



**NE Section Council**

**President:**  
Brad Schick

**Incoming President:**  
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**Past President:**  
Jack Arterburn

**Council Members:**  
Laura Rubeck  
Kyle Schumacher

**Secretary-Treasurer:**  
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**Newsletter Editor:**  
Emma Barnett

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# Nebraska Section Society for Range Management Newsletter



**Message from the President** by Brad Schick

Greetings!

As drought continues to plague our state and the surrounding states, our pasture quality as well as our attitudes seem to be declining quickly. Plain and simple, most producers are tired and many have had to make many difficult decisions this year. Some of these decisions are even more severe than had to be made exactly one decade ago even though the market continues to be strong for those forced to sell cows or calves. But, that's one of the reasons why we are here. That's why our organization exists. Tough years make managing hard. Years such as this show the weaknesses and strengths of our management plans and how they need to

evolve over time with the wrinkles that are thrown at us.

Drought forces a separation of grass management into the good, the bad, and the ugly. Now of course even the best manager can't change the precipitation, but we all know that on the flip side, above average rain often makes the ugly management look good. I encourage you all to continue to help one another in this tough time and to bring those innovative ideas that we used this year or will be used in the future to our Annual Meeting in October. What a great opportunity we will have to share the successes and failures we have all experienced and been a part of this year.

I want to thank those on the planning committee who are putting together a great meeting this fall. I also want to thank everyone who helped with the Range Camp and those who are getting ready for Range Judging and Land Judging this fall as well. Our industry, livelihood, and overall future depends on the continuation of education, experience, and interactions we have with one another. I can't help but have passion and be humbled by everyone who gives their blood, sweat, and tears for our range and pasture systems. I look forward to seeing you all this fall!

Thank you,

**Brad**

**Historian's Report** by Jeff Nichols

**DO YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED IN THE NEBRASKA SECTION.....**

**Five Years Ago (2017)**

The Nebraska Section officers were: Jeff Nichols, President; Karla Jenkins, Past President; Anthony Perlinski, President Elect; Angie Petersen, Secretary-Treasurer; Laura Rubeck, Newsletter Editor; Mitch Stephenson and Lance Schutte were Council members.

The Nebraska State Envirothon contest was held in the Wildcat Hills State Recreation Area near

Gering-Scottsbluff. The winning team was from Omaha's Concordia High School. Concordia went on to compete in the National Envirothon held in Emmitsburg, Maryland on July 25-29<sup>th</sup>.

The 2017 Nebraska Range Youth Camp was held at the Nebraska State 4-H Camp near Halsey, NE on June 5-9<sup>th</sup>. There were 30 campers in attendance.

The 2017 summer grazing tour was held by the Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition (NGLC), Nebraska extension, and the Nebraska Environmental Trust in south central Nebraska near the commu-

nities of Reynolds, Belvidere and Bruning. Grazing strategies were observed on the Bruning and Lange Ranches. Frank Bruning was honored by NGLC with the lifetime achievement award.

**Ten Years Ago (2012)**

The Nebraska Section officers were: Curtis Talbot, President; Michael Croxen, Past President; Jon Soper, President Elect; Leslie Stewart-Phelps transitioning to Angie Petersen, Secretary/Treasurer; Kristin Miller, Newsletter Editor; Cindy Tusler and

*Continued on Page 4*

# 2022 Annual Meeting

**O'Neill, NE**

**October 19-20**

**Meeting Location:**  
Handlebend Building  
www.handlebend.com/tap

**Recommended Lodging:**  
Holiday Inn Express, (402) 336-4500  
Super 8, (402) 413-6609

**Theme/Focus:**  
Fighting cedar encroachment through  
system planning and interagency  
collaboration.



**PHOTO FOCUS** by Nadine L. Bishop, NOWCC/Nebraska  
NRCS—ACES Range Management Support



*Green milkweed*

Green milkweed, *Asclepias viridiflora*, is also known as green comet milkweed, green antelopehorn, and short green milkweed. Green milkweed is one of seventeen milkweeds that occur in Nebraska.

Green milkweed plants can be erect but tend to lay over and grow from 4 to 40 inches tall. The plants are typically solitary but when they are not, they do not grow in large colonies. Green milkweed's leaves are variable in in both arrangement and size. Leaves can be wide or narrow or both wide and narrow on the same plant, and can be opposite, subopposite, or alternate or all three on the same plant. Leaves can also be either have wavy margins or flat margins. The upper leaf surface is dark green, and the lower surface is a lighter green.

