



NE Section Council

President:
Ben Beckman

Incoming President:
Laura Rubeck

Past President:
Brad Schick

Council Members:
Cheryl Dunn
Kyle Schumacher

Secretary-Treasurer:
Angie Peterson

Newsletter Editor:
Emma Barnett

Inside this issue:

Range Management Service Award	2
Outstanding Young Professional Award	2
Excellence in Rangeland Management	3
Photo Focus	3
Endowment Fund	4
Thank You	4

Nebraska Section Society for Range Management Newsletter



Message from the President by Ben Beckman

It's hard to believe that over three months has already passed since our annual meeting in October. It was so good to see everyone in person once again, and I hope a good time was had by all. I'd like to give a special thank you to Angie Peterson and Kyle Schumacher who did so much with organizing the meeting and tour.

After having some time to reflect on the meeting, two big challenges range managers will face in 2023 seemed to be pretty apparent: woody encroachment and drought. Drought has been the word on everyone's lips this past year, and it will remain so through 2023 in one way or another. We will either be dealing

with continued dry conditions (I hope this doesn't happen), or we will be helping in the recovery from last year's impact. As for woody encroachment, I think our speakers did a great job laying out the problems we face. You are either dealing with loss of rangeland to trees already or will be soon.

While these issues are a challenge to rangeland across the state, they provide us with an opportunity to help lead the way. We must actively step up to the plate. Sure, we will all be pulled into these fights through our regular work, but that's not the same as pooling the connections, resources, and people we as a section have to-

gether and helping lead the charge. To do this, we need a strong and active section: active committees, involvement on the state and national levels, and recruitment of new members. This is a goal I have for the section in 2023, and I hope to be sharing progress on it as we move through the next year.

Finally, I'm looking forward to seeing those of you who can make it at the annual SRM meeting in Boise in February. Nebraska has a great section with lots to be proud of. It's great to be able to share that with our peers in other states.

Ben

Historian's Report by Jeff Nichols

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

Five Years Ago (2017)

The Nebraska Section officers were: Anthony Perlinski, President; Jeff Nichols, Past President; Mitch Stephenson, President Elect; Angie Petersen, Secretary-Treasurer; Laura Rubeck and Amanda Hefner, Newsletter Editors; Lance Schutte and Jack Arterburn were Council members.

The Nebraska Section meeting was held at Chadron, NE on October 17th -19th. The Nebraska Section Range Service Award was presented to Angie Petersen of North Platte. The Rangeman's award was presented to the RGM Corp, Mathewson Family of Sidney, NE. The two NE Section SRM scholarships were presented to Cecile Renfro from UNL and Kortni Burnett from CSC.

BaiLee McMillan from Broken Bow high school and Clancy Wal-

thers from Loup City high school presented at the NE section meeting and were selected to participate in the High School Youth Forum at the International SRM meetings in Nevada.

Daryl Cisney was recognized at the meeting for his extensive contributions to the Nebraska Range Judging program. He served for 32 years on the NE State Range Judging Committee in many capacities.

Continued on Page 5...

Schutte Receives Nebraska Section Range Management Service Award

by Laura Rubeck, Incoming President

Lance Schutte, of Clay Center, Nebraska, was recently awarded the 2022 Range Management Service Award at the Society for Range Management's (SRM) Nebraska State Section Meeting October 19-20, 2022 in O'Neill, Neb. The Range Management Service Award recognizes SRM members who have made outstanding contributions in service to the range industry or profession. Originally from the Hastings Neb. area, Schutte attended Chadron State College for his undergraduate degree and Colorado State University for MS degree. Schutte, has been employed as the Range and Forage Manger at the United States Meat Animal Research Center (USMARC), near Clay Center Nebraska since 2015.

Schutte has been a dedicated member of the Nebraska Section of SRM and has served in several capacities and roles in recent years. Schutte has chaired the Membership Committee since 2017, representing the section at both the state and international level. His service on the Nebraska Section Council beginning in 2017, then as President of the NE Section in 2020, ending his term as the Past President and Awards Committee Chair in 2021. Schutte hosted the Section meeting and tour at USMARC in Clay Center, Neb., in 2019. Schutte and his wife Alicia live in Clay Center, NE, and have two children. He serves his community as a volunteer fireman and EMT. He is an avid fisherman, hunter, and trapper and loves to attend Husker football games in the fall as well.



