock	Webmaster
Pat Broyles	Historian
Walter Fick	Newsletter Editor

## New Award Sign



**Kansas Range Youth Camp Tour - July 1, 2009  
Byron Walker Wildlife Area, Kingman County**

### 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](mailto:whfick@ksu.edu).

Members or other readers are encouraged 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: September 1, 2009**



**Plant ID Test at Kansas Range Youth Camp**

## Kansas Section, Society for Range Management Minutes

The Fall meeting was called to order by President Keith Harmony on November 12, 2008 at the Golden Corral in Hays, KS. We had 14 in attendance including Chan Glidewell from the Oklahoma SRM Chapter. The minutes from the February meeting were read and they were approved as read. Alex Miller gave a financial report of \$6070.94 and the report was approved by those present. Alex mentioned that KGLC had requested \$650 for Adult Range School Scholarships. We had sent in a \$450 dollar donation this spring. Carol Blocksome moved and it was seconded that we contribute an extra \$200 to cover the cost of the extra students who attended. The motion passed.

Keith Harmony mentioned that there would be a Memorial Breakfast for SRM members who have passed away recently. The group was asked if they had known any former members who had passed on. The names of Mike Pecenka and Rex Naanes were brought up by those present. Keith will submit their names to national headquarters.

Keith also reported on the happenings of the Advisory Council meeting. The Council is recommending meeting locations of Billings, MT (2011), 2012 in Spokane, WA, and 2013 somewhere East of the Rocky Mountains with the American Forage and Grazing Council. Discussion followed on future meeting sites.

Chan Glidewell asked what we thought of holding the meetings in Oklahoma City in 2013. The Oklahoma Chapter had recently been contacted by the national headquarters asking if they would be willing to host such an event. Chan said he had discussed this possibility with the Oklahoma Chapter, however some of the members were hesitant to take on the task due the amount of workload involved. There was discussion on the floor about the responsibility and planning involved in hosting a meeting. Previous experiences were brought up at the Wichita and Kansas City Meetings. Unlike previous meetings, the national headquarters will now assist sections with the important stages of planning. It was mentioned that it would take about 80-90 members to plan and prepare for a meeting.

Chan asked about the possibility of the Kansas SRM Section teaming up with Oklahoma SRM to help plan for the 2013 Annual Meeting. The group showed interest in helping out and Chan said he would set up a meeting in Albuquerque between the two state chapters in February.

Keith Harmony brought up the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Kansas Natural Resources Conference in Wichita. He reminded the group that Kansas SRM will be having a meeting from 4:30-6:00 after the plenary sessions. Harmony also mentioned that he is looking into getting CEU credits for Certified Range Professionals that attend KNRC sessions. Walt Fick said there would be a Prescribed Fire Council meeting held at the KNRC. Harmony asked for volunteers to help with the registration table. Toni Flax, Alex Miller, and John Henry volunteered.

Charlie Lee, who is heading up the Election/Nomination committee is looking for nominations for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President.

Keith Harmony asked the group who would be attending the SRM conference in Albuquerque. About 5 people said they would for sure be able to attend the SRM conference. For those who will be attending the Albuquerque Meetings, Carol Blocksome said there would be a SRM K-State/Ft. Hays mixer held during the meetings.

Walt Fick said Prescribed Fire Council (PFC) is holding burn schools out west. Attendance has been variable but the schools have been productive and well received. He also mentioned that the PFC has approved some by-laws. They now have a steering committee headed by Bryan Alexander, a rancher from Sun City. Fick also mentioned that the PFC is looking into fund-raising methods to carry out its goals. Carol Blocksome mentioned that spot forecasting is now available to producers. The weather service will even call producers back if the weather forecast changes.

Doug Spencer reported good attendance at the Youth Range Camp this summer. Toni Flax said the 2009 Range Youth Camp will be held June 29<sup>th</sup> to July 2<sup>nd</sup> at Camp Mennoscah down by Murdock.

Keith Harmony reported that we have 50 signs for future Range Management Awardees.

We discussed having a joint meeting and a tour with the Oklahoma SRM Chapter. Discussion included possible meeting times and potential tour stops. We discussed touring the Tallgrass Preserve near Pawhuska, OK and possibly Bill Sprouls' Ranch near Sedan, KS. The meeting will most likely be held on a Wednesday and Thursday.

Doug Spencer and Chan Glidewell will discuss further plans and will report back at the next meeting.

**Minutes Continued**

Carol Blocksome said USFWS hopes to demonstrate a new firebreaking device that pre-burns firebreaks this fall.

Keith Harmony presented a certificate to Charlie Lee for serving as president. Dale Ladd and John Henry were also given certificates for their service as directors.

