



BLUESTEM BULLETIN

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

Volume 21, No. 3

December, 2012

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Jordge LaFantasie

President, Kansas Section, SRM

As I progress through the autumn of my Presidency and look forward to the title of "Past-President," I naturally, look back on the previous year. Since the Fall meeting of 2011 (Cade Rensink Presiding), KS SRM has collaborated with, in one way or another, the National Drought Mitigation Center, Kansas Grazing Lands Coalition, Envirothon, and the SRM parent society. At the 2012 Fall meeting (October 25th, 2012, Kansas Wetlands Education Center, Great Bend), we had SRM members and non-members from private producers, the Washington DC Liason SRM office, the EVP from the Parent Society Office, the SRM Board of Directors (Misty Hays, from Wyoming, USFS), Pheasants Forever, Kansas Grazing Lands Coalition, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, The Nature Conservancy, Playa Lakes Joint Venture, Kansas State University, Fort Hays State University, the Kansas Wetlands Education Center, Sharp Brothers Seed Company and others! Over fifty people attended! SRM is relevant to a variety of groups for a variety of reasons, and the KS SRM section is intimate enough that everyone can become involved.

We have a couple items of business to address this fall. First, I encourage you to read the biographies of the candidates for 2nd Vice-President and the Board of Directors; then, send in your votes. Our new 2nd VP and Board members will be announced at the Spring Meeting in conjunction with the Kansas Natural Resources Conference (KNRC) in January. For more information on the KNRC, please go to <http://www.kansasnrc.org/>. Second, the SRM Advisory Council seeks comments on the Draft Strategic Plan for the SRM. Take a moment to read and weigh in on the document (contained in the newsletter) that will drive the goals and strategies of our Parent Society for the upcoming years. Send your comments to myself, jjlafantasie@fhsu.edu, any member of the KS SRM Board (find contact info at <http://ks.rangelands.org/officers/officers.htm>) or Roger Blew, SRM Advisory Council Chair (rblew@gssif.com) by December 21, 2012. We will make sure your comments

are delivered to the SRM Board of Directors for consideration.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve the KS SRM over the past few years! I am honored that you entrusted myself and your Board with the KS Section's business, and I look forward to working with all of you in the future! Happy winter, and here's to some precipitation!

MINUTES KANSAS SECTION, SRM OCTOBER 25, 2012

President Jordge LaFantasie opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the Fort Hays State University's Kansas Wetlands Education Center @ Cheyenne Bottoms.

The minutes for the last meeting were reviewed by those in attendance. The minutes were approved as read.

In correspondence, President Jordge said SRM received several thank-you notes from last year's attendees to the Annual SRM meetings in Spokane, WA. She also read a funding letter from the Kansas NRCS for the Range Youth Camp. The Kansas Grazing Lands Coalition (KGLC) also thanked the section for sponsoring the Joel Brown workshops this spring.

The financial report was read by Treasurer Alex Miller. The sections current balance is \$5457.54.

Officer Reports

Walt Fick reported that he sent out 424 Bluestem Bulletins through e-mail and the mail. Jaime Holepirek gave the recap of the Board of Directors (BOD) activities. Second Vice President, Dusty Tacha gave a report on the High School Youth Forum (HSYF). He said we do not have a volunteer yet and explained ways Nebraska finds volunteers. Contact Dusty, if you know a high school aged individual who would like to go to the HSYF. Jordge introduced several of the new SRM members in attendance. President Jordge said that Cade Rensink is in the process of coming up with nominees for this winter's election of officers. He will be sending out ballots by early December. Livia Olsen, website manager, is in the process of redesigning the Kansas SRM website. She would like pictures from members to possibly use in the design. Tim Christian gave a report

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

<http://ks.rangelands.org>

Jordge LaFantasie	President
Chris Tecklenburg	First Vice-President
Dusty Tacha	2nd Vice-President
Jamie Holopirek	Director
Glenn Brunkow	Director
Kevin Parsons	Director
Myra Richardson	Director
Alex Miller	Secretary-Treasurer
Cade Rensink	Past President
Livia Olsen	Webmaster
Jessica Casey	Historian
Walter Fick	Newsletter Editor

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

I would encourage you to join or renew your membership with SRM. Forms are available at <http://www.rangelands.org> or if you have questions e-mail srm@allenpress.com or call (800) 627-0326.

Be sure to vote and send comments about the SRM Strategic Plan. 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 at whfick@ksu.edu.

Submission deadline for the next issue of the Bluestem Bulletin: March 1, 2013

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on the Adult Range Schools. Tim started his report by thanking the group for sponsoring two participants for the Eastern School. The east school had 34 participants and the west school had 23 participants. Rancher Cal Adams said the interns that we sponsored received a lot of useful information from the school. Next years, West Adult Range School will be August 6-8th and the East School will be August 20th-22nd.