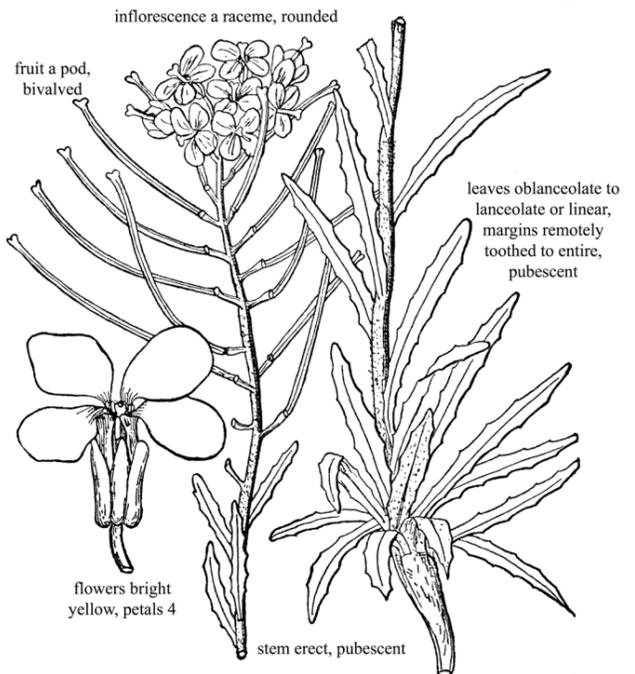
Green milkweed's inflorescence is an umbel with 1 to 3 inflorescences per plant. These umbels are flattened or rounded. The inflorescences may be sessile or have short peduncles and usually face downward. Flowers are odorless, have greenish petals which turn yellow with age, reflexed petals, and greenish hoods without horns.

Green milkweed is found throughout Nebraska, usually as solitary individuals in lightly grazed pastures. Green milkweed blooms in May through July.

## Range Plant ID Pop Quiz

Can you identify this Nebraska range plant? Bonus points for scientific name, life span, origin, and growth form!

*Answers on page 4.*



## Request for Award Nominations by Jack Arterburn

Please consider recognizing individuals for the Nebraska Section SRM awards.

The Rangeman's Award recognizes operations (individuals, families, or groups) who are exemplifying excellence in their stewardship of the rangeland resource through their management skills and commitment. The nominees do not have to be members of the NE Section.

The Range Management Service Award recognizes professionals who are members of the Nebraska Section and are contributing significantly to the furtherance of the activities of

the Section through time, dedication, and commitment to the wise use of Nebraska's rangeland resources.

The Outstanding Young Range Professional recognizes members 40 years old or younger who are contributing at a high level to the range profession in Nebraska. Nominations should include the nominator's name, phone number and e-mail address and the nominee's name, address, education, training, experience, professional potential, leadership skills and examples, SRM or range activities, community involvement and any other pertinent info to their accomplishments.

The Special Award occasionally recognizes one of its members for outstanding work on a certain activity or project or sustained dedicated service who may have previously received the Service Award and continue to contribute at a high level or has excelled at a rangeland related project or activity.

Please consider taking the time to nominate or partner with others to develop a nomination. Inform me if you intend to submit a nomination to prevent duplicated efforts. **Nominations are due to Jack Arterburn by September 15<sup>th</sup>.**

Thank you!

## 2022 Nebraska Youth Range Camp by Blair Hartman, Co-Director

The Nebraska Youth Range Camp just wrapped up the 58th year of hosting camp. We returned to the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture in Curtis, NE on June 6 - 9, 2022. Camp was lead by Co-Directors Sara Wahl, Blair Hartman, and Shelly Kelly. Forty-two students from all across Nebraska took part in the four-day long camp. The students learned about ecological sites, stocking rates, prescribed fire, wildlife, ranch economics, similarity index, ruminant nutrition, and so much more.

All activities that the campers participate in count towards points to earn the top "Crew" award and top individual for the week. The top crew for the week was 7-V lead by Travis Millikan. His crew was made up of Joe Barenberg, William Skibinski, Isaac Goosey, Adian Choat, and Josette McConnel.

The overall top new camper went to Braelynn Schlenger of Erickson and the top returning camper went to Gracie Ackles of St. Paul. The top newcomer exam award went to Zoe Fornander of Sidney. Range Camp had nineteen ranch sponsors this year, along with a generous donation from Farm

Credit Services of America in North Platte, Adam's Land and Cattle in Broken Bow, and the World Wildlife Fund. This helped us continue to offer an affordable registration fee to campers. We want to give a very special thanks to all of those who helped make camp possible, especially our Crew Bosses

who helped us throughout the entire week. This year our crew bosses included: Isabel Gains, Travis Millikan, Alissa Millikan, Amanda Hefner, Matt Zvolanek, Sheridan Wilson, and Kate Nootenboom. Shelly Kelly served as both a co-director and a crew boss this year. Also serving as co-directors for camp were Sara Wahl and myself, Blair Hartman.

We are excited to return to Curtis, Nebraska in 2023.



## On the Nebraska Section SRM Council Board!

If you are interested in joining the Nebraska SRM Section Council Board, contact Committee Chairman, **Bob Browleit**, at (308) 240-0420 or [bentbarc@gmail.com](mailto:bentbarc@gmail.com).