There was a motion from the floor to adjourn, it was seconded, and the meeting adjourned and we commenced on a tour of the K-State Research Farm. The next meeting will be held @ 4:30 January 29th, 2009 at the Kansas Natural Resources Conference in Wichita.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alex Miller

**63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society for Range Management and the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Weed Science Society of America**

Sheraton Denver Hotel  
Denver, Colorado  
February 7-11, 2009

Abstracts for volunteer oral and poster papers, organized oral sessions, and symposia are to be electronically submitted no later than September 1, 2009 via <http://www.rangelands.org/denver2010/>.

The theme of the meeting is "Working Landscapes". Technical and poster sessions will cover a diversity of issues represented by both societies. Paper and poster submissions from all levels, from local to international, are encouraged.

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**First Call for Volunteers**

63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society for Range Management  
50<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Weed Science Society of American

Denver Colorado – February 7-11, 2010



**WORKING LANDSCAPES**

**Providing for the Future**

Here in Colorado, both Societies are working hard laying the groundwork for what is developing into a fun filled and educational week in Denver Colorado.

Volunteers to assist with the running of the day-to-day events and programs are needed. Most of the volunteer work will focus on assisting the moderators and accommodating the speakers.

If you have a desire to help, please contact:

Josh Saunders  
USDA – NRCS  
200 West Railroad Ave.  
Fort Morgan, CO 80701

Work Phone: 970-867-8568 ext. 120

Cell Phone: 970-554-1002

Email: [josh.saunders@co.usda.gov](mailto:josh.saunders@co.usda.gov)

Thank you so much and I look forward to hearing from you!



## Kansas Section, Society for Range Management Minutes

The Kansas Section held its spring meeting in conjunction with the Kansas Natural Resources Conference in Wichita, KS on January 29, 2009. The meeting was opened by the passing of the gavel from Keith Harmony to Doug Spencer. A total of 23 were in attendance.

Minutes of the November 12, 2008 meeting in Hays were read by Alex Miller and approved. He also reported that the current balance for the Section is \$5,975.87. The Section booth at the Kansas Natural Resources Conference cost \$100.

Spencer announced that a joint meeting with the Oklahoma Section would be held October 6-7 in Alva, OK. Tour ideas for the Kansas portion of the meeting are still needed. Ted Alexander's operation was mentioned.

Roger Tacha and Keith Harmony indicated they would be attending the Advisory Council on behalf of the Section at the annual Society for Range Management Meeting in Albuquerque, NM.

The Section Awards Committee is in need of more members. Rebbecca Bergkamp is the chair along with members David Kraft and Cade Rensink. Allen Casey volunteered to serve on the Awards committee.

Names of former SRM members that have passed away in the past year, Mike Pecenka and Rex Naanes, were forwarded to be recognized at the SRM Memorial Breakfast in Albuquerque.

Election Results: Cade Rensink elected 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President; KC Olson and Dustin Tacha elected Directors.

CEU credits for the Kansas Natural Resources Conference can be applied for by signing up at the Kansas Section, SRM booth.

The Kansas Range Youth Camp will be held June 29-July 2 at Camp Mennoscah. Toni Flax is chair. Flyers about the camp are located in the Kansas Section, SRM booth.

The future of the Kansas Natural Resources Conference was discussed. Attendance this year, 231 preregistered plus 25 on-site registrations, is similar to 2008. The Section decided to continue supporting the KNRC. This support means individuals willing serve on various committees.

The Section decided to list the names and contact information for those members that are Certified Range Management Consultants and Certified Professionals in Rangeland Management on the Kansas Section, SRM website.

Tim Christian from the Kansas Grazing Land Coalition thanked the Section for their donation to the adult range management schools. The Section decided to support three students in 2009 attending

the Range Management Schools, up to a maximum amount of \$500.

Respectfully submitted,  
Walt Fick

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Aug 6	Tallgrass Legacy Alliance, EE Ranch, Fall River, KS
Aug 11-12	Nebraska Grazing Conference, Kearney, NE
Aug 11-13	Kansas Rangeland Management School, White Memorial Camp, Morris County
Aug 13	K-State Beef Conference, Manhattan, KS
Aug 15	Grazing Management Workshop with Jim Gerrish, Holton, KS
Aug 18-20	Kansas Rangeland Management School, Camp Aldrich, Barton County
Aug 20	KLA/K-State Field Day, Bill & Bob Edwards, Olsburg, KS
Aug 25	KLA/K-State Field Day, Stroberg Land & Cattle, Hutchinson, KS
Aug 25	Tri-County Range Tour, Longford, KS
Aug 26	Kansas Forage & Grassland Council Tour, Dodge City, KS
Aug 27	KLA/K-State Field Day, Ken & Barb Grecian, Palco, KS
Sept 9	MIG Grazing School, Holton, KS
Sept 23	Prescribed Fire Council, Russell, KS
Sept 24	KSU Stocker Field Day, Manhattan, KS
Oct 7-8	Joint Meeting of Kansas Section and Oklahoma Section, SRM, Alva, OK and Medicine Lodge, KS
Dec 13-16	4 <sup>th</sup> National Conference on Grazing Lands, Reno, NV