Old Business

Jordge encouraged the group to review the Society for Range Management's Strategic Plan. She said to contact her if you have comments you would like to pass on to the committee. The next item of business was to seek nominations from the floor for a new Secretary/Treasurer. The old Secretary/Treasurer will be stepping down this year. Jordge said she would like to know who will be attending the annual meetings in Oklahoma City. Contact Jordge LaFantasie if you plan to attend so everyone has an opportunity to carpool. The group decided to let the BOD decide if we will sponsor students wanting to attend the Oklahoma City meetings.

New Business

Dusty Tacha reported on the Young Professional's Conclave and the benefits to those who attend. He explained the program and said to contact him for more info. We are currently looking for representatives. Also in attendance at the meeting was a delegation from the national office. SRM BOD, Misty Hays and Jess Peterson (EVP) gave a report on the activities of the National Organization. She said they are in the process of closing the Lakewood, CO office and transitioning to a virtual office. She also mentioned the strategic plan. Jess Peterson and Kelly Fogarty discussed their activities in Washington D.C. They also discussed a new initiative to livestream symposiums over the internet. Their talks were followed with a Question and Answer session.

Announcements

Chris Tecklenburg said that the Society is selling raffle tickets for the endowment fund. There will be 2500 tickets sold and the drawing will be held at the annual meeting in February. Keith Harmony announced that the KNRC is looking for abstracts for the meeting in January. Following the announcements the meeting was adjourned.

Alex Miller
Secretary/Treasurer

SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT

Draft Vision Statement:

Functioning Rangelands for a Sustainable Future

Draft Mission Statement:

Providing leadership for the Stewardship of Rangelands based on sound ecological principles

Draft Strategic Plan Goals:

Member Development

SRM is a member dependent society and will place member development as a cornerstone to its existence and future. SRM is committed to supporting activities that lead to an increasingly informed member cohort. The process for existing members to renew and new members to join SRM will be seamless and convenient. Key measures for this goal are member uptake of Rangeland Ecology and Management, Rangelands magazine, member attendance at the International Annual Meeting, member attendance at regional meetings sponsored by the International society, and member satisfaction with the membership process.

Public Education

SRM is committed to the dissemination of information leading to the stewardship of global rangelands. Key measures for this goal are the number and diversity of public information bulletins published and/or sponsored by the Society, non-member purchase of SRM publications, and non-member attendance at SRM sponsored meetings.

Maintenance of Standards

SRM is committed to the management of rangelands based on sound ecological principles. To accomplish this goal SRM will promote standards in instruction in rangeland stewardship at all levels (grade school, undergraduate, graduate), provide an international system for professional designation and development, and hold its members to a published code of conduct. Key measures for this goal are the number and diversity of SRM sanctioned educational programs, the number and proportion of members that maintain a professional designation (either through SRM or a similar organization), and the percentage of members adhering to the code of conduct.

Rangeland Advocacy

SRM will provide input and advocacy to policy makers that will enhance the stewardship of global rangelands. SRM, through its leadership and committees, will advocate for policy development and implementation that is driven by sound ecological principles. Key measures of this goal are the number and diversity of submissions sanctioned by SRM to local, regional, and national governing policy makers. A secondary measure will be the adoption of these submissions into the final policy or policy implementation.

Existing Vision Statement

A well-trained and highly motivated group of professionals and rangeland users working with productive, sustainable rangeland ecosystems.

Existing Mission Statement

To promote the professional development and continuing education of members and the public and the stewardship of rangeland resources.

Existing 2002 Strategic Plan Goals:

1 Provide Quality Member Service

SRM is committed to serve the needs of its members in an efficient and effective way. We shall provide means for communication and interaction among our members, provide support to the various Sections of SRM, serve as a clearinghouse for information on meetings and events of interest to our members, and organize meetings of the Society.

2 Promote Professional Education and Development

SRM has the responsibility to assist and encourage the development and maintenance of high levels of professional competence, to develop standards of professional practice and ethics, and to work for proper recognition of rangeland management as a professional field.

Existing 2002 Strategic Plan Goals**3 Enhance External Communication**

SRM shall reach out to all individuals, groups, and organizations with information and educational materials and activities about rangeland resources and their management. We will seek to enhance public awareness of the importance of rangelands, the need for and nature of sound and rational management, and our role as a source of professional expertise.

4 Support Rangeland Science

SRM shall encourage the development, synthesis, dissemination, and application of sound scientific results that are relevant to the present and future needs of rangeland management.

5 Influence Public Policy

SRM shall aggressively seek to influence the development and implementation of public policy that will provide for improving the knowledge base and the incorporation of that knowledge into sound rangeland management actions at the federal, state, and local levels. We shall promote science based rangeland management for the benefit of people and the stewardship of rangeland resources. We shall strive to establish partnerships and joint statements with other organizations with similar objectives and standards.

6 Provide Quality Administration

SRM shall effectively use and accurately report on funds contributed by members and seek to obtain and wisely manage other funds to enhance our capacity to carry out our programs. We shall ensure that paid staff and volunteers who are responsible for personnel, fiscal, and all other activities of the society shall operate in an efficient and effective manner.