## Historian's Report *continued from page 1*

Bob Broweleit were Council Members.

The Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition (GLCI) along with the NE Section SRM held a multi stop tour in the Nebraska Sandhills. Approximately 230 people attended the tour. Tour stops included the Abbot unit of the Rex Ranch south of Ashby, the Tippets-Myers Ranch where Lynn Myers discussed how the unique characteristics of the sandhills allow their ranch to thrive. The final stop of the tour was at the Blue Creek unit of the Turner Sandhills Enterprises Ranch north of Lewellen where participants got a close look at the bison operation and the headwaters of Blue Creek. Beef and bison were served at a cook-out to wrap up the day.

The 49<sup>th</sup> annual Nebraska Youth Range Camp was held at the 4-H Camp near Halsey on June 11<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup>. The overall top camper was Taylor Hornickel from Ord. The top first year camper was Jared Crosley from Wilsonville.

### Twenty Years Ago (2002)

The Nebraska Section officers were: Walt Schacht, President; Lora O'Rourke, Past President; Teri Edeal, President Elect; Bob Sprentall, Secretary/Treasurer; Sherry Connot, Newsletter Editor; Scott Willet and Al Steuter were Council members.

The Nebraska Section Council and many of the Committee Chairs met to discuss the sections future direction, goals, and objectives. Many ideas and potential programs were discussed, although no one had a clear view of how to make these ideas come to fruition. There was general agreement that the section members would need to commit themselves to the section mission and periodically review where they could make a difference. Youth educational programs such as High School Youth Forum, Range Judging, and the Range Youth Camp were cited as some of the sections most consistent successes.

The 39<sup>th</sup> annual Range Youth Camp was held June 17-21, 2002, at the Nebraska State 4-H Camp near Halsey. The overall top camper and top returning camper was Tim Roggasch of Rose. The top first year camper was Jesse Ziegler from Ericson and the runner-up first year camper was Brady MaCumber from At-

kinson.

### Thirty Years Ago (1992)

The Nebraska Section Officers were: Catherine Mills, President; Sheila (Valasek) Luoma, President Elect; Cort Dewing, Past President; Daryl Cisney, Secretary Treasurer; Mary Schrader, Newsletter Editor; and James O'Rourke and John Gross were Council Members.

Chadron State College signed a cooperative agreement with the University of Nebraska - Lincoln where a student could obtain a degree in range management from Chadron by attending two or three years at Chadron State and one or two years at UNL.

### Forty Years Ago (1982)

The Nebraska Section officers were: Jim Stubbendieck, President; Jim Emal, Past President; Mick Helberg, President Elect; Lowell Moser, Secretary- Treasurer; Steve Waller, Newsletter Editor; George Chavez and Irene Graves were Council members.

on January 29 through February 1, 2012. The meeting theme was "Lessons from the Past - Strategies for the Future". Nebraska had a good showing at the meeting despite travel budget limitations.

The High School Youth Forum representatives from the NE Section placed very well. Laura Gorecki from Farwell placed 4<sup>th</sup> with her presentation "Hay, It's What's for Dinner" and Kassidy Linabery from Valentine placed 5<sup>th</sup> with her presentation titled "Diversity of Cherry County". Teyvn Baldwin from Mitchell also presented on "Sainfoin- A New Solution".

At the SRM meeting in Spokane, Curtis Talbot was elected as the Chair - Elect of the Advisory Council for a two-year term. Kristin (Miller) Dickinson was presented the Outstanding Young Range Professional Award at the Societies Honor Awards Ceremony. UNL student Jeanna (Jenkins) Boland, was elected the 2012/13 Reporter and Katie Whalen was elected as Secretary for the Student Conclave. There were five graduate students from UNL who made presentations on their graduate research projects.

### Twenty Years Ago (2002)

The Nebraska Section officers were: Walt Schacht, President; Lora O'Rourke, Past President; Teri Edeal, President Elect; Bob Sprentall, Secretary/Treasurer; Sherry Connot, Newsletter Editor; Scott Willet and Al Steuter were Council members.

The 55<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Society for Range Management was held in Kansas City from February 14<sup>th</sup> through the 19<sup>th</sup>. The Nebraska Section was well represented with 75 people attending the Section dinner.

The High School Youth Forum participants that represented the Nebraska Section were Farris Williams and James Winchester. Joye Kreycik, who won the speaking contest in Hawaii the previous year, returned to present in Kansas City at the Membership Awards Ceremony.

Students from Chadron State College participated in the public speaking, undergraduate Range Management Exam (URME) and Plant ID contest. In the speaking contest, Kelli Carr of Burwell placed second and Miranda Kujath of Fairbury placed seventh. Chadron placed third in the College Display Contest.

Seven students from UNL also attended the meetings and participated in the undergraduate contests. Kristin Nollette of Nenzel placed 14<sup>th</sup> in the URME contest and the team placed tenth.

