



NE Section Council

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Ben Beckman

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Laura Rubeck

Past President:
Jack Arterburn

Council Members:
Cheryl Dunn
Kyle Schumacher

Secretary-Treasurer:
Angie Peterson

Newsletter Editor:
Emma Barnett

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Nebraska Section Society for Range Management Newsletter



Message from the President by Ben Beckman

While it seems like there isn't a "slow" time of year anymore, spring is definitely one season where we shift into high gear. Our Section has certainly been busy from outstanding participation and recognition of many members at the Annual Meeting in Boise, Envirothon contests, planning for upcoming summer events, committee meetings, and joint symposiums, our members have been actively leading the way forward for range management in Nebraska.

Speaking of the Annual Meeting, it was great to see so many of our members in attendance at Boise. I'm certain all those present walked away with some new information from attending one of the many outstanding sessions. Personally, what I value most is the opportunity to make connections. Meeting new acquaintances and reconnecting with old friends

who all share a passion for range-lands is not something we can enjoy every day.

One other great thing about being at the Annual Meeting in person is the opportunity to talk with those folks who help lead SRM, both elected officials and staff. Having face-to-face interactions makes conversations that much easier going forward. It offers an informal opportunity to share gratitude for the work our leadership provides and thoughts on the future direction of SRM. Just a quick plug, our representation to the parent society is officially through the advisory council. We have three representatives from Nebraska (Laura Rubeck, Kyle Schumacher, and myself) that attend these meetings who would be happy to bring forward any issues, concerns, or commendations you may have. Don't hesitate to reach out!

Finally, on a more practical and somber note. Many of us have seen some precipitation, a slow and dry start to spring hasn't helped ease concerns about drought heading into the 2023 grazing season. As leaders in range management, providing advice to those dealing with dry conditions is difficult. On one hand, we all know too well the long-term damage that overgrazing paired with little moisture can do to pasture. On the other, high feed prices and tight supplies have made keeping animals off already hard used pastures difficult. Unfortunately, messy problems don't end up with quick and clean solutions. Our expertise and leadership to help during these difficult times is needed more than ever.

Ben

Historian's Report by Jeff Nichols

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

Five Years Ago (2018)

The Nebraska Section officers were: Anthony Perlinski, Presi-

dent; 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.

Jim and Lora O'Rourke and family of the RuJoDen Ranch south of Chadron were awarded and recognized with the 2018 Nebraska Leopold Conservation Award.

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Request for Award Nominations by Jack Arterburn, Awards Committee Chair

Please consider recognizing individuals for the Nebraska Section SRM awards.

The Rangeland'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. Award recipients are often in the region of the Annual Meeting and the location for the tour.

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.

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.

Nominations should include:

- Nominator's name, position, phone number and email address
- Nominee's name, position, phone number and email address

Optional items:

- Letter of support from employer, supervisor, peers, and/or partners

visior, peers, and/or partners

- Education
- Previous experience and positions
- Certifications and training
- NE SRM positions and activities
- Additional memberships and contributions
- Relevant skills and qualities

Awards are a great way to recognize individual effort and boost their career. 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 by September 15th.

Jack Arterburn

Awards Committee Chair

Phone: 308-327-2312

jack.arterburn@unl.edu

Nebraska High School Youth Forum by Lisa McMillan, NE SRM Youth Sponsor

Nebraska is proud to get a "repeat" of the title of International High School Youth Forum (HSYF) presentation winner! The 2023 winner was claimed by Joseph Barenberg from McCook, NE, the 2nd Place winner was Jadyn Tidyman from Chadron, NE. Gracie Ackles from Farwell, NE was elected as the HSYF President for 2024. Joseph and Gracie will be returning to the HSYF platform by attending the International SRM meeting in Sparks, NV in 2024. Sam McMillan from Milburn, NE was the 2022 HSYF presentation winner.