SRM 2022 Range Management Service Award recipient, Lance Schutte

Beckman Recognized as Outstanding Young Range Professional

by Laura Rubeck, Incoming President



SRM 2022 Outstanding Young Range Professional Award recipient, Ben Beckman

Ben Beckman of Hartington, Neb., was recently awarded the 2022 Outstanding Young Range Professional Award at the Nebraska Society for Range Management's (SRM) State Meeting October 19-20, 2022, In O'Neill, Neb. This award recognizes contributions of younger rangeland professionals in the advancement of the art and science of rangeland management.

Beckman has served northeast Nebraska as the Extension Educator since 2018, with a variety of range and pasture management programming and advice. Beckman has assumed several leadership roles in groups such as the Beef Interest Group and the Pasture and Forage Minute weekly radio program. He has also organized numerous workshops and field tours focused on range and forage management.

Originally from Elgin, Neb. Beckman earned both his undergraduate and graduate degrees in Agronomy from the University of Nebraska - Lincoln. Soon after graduation in 2014, Beckman began working in Extension. He currently serves producers and clients within Knox, Cedar, Antelope, Peirce, and Madison counties.

Within the scope of SRM, Beckman is a member of the Nebraska Section Council as is the current 2022-2023 SRM President. Beckman is also an active member of the State Range Judging Committee. Beckman, along with his wife and family currently reside in Hartington, Neb.

Rasmussen Recognized for Excellence in Rangeland Management

by Laura Rubeck, Incoming President

M. Wayne Rasmussen along with his wife Judy of Plainview, Neb., were awarded the 2022 Nebraska Section, Society for Range Management (SRM), Rangeman's Award. This award recognizes ranchers for their outstanding success in management and improvement of Nebraska's rangeland resources.

Wayne has managed his rangelands in central Knox County and has been a leader for rangeland advocacy across the entire state of Nebraska for decades. Raised on an eastern Nebraska farm, he has a lifetime of experience in caring for the land, his cattle, and family. Tuned in with proven, rangeland science, Wayne has adapted his grazing management to thrive in his grassland environment.

A life-long learner of soil and plant health, Rasmussen endeavors himself towards opportunities to improve his pasture quality for livestock and wildlife. He kept his grass profitable even in the face of broad scale conversion of rangelands to row-crop agriculture. He is a leader in utilizing prescribed fire in managing his pastures in Knox County and played a key role in developing two regional burn

associations. Additionally, he founded The Grassfed Exchange program, and serves on the Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition Board of Directors. Together, both he and Judy have been actively engaged in their local community. Wayne has previously served as a member of the Plainview-Brunswick Community Foundation; and Judy, serving prior as an officer on the Northeast Nebraska Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D).

Among Wayne's attributes, appreciation to continue learning and following proven, science-based management, hallmarks his character. Not surprisingly, Rasmussen has developed a lengthy resume of completed classes, trainings, and workshops to better himself as a ranch manager. Wayne; however, counts the conversations he and Judy have shared across the hood of the pickup with neighbors



SRM 2022 Rangeman's Award recipient, Wayne Rasmussen

and natural resources professionals, the most memorable.

Wayne and Judy's lifetime of rangeland stewardship, advocacy and education for grass-fed beef systems, and combined leadership in their local community makes them both a priceless asset to Nebraska's ranching community and well-deserving of the Rangeman's Award.

Photo Focus by Nadine L. Bishop, NOWCC/Nebraska NRCS—ACES Range Management Support



This week we're continuing our swing across the state with a plant that is only found in the southwest corner and southern tier of counties in the Panhandle. Spotted evening primrose is found primarily along dry edges of playas in the High Plains. Since most of our playas are farmed spotted evening primrose is fairly rare in Nebraska.

Spotted evening primrose (*Oenothera canescens*) is also known as beak-pod evening primrose and is a perennial, native forb. It is the only evening primrose that is pink with darker spots; all evening primroses have a cross-shaped stigma which extends beyond the flowers' stamens. Spotted evening primrose is easy to overlook except when flowering. It is usually between four and eight inches tall. It grows from slender rhizomes. The stems are decumbent to erect and the lower stems have many branches. The stems are pubescent and the type of pubescence ranges from finely strigose (short, stiff, appressed hairs) to canescent (covered with fine, short, white or gray hairs). The leaves are alternate may either be sessile or have short petioles. The leaf margins are variable and may be entire, sinuate, or denticulate (toothed). The leaves are finely strigose.

