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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Chris Tecklenburg

President, Kansas Section, SRM

A Rangeland Revival

Greetings! It is an honor and a privilege to serve as president for the Kansas Section Society for Range Management (KSSRM). I want to thank Jodge LaFantasie, as past KSSRM President, for her commitment, dedication and help with the transition process. My hopes as president are to improve, change if needed and give ideas to the Kansas Section. Truth is, time is flying and I have been in maintenance mode since my presidency took effect in January. As president of the Kansas Section Society for Range Management I promise to abide by our section handbook and follow the guidelines of our bylaws in order to improve, maintain or enhance the mission of KSSRM.

Where has time gone? Does time really fly as we get older? Every morning I drive to work the same way. Is it the repetitiveness that makes time fly? Is there anything "new" on that way to work anymore? We can remember many events in our lives and it is usually because it was the "first". For example we can remember the drive to our new workplace for the first time and it seems to take a really long time to get there. But, when you drive back and forth to work every day, after that it takes no time at all, because you're not really writing it down anymore. You don't notice the little things. There's nothing novel about it. The drive becomes monotonous, it becomes somewhat of a tradition and you go through the motions. You don't even have to think about stopping at a stop sign it becomes so natural. Has our view, the way we conduct business, and our decisions in regards to rangeland management become somewhat of tradition and natural?

The last 10 years as a Rangeland Management Specialist I have been guilty of not viewing the details of my drive to work. I felt confident at accomplishing the mission of helping people help the land. I could recognize a resource concern and help improve, maintain and enhance that concern with a conservation practice. I

understood what plants were supposed to be where and how much of them were allowed. I had the tools to monitor and fix the concerns both short and long term. What I wasn't seeing along the way was that it wasn't the conservation practice that was fixing the concern. The practice was the indirect method of fixing the concern. What directly was fixing the concern involved a deeper understanding of the system.

On my drive as a Rangeland Management Specialist I failed to see the soil dynamic properties that affected the growth of those plants. The way I conducted business became somewhat programmed, somewhat routine. It was safe for me to think that if I take care of the above ground growth then that will take care of the below ground stuff. Nothing wrong with that statement except that it limits what you see on your way to work and management becomes more of a routine or possibly a tradition than an understanding.

Prior to noticing how precipitation really effects grass growth I understood it to be a certain amount per year, an average. I could subtract or add to the total amount of production by weight that an acre of land was to produce for the year based on the precipitation that was received. This was important in order to determine stocking rates prior to and during the season. Again, nothing wrong with that but, here are other considerations in regards to precipitation. We know from historic data that the Flint Hills region of Kansas receives on average 31-38" a year. Climate data history reveals to us that June typically has the most rainfall and January is the driest. Most of the rainfall occurs as high-intensity, convective thunderstorms. The annual snowfall averages 14 to 20 inches. Drought will occur an average of 3 times in a 30 year period. By the end of July 86% of grass growth will have occurred and 27" of rainfall should have occurred from the prior year November until end of current year July. All of this rainfall is not directly related to total annual production. We should expect 18-22% to be lost through interception. Precipitation interception is the stopping, interrupting, or temporary holding of descending precipitation in any form by mulch, a vegetative canopy,

Cont'd on Page 2

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Chris Tecklenburg	President
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Will Boyer	2nd Vice-President
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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

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.

A number of exciting events are taking place this summer in Kansas and the region. Be sure to take a look at the events posted on the Calendar. Most have an associated website to gather further information. Contact me if you have any questions about these events. 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: September 1, 2013

President's Corner continued from page 1

vegetation residue or any other physical barrier. If trees/shrubs exist your interception combined with litter loss could be up to 80%. Water that does reach the ground may penetrate into the soil by the process of infiltration. In the tallgrass prairie we could expect 80% of the rainfall to reach the mineral soil. This of course will depend on soil properties and above ground biomass. If the rate of rain exceeds the infiltration rate a considerable amount of erosion and runoff might take place, thereby reducing the proportion of water that moves into the soil. Once water penetrates the soil, some of it is subject to downward percolation and eventual loss from the root zone by drainage. It doesn't stop there, we could go on and on. It is more than just an average and how much from departure we are in terms of our average rainfall when determining total pounds of production for a forage/animal balance. It is an understanding of the above ground vegetative cover and management. It is an understanding of the soil and soil dynamic properties. It is an understanding of the ecology of the system.

A Rangeland Revival is prevalent. A change in the way we view things in regards to rangeland management is imminent. An understanding of the ecology of the system is needed in order to understand the Health of the system. These are exciting times we live in. So, the next time on your way to work, try and view something about the trip that you have never realized before and see if it does not change the way you view your trip every day.