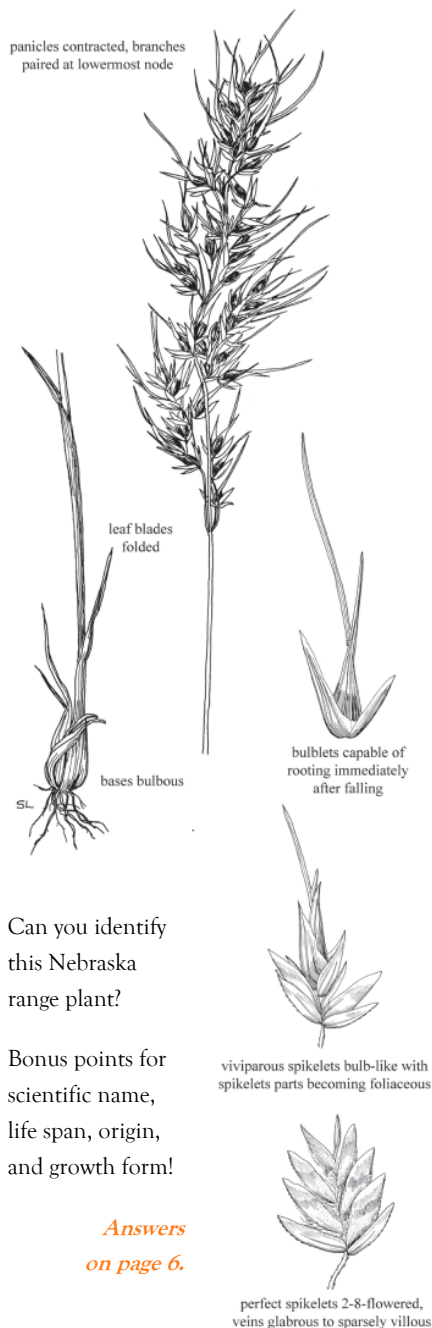
HSYF students L-R: Jadyn Tidyman, Gracie Ackles, Mary Reece (Co-National Director), Sam McMillan, Joseph Barenberg, & Lisa Clarke McMillan (Nebraska SRM youth sponsor). Standing by Snake River in Idaho.



HSYF students L-R: Joseph Barenberg, Jadyn Tidyman, Gracie Ackles, and Sam McMillan.

Thank you notes...

Range Plant ID Pop Quiz



Dear Nebraska SRM members,

Thank you for awarding me the chance to attend the High School Youth Forum (HSYF) as part of the Society for Range Management meeting in Boise, ID February 11-16, 2023. I really appreciate everything that you have done financially for me, to make this outstanding opportunity possible. While in Boise the delegates were very busy, on Sunday night, the HSYF students met in our home room and had orientation and played get-acquainted games, as well as practiced talks. I gave my presentation on Blowouts in the Sandhills and gave the students some advice for the competition. On Monday our group toured the Richards Ranch, Celebration Park, and the BLM wild horse corrals. We also attended the trade show and visited with colleges and companies that work on rangelands. On Tuesday I enjoyed listening to all the HSYF delegates that were present and have greatly expanded my knowledge of rangeland in all different areas of the United States. On Wednesday we had our business meeting and elected the new HSYF Present, attended the SRM awards ceremony, dance, and lastly our trinket exchange. This is where each delegate brings something that represents their home state or area, so I gave out customized coasters with my name and an outline of Nebraska engraved on them for all my new HSYF friends and committee members. I know that the whole HSYF group had an excellent time in Boise. I am very fortunate and grateful to be able to participate twice.

Thanks again!

Sam McMillan
Milburn NE

Dear Nebraska SRM,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to give my presentation to all of you, and for funding my ability to go to Boise this year and attend the national meeting. It was a great experience that I was able to take a lot out of. I hope to attend future meetings when I begin a career in range management. Thank you for funding all of the costs, and I really appreciate the extra money you provided for food and other things. It was very generous of you to provide funding for all three of us as delegates, and it made the experience so much better since we were all able to go. I am very grateful to be able to return next year and serve as president of the High School Youth Forum, and I know that that would not be possible without help from all of you in the Society for Range Management. Once again, thank you for all of your support.

My favorite experience from the High School Youth Forum was going on the ranch tour and also learning about the Native American petroglyphs and how they were used back in the day.

The most educational part of the High School Youth Forum for me was getting to hear all of the presentations of the delegates. Hearing them present gave me a different perspective regarding rangelands and range management, and it was a great opportunity to be able to hear all that they had to teach.

Gracie Ackles
St. Paul High School
Class of 2024

Thank you notes, continued...

Dear Nebraska SRM,

Thank you for selecting me as the recipient of the NE Section SRM Scholarship this year. Receiving this Scholarship is a great honor and I sincerely appreciate NE SRM for their contributions and making this award available for Students Pursuing careers in Range Mgmt.

The scholarship funds have been put towards finishing my Rangeland Management degree at Chadron State College. After graduation in May 2023, I will be working for the Univ. of Nebraska-Lincoln as an Agriculture Research Technician at the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center in Clay Center, NE. This new chapter in my life will be very exciting and I am looking forward to starting my career and continuing to gain experience + knowledge in the world of Range management.

Your kindness and generosity as well as the NE SRM leadership continue to make a positive impact on the future generation of Rangeland managers. Thank you again!!

...with
sincere
appreciation.

Sincerely,
Savannah Solon

SAVE THE DATE
2023 Annual Meeting
October 19-20

Meeting location and event schedule to follow.