KANSAS SECTION SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT OFFICER CANDIDATES**2ND VICE PRESIDENT (1 Position)****WILL BOYER**

Will Boyer works in northeast Kansas as an Extension Watershed Specialist for K-State Research and Extension. His work focuses on assisting livestock producers with water quality protection and restoration practices. This includes presentations at local livestock meetings and one-on-one assistance with water development, livestock distribution, winter feeding practices, and grass buffer systems. Will's work experience also includes Extension Assistant for the Kansas Grazingland Water Quality Education Program, Manager of the Upper Loup Natural Resources District in the Nebraska Sandhills, and cattle ranching. Will has a B.S. in Biology from Chadron State College and a Master's Degree in Environmental Planning and Management from Kansas State University.

TONI FLAX

My name is Toni Flax, I grew up on a Farm/Ranch in South Central KS near Lake City. After graduating from Medicine Lodge High School I attend Pratt Community College and Fort Hays State University. I received a B.S. Degree in Biology with the emphasis being Rangeland Management. I have been working for Kansas NRCS as a Rangeland Management Specialist for 12 years. I currently cover 12 counties in the North West/North Central part of the state. I have been involved with KS SRM Range Youth Camp for 15 years. My husband Jason, our two daughters and I currently reside in Hill City, Ks.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2 Positions)**ALEX MILLER**

I am currently a Range Management Specialist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and I assist offices in Pottawatomie, Riley, Geary, and Wabaunsee counties. In the summers of 2001-2, I started working for the NRCS as a student trainee in New Mexico. In 2003, I graduated from Kansas State University with a bachelor in Agronomy- Range Management and was hired by the New Mexico NRCS as a Range Management Specialist in Datil, NM. In 2005, I transferred back to Kansas where I spent one and half years at the Winfield Field Office. In 2006, I moved to my current location in Westmoreland, KS. I have been an SRM member for 12 years and currently serve as the Secretary/Treasurer for the Kansas Section. For the past two years I have also served as the coordinator for the Kansas Range Youth Camp. In my spare time I enjoy hiking, camping, and working in our orchard with my wife Leah and our daughter Joanna. In the winter time, I help clear brush on the family farm near Miller, KS. I appreciate all of the opportunities SRM has provided me over the years and would be honored to serve on the board of directors.

AARON BALL

I was born and raised in Emporia, Kansas where I went to high school at Emporia High School. I grew up hunting, fishing and camping, which I was fortunate to have access to such opportunities. My grandfather raised a small herd of cattle to provide beef for the family. I have many fond memories of helping him wean cattle, fix fence and burn pastures. After high school, I went to Emporia State University and earned a B.S. degree in Environmental Biology in 2003. While in college I worked for the Flint Hills National Wildlife Refuge and the Marais Des Cygnes National Wildlife Refuge. Shortly after graduation I was hired by SES, Inc. in Merriam, Kansas. SES, Inc. is an environmental and agricultural consulting company. I now live in the Kansas City area and am married with two kids.

I am a Certified Professional in Rangeland Management and for the past nine years I have been responsible for maintaining contracts through the NRCS to conduct National Resources Inventory Grazing Land Data Collection in Colorado, Kansas and Nebraska. I have been in charge of collecting rangeland data, hiring field crews, and conducting quality control checks of the collected data. From 2007 to 2010, I verified rangeland carbon offsets enrolled through a private, voluntary carbon exchange. This project was especially gratifying as I was able to meet with ranch managers and view ranches throughout the midwest and western U.S.

Lastly, I am a technical service provider for the NRCS and am certified in Comprehensive Nutrient Management Planning. I have completed Nutrient Management Plans for livestock producers in Missouri and Iowa. Currently, I am reviewing Nutrient Management Plans submitted as part of an EPA grant throughout the central and western U.S.

JESSICA CASEY

I am from McCracken, Kansas and I am currently pursuing a Master degree in biology with emphasis in rangeland management. My graduate thesis research is focused on timing and intensity of cattle utilization on old world bluestems (*Bothriochloa ischaemum*) and native blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*) in the southern mixed-grass prairie. I attended Fort Hays State University, earning my B.S. degree (2011) 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 a contract with the NRCS. I also spent a summer helping a graduate with a grassland nesting birds study in Gove County. I currently serve as the Kansas section's Historian. I am honored by the nomination.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 3, 2013	Prescribed Burning Workshop, Holton, KS
January 8, 2013	Kansas Grazing Land Coalition, Hesston, KS
January 10, 2013	Prescribed Burning Workshop, Girard, KS
January 19, 2013	Kansas Graziers Association Winter Conference, Salina, KS
January 23, 2013	Prescribed Burning Workshop, Westmoreland, KS
January 24-25, 2013	Kansas Natural Resources Conference, Wichita, KS
February 2-8, 2013	2013 SRM Annual Meeting, Technical Training, and Tradeshow, Oklahoma City, OK
Feburay 28, 2013	Prescribed Burning Workshop, Stull, KS