The inflorescences are solitary flowers with 4 petals and 4 sepals. The sepals are reflexed and some or all are fused. The petals are typically pink with red spots or stripes, but occasionally are white. Spotted evening primrose usually blooms from late May to mid-July but occasionally blooms into September.

Endowment Fund by Tate Lantz, Endowment Fund Development Committee Chair

Ensure Your Legacy Includes Sustainable Rangelands

When you give to the Society for Range Management Endowment Fund, we will put it to work ensuring the future of sustainable rangelands across the world. As Barry Perryman says, "We want to be relevant to SRM members not born yet!" You can help sustain SRM through the giving of property and/or other assets to the SRM Endowment Fund.

The methods include:

- Provide a bequest
- Cash Gift
- Property gifts
- Gift of Life Insurance
- Gift life insurance
- Create a trust
- Honor Groups

Cash gifts by check or credit card are the simplest way to make a gift to SRM. The full amount qualifies as a gift tax deduction and will come from the top of your income – the part that would be taxed most heavily. The ceiling on your income tax charitable deduction is now 50% of gross adjusted income for gifts to qualified charitable institutions, such as SRM.

Contributions by sending a check made out to SRM Endowment Fund to Society for Range Management, 810 E. 10th Street, Lawrence, KS 66044.

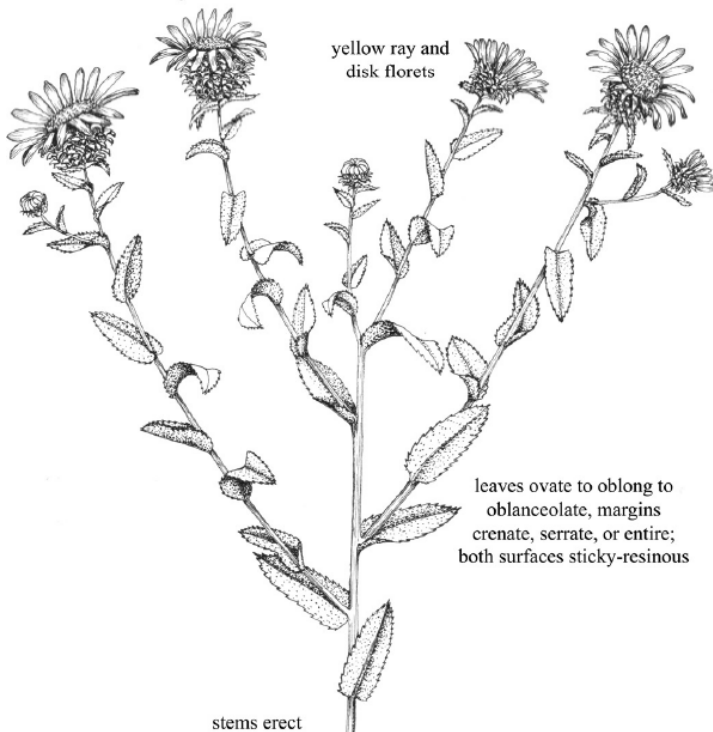
Or, donate now online at:
<https://srm.allenpress.com/srm/DONATE.aspx>

You may also phone in your donation by calling the SRM Business Office at 1-785-865-9456.

Please go to the website for full information at <https://rangelands.org/endowment-fund/> Your cash gift immediately starts doing the good you intend but all legacy giving will make a significant contribution to the future of SRM. You can help ensure your legacy includes sustainable rangelands.

Range Plant ID Pop Quiz

inflorescence a head, bracts imbricate and sticky-resinous



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

Answers on page 5.

Thank You from Ben Beckman

Thank you to the section, and especially those who nominated me for the Young Range Professional Award. Ever since being bitten by the range judging bug in high school, SRM has been a part of my path throughout my education and early career. It is an honor to be recognized by such an outstanding group.



On the Nebraska Section SRM Council Board!

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

Historian's Report *Continued from Page 1*

The Nebraska State Range Judging contest was held in Keith County near Ogallala. It was the largest state contest to date with 536 participants. The top senior individual was Westly Wach from Hayes Center, and the top junior and overall champion individual was Sheridan Wilson from Arthur County. The top Senior team and overall champion was from West Holt high school. The top Junior team was from Hayes Center.