“Healthy Soil. Healthy Range” Symposium by Cheryl Dunn, Council Member

The Nebraska Society of Professional Soil Scientists and the Nebraska Section of the SRM came together on April 14th for a first ever joint Symposium entitled “Healthy Soil. Healthy Range.” The day-long event consisted of speakers from the USDA-NRCS and UNL with topics ranging from patch-burn grazing to soil health in cropping systems. Fourteen graduate and undergraduate students presented their posters, which included our 1st place Rangeland Cup team poster. Post-lunch the Range Club and Soils Judging Team provided demonstrations of the contests they compete in each year. The Range Club stumped a few participants with a mini URME test.



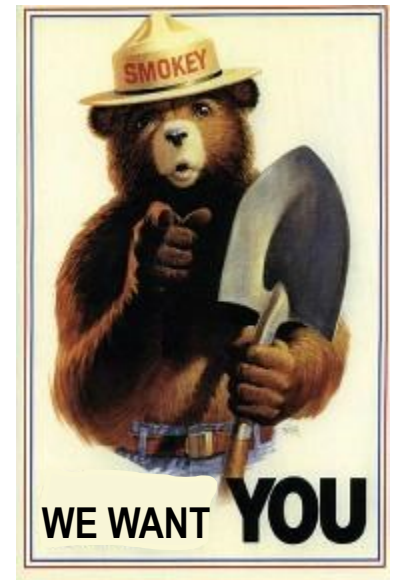
Symposium 1 – Poster session that involved both graduate and undergraduate students from UNL.



Symposium 2 – Soils Judging Team’s demonstration for participants. They were able to bring by Oklahoma soil for judging.



Symposium 3 – Range Club was able to test participants on the URME and Plant ID.



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 award is sponsored by the Sand County Foundation for the Future of Agriculture in Nebraska (AFAN), Cargill, and the Nebraska Environmental Trust. They were honored for their achievements in voluntary stewardship and management of natural resources. The award ceremony took place in Lincoln with Governor Pet Ricketts presenting the award.

Ten Years Ago (2013)

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.

Plans were being made for the 50th Anniversary of the NE Range Youth Camp celebration to be held August 24, 2013.

Twenty Years Ago (2003)

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 56th annual meeting of the Society for Range Management was held in Casper Wyoming. The Nebraska Section was well represented with good attendance. Tim Palla of Fullerton and Blake Thompson of Dunning were the High School Youth Forum delegates representing the Nebraska Section.

Dr. Patrick Reece was presented the Fellow award at SRM meetings in Casper for his sustained accomplishments, eminences, and contributions to the Society.

Bruce Knight, Chief of the NRCS, signed the Technical Service Provider MOU with the Society for Range Management.

The Kelly Ranch of Sutherland was awarded the National Environmental Stewardship Award at the Cattle Industry Convention in Nashville, TN. The award, sponsored by Dow AgroSciences, recognizes cattle producers whose stewardship practices are innovative, cost effective and contribute to environmental conservation.

Thirty Years Ago (1993)

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 46th annual meeting was held in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Nebraska was well represented with fifty-one registrants. The Nebraska Section dinner was organized by Jim O'Rourke where forty-eight people attended. Julie Nelson from UNL placed third in the undergraduate public speaking contest. Renee Hipke placed fourth for her High School Youth Forum talk "Factors Affecting Range Condition."

The Nebraska Section passed a resolution to strongly encourage the University of Nebraska to fill the Range and Forge Extension Specialist position at the West Central Research and Extension Center that was to become vacant upon the retirement of Dr. James T. Nichols in July of 1993. In a letter from received from Dr. Irvin T. Omtvedt, then NU Vice president and IANR Vice Chancellor, he wrote "I regret our financial conditions are currently in such a state of uncertainty that we cannot promise to fill these important positions as they become vacant, but I hope you can understand the extreme budget restraints we are currently operating under, plus the fact there is much uncertainty as to what type of support the University can expect during the coming year."

Forty Years Ago (1983)

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 36th annual meeting was held in Albuquerque, New Mexico with a good contingent of 38 Nebraskans in attendance.

The membership of the Nebraska Section was 120.

The following excerpt from the February 1983 SRM newsletter, Range Rider: "Due to

reductions in faculty, the economic pressures of diminishing budgets and reductions in publications allocations, the Cooperative Extension Service (4-H) is discontinuing sponsorship and support to the 4-H Range Judging Program and 4-H Land Judging. This is an unfortunate development for the range youth education in Nebraska. However, currently support has been maintained for the Range Youth Camps and the 4-H Range Projects. The impact of the 4-H withdrawal from range and land judging will be difficult to evaluate, but it will place greater emphasis on the FFA activities in both areas".



Answers, Pop Quiz Page 3: Bulbous bluegrass, *Poa bulbosa*, Perennial, Introduced, Bunchgrass