Please let me know how I can be of assistance to you as president of KSSRM, please e-mail with questions, comments or concerns to chris.tecklenburg@ks.usda.gov.

MuskThistle



<http://www.ksre.ksu.edu/bookstore/pubs/L231.pdf>

Minutes Kansas Section Meeting

24 January 2013 @ KNRC

President Jodge LaFantasie opened the meeting at the Kansas Natural Resources Conference in Wichita, KS by turning over the presidential position to Chris Tecklenburg. President Chris introduced the new officers: Will Boyer, 2nd VP; Brian Zinke, Secretary/Treasurer; Alex Miller, Director; and Aaron Ball, Director.

President Chris presented awards to Jodge LaFantasie, Jamie Holopirek, and Alex Miller for their services as President, Director, and Secretary/Treasurer, respectively.

The minutes for the previous meeting were reviewed by those in attendance and were approved.

The financial report was read by Treasurer Brian Zinke. The section's current balance is \$5620.29.

Officer Reports

Past President Jodge announced that if anyone would like to make a nomination to contact her. Walt Fick talked about the hard copies of ballots sent out and the balloting process. Jessica Casey reported that she has sent reports to Livia Olsen for the website. President Chris reported that the section has 94 members, with 3 new members (1 adult, 2 students).

Walt Fick reported on the Adult Range Schools. There were two schools, an eastern and western. The western was at Camp Lake Side and utilized the Nature Conservancy's Smoky Valley Ranch; it had 23 participants. The Eastern was at Camp Wood near Elmdale; it had 35 participants. This year's Adult Range Schools will be August 6-8th for the western and August 20-22nd for the eastern.

The section's large display is still currently a work in progress.

Old Business

Dusty Tacha has taken over as coordinator for the youth camp. The date and location for this year's camp is June 25-28th at Camp Mennoscah. He discussed the potential location change, but opted to stay at the same location this year. Flyers will be coming out soon. Dusty mentioned interest from out-of-state students for the camp and the protocol for accepting out-of-state students. There will be a \$30 increase in price this year for the camp, for a total of \$250/student.

New Business

Proxies are needed for the Advisory Council Meeting for SRM in Oklahoma City, OK. Volunteers are also needed for the meeting in Oklahoma City. Contact Keith Harmoney or Chris Tecklenburg if you are able to.

Tim Christian requested sponsorship for the Kansas Grazing Lands Coalition. Walt Fick reported that the cost of the Adult Range School is about \$150/student. We had two students last year, and have had out-of-state applicants this year from Wisconsin, Missouri, and Colorado.

Dusty Tacha moved to allot up to \$1000 for students attending the SRM meeting in Oklahoma City, OK. Past President Jodge seconded the motion. Motion was approved by vote with one opposed.

Past President Jodge proposed funding the Kansas Grazing Lands Coalition (KGLC). Dusty motioned to fund \$300 to support the KGLC. The motion was seconded, and approved with no opposition.

Tom Meek discussed the Kansas Envirothon and asked for financial and technical support from the section. Locations will be at Lake Wilson and Lake Parsons. Rangelands are one of the selected topics this year. A motion to support the Envirothon with \$300 was seconded and approved with no opposition.

Announcements

Keith Harmoney mentioned that if anyone would like continuing education credits for attending the KNRC to talk to him. A call for locations for the fall KSSRM meeting was announced. Following the announcements the meeting was adjourned.

Brian Zinke
Secretary/Treasurer



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 7, 2013	Tri-County Rangeland Workshop, Woodston County Fishing and Wildlife Area
June 21-22	Learning to Burn in the Grazing Season, Stillwater, OK www.agronomy.ksu.edu/extension/doc4311.ashx
June 25-27, 2013	North American Invasive Plant Ecology & Management Short Course, North Platte, NE http://ipscourse.unl.edu/
June 25-28, 2013	Kansas Range Youth Camp, Camp Mennoscah, Murdock, KS
June 27, 2013	Tallgrass Legacy Alliance Ranch Tour at Stotts Ranch, Fredonia, KS
August 6-8, 2013	Mid-Shortgrass Prairie School, Camp Lakeside, Scott County Lake, KS www.kglc.org
August 12-14, 2013	America's Grasslands: The Future of Grasslands in a Changing Landscape, Manhattan, KS http://nwf.org/grasslandsconference
August 13-14, 2013	Nebraska Grazing Conference, Kearney, NE http://grassland.unl.edu/web/grassland/current-conference
August 20-22, 2013	Principles of Rangeland Management School, Camp Wood, Elmdale, KS www.kglc.org