Ten Years Ago (2012)

The Nebraska Section officers were: Jon Soper, President; Cutis Talbot, Past President; Bob Broweleit, President Elect; Angie Petersen, Secretary/Treasurer; Kristin Dickenson (Miller), Newsletter Editor; Cindy Tusler and Karla Jenkins were Council Members.

The Nebraska Section annual meeting was held October 9-11, 2012, at Ogallala. The theme of the program was maximizing the potential of your ranch by incorporating ecotourism and recreation. The tour included a visit to the Keystone Sod Farm and the Eldridge Unit of the Rex Ranch.

The two \$1,000 NE Section scholarships were presented to Kyra Baldwin from Mitchell, NE and Kristie Olmer from Madison, NE. Cody McBride from Burwell High School provided a presentation on "Controlling Brush and Weeds". He went on to represent the Section at the HSYF at the international meetings in Oklahoma City. No NE Section awards were given at the meetings.

The Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition and UNL hosted a series of workshops across NE featuring Pat Reece, retired UNL Range Management Specialist and owner of his own rangeland consulting enterprise. The focus of Pat's presentation was "Four Simple Steps to Skillful Grazing Management"

Twenty Years Ago (2002)

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

The stated major goal for the Nebraska Section was to begin implementation of the fol-

lowing objective: "In the next five years develop a strategy to coordinate and implement a K-12 curriculum package in cooperation with the University Extension and the Nebraska Environmental Trust Grant. Utilize educational curriculum ideas that currently exist like the Sod Box and Tree Trunks from the Nebraska National Forest. Coordinate with Range Education Council and the Center for Grassland Studies."

The State Range Judging Contest held near O'Neill had 341 participants. The top senior individual was Brady McCumber of Atkinson-West Holt, and the top junior individual was Ransom Sitz of Burwell.

Michael Gillilan of Hardy and Cherette Mastny of Bellwood were presented the Nebraska Section scholarships at the 2002 annual meeting held at Lexington, NE. One high school student presented a paper at the meeting. Blake Thompson of Dunning gave a presentation on "All-Terrain Vehicle in the Sandhills".

The 2002 Rangeman's Award was presented to the Dodson Ranch and Farm of Maywood Nebraska. Jill Epley received the Range Service Award.

Drought conditions caused major depletions of grazing resources and contributed toward stresses on livestock and producers. 2002 was the driest year on record throughout much of west central and western Nebraska.

Thirty Years Ago (1992)

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

The NE Section met at Fort Robinson for the annual meeting. Over 190 people attended to help celebrate the 40th anniversary of the NE Section.

The Nebraska Section awarded D. James T. O'Rourke of Chadron the Range Management Service Award. The Rangeman's award was presented to Terry and Cheri Enfield from the Enfield Ranch Co. of Arthur. Don-

ald A. Cox of Mullen was presented with a Special Award of Merit for his many years of support and service to SRM. The Section Undergraduate Scholarships were awarded to Beth Pinckney of Firth and Wade Dickinson of Lodgepole.

Forty Years Ago (1982)

The Nebraska Section officers were: Mick Helberg, President; Jim Stubbendieck, Past President; Pat Reece, President Elect; Lowell Moser, Secretary- Treasurer; Steve Waller, Newsletter Editor; Nadine Bishop and Brent Lathrop were Council members.

The NE Section meeting was held at Ogallala November 4th-5th.

Jan Duck, acting Executive Secretary from the International office in Denver and Dr. Fee Busby of Laramie, WY were official guests. Approximately 80 people attended the Awards banquet. John Colwell from the Pepper Creek Ranch of Hay Springs received the Rangeman's Award. Mr. and Mrs. Elmer (Pete) Gudmundsen of Sun City, Arizona, were presented the Range Management Service Award.

The Gudmundsen's had given the 12,817-acre R and C Ranch near Whitman to the University of Nebraska Foundation for range research purposes. The two NE Section undergraduate scholarships were presented to Andre Mann of Winside and Lynn Atkins of Kimball.

Fifty Years Ago (1972)

The University of Nebraska, Board of Regents approved the long-term lease (10years) of rangeland near Tryon, NE for use as the Sandhills Agricultural Laboratory (SAL) to be used to conduct range and forage research. The lease expired and research was moved to the Gudmundsen Sandhills Laboratory (GSL) in 1982-83.

