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Nebraska Section Society for Range Management Newsletter



Message from the President by Laura Rubeck

Hope you all have been doing well and staying healthy!

First and foremost, I want to thank everyone who attended the Nebraska Chapter meeting in Central City this previous October. I am pleased to report we had a phenomenal turnout with around 100 people registering/attending our section meeting and around 30 attending the field tour at Prairie Plains Resource Institute. We were also very grateful to have received a SARE grant to offset the cost of the meeting.

We have two opportunities have begun to bloom since their inception at the October meeting. One is an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) Planning Committee, of which, the next meeting will be Tuesday, Feb. 27 (11am CST/10am Mountain) both in-person at the Upper Loup NRD in Thedford, NE as

well as virtually. The goal of this committee is to mold the goals of the larger international IYRP team into meaningful opportunities within our state. We are grateful to have Bob Broweleit as the chair of the committee. Anyone interested is welcome to join and contribute. More information can be found at <https://iyrp.info/>. The second, is an Ecological Coffee Hour on the Prairie. This group is currently more localized (in-person) to the south-central part of the state; however, as more folks join in, more opportunities can be made to accommodate inclusion from across the state. Currently, we have groups from a few non-profit, state, and federal sectors that meet monthly (second Tuesday of the month) from 10am-Noon (CST) to pool our knowledge bases and in discuss ways our various teams are managing our shared natural resource concerns as well as to

open opportunities for collaboration across our agencies. Anyone is welcome to join in and share in coffee and rolls on Gjerloff Prairie in Marquette, Neb.

To those that participated in the International SRM Meeting in Sparks, NV, thank you for representing our state. Congratulations to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) and Chadron State College (CSC) for their success in the Rangeland Cup and Extemporaneous Speaking as well as our HSYF participants in the Presentation Contest! We are all very proud of your efforts! A special thank-you also goes out to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) for supporting a third HYSF delegate from Nebraska.

Thank you all for your time and involvement, take care!

Laura

Historian's Report by Jeff Nichols

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

Five Years Ago (2019)

The Nebraska Section officers were: Mitch Stephenson, President; Anthony Perlinski, Past President; Lance Schutte, President Elect; Angie Peterson, Secretary-Treasurer; Laura Rubeck and Amanda Hefner, Co- Newsletter Editors; Jack Arterburn and Brad

Schick were Council members.

The Nebraska Section meeting was held at North Platte October 16 - 18, 2018. The meeting included presentations by Walt Schacht, Jerry Volesky, and Mitch Stephenson, all of UNL, describing several different research projects. Other speakers included: Nadine Bishop, Aaron Field, Shelly Kelly, Ron Bolze, and Keith Harmony. The meeting concluded with a tour of the Viersen Ranch located north-

west of North Platte, hosted by Leonard and Betty Viersen, and Skip Marland.

The Nebraska Section Range Management Service Award was presented to Dana Larsen, retired NRCS State Range Management Specialist and National Grazinglands Team Leader for NRCS.

Continued on page 9...

Nebraska High School Youth Forum in Sparks, NV

by Mary Reece, Assistant State Conservationist/Field Operations—West Area

Mary Reece (North Platte) and Lisa McMillan (Broken Bow) accompanied five delegates to Sparks, NV on Saturday January 27, 2024 to participate in the International SRM Meeting and HSYF. After some flight problems in Denver, they arrived late but safe. On Sunday morning they browsed the hall of agencies and organizations career displays. They were targeting students needing summer and full-time employment. Lunch and a not so quick trip to Walmart for snacks preceded Sunday evenings HSYF orientation. This was the opening night for the students to get acquainted with their short slide show and games lead by Gracie Ackles of Farwell (2024 HSYF President), this was followed by practice and loading the 6 to 8 minute illustrated range related presentations on the computer.

Monday was the ecological tour and sights such as the Palomino Valley Wild Horse and Burro Center, Pyramid Lake, the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribes Visitor Center and school. The final stop was at The Nature Conservancy's reclamation project along the Truckee River. The weather was beautiful, and it was a great learning experience for everyone. We returned to Sparks and attended a Young Producer's Symposium and the professional interaction pizza night followed. During supper the students were introduced to five professionals that rotated around tables and visited with them regarding the paths they took to their careers. Nebraska's own Ben Beckman was in attendance and provided us with the education and experience that took him to his current position with Nebraska Extension in Hartington.

Tuesday was a full session of presentations, where Mollie Corkle of O'Neill presented her talk titled "Save the Land", Leah Christen's talk on "The Benefits of Multi Species Grazing" and Bobbi Guggenmos's talk titled "Identifying and Controlling Invasive Species". A short trip to the trade show to visit booths and talk to colleges and businesses selling rangeland products as well as agency's wanting to hire new employees. The dance from 8-11 pm gave the students time to show off their country swing dance moves.

Wednesday was the last breakfast at Rosies Cafe followed by the HSYF business meeting and election of Leah Christen of Steinauer as the 2025 HSYF President. She will be attending the SRM meeting in Spokane, WA (February 2025) to conduct the business meeting and act as emcee of all the high school events. During the SRM Awards Ceremony, Gracie announced the top five places in the HSYF presentation contest where Bobbi Guggenmos from Ericson placed 3rd. Joseph Berenberg from McCook (2023 HSYF 1st place paper winner) took the stage and gave his winning presentation to approximately 1,000 people in attendance or watching virtually. After the end of the

awards ceremony, the students changed clothes and the HSYF business meeting resumed with Gracie presenting certificates to all 19 attendees representing eight sections, and the five HSYF Sub-Committee members that were in attendance which included Mary and Lisa. Many thank you notes were written and signed and will be mailed to all that helped make the High School Youth Forum in Sparks, NV a meeting to remember! The "Trinket Exchange" is always a highlight of the forum, and this years did not disappoint. This is the final time these high schoolers will be all together, and exchanging a small gift/token showcasing their town, state, livelihood, or etc., will act as a reminder of their friendship and the amazing time they all had at the International SRM meeting in Sparks.

The return trip on Thursday started early with us leaving the hotel at 3:30 am for our 5:30 am flight back to Omaha. Everything was smooth and all returned home tired but proud of our accomplishments at the 58th annual HSYF.



Left to Right: Lisa, Bobbi, Gracie, Joseph, Leah, Mollie, and Mary, standing at an overlook with Pyramid Lake in the background.

UNL Range Management Club Report from Sparks Annual Meeting

by Caitlin Copenhaver

The UNL Range Management Club had a fun and successful trip to Sparks, Nevada to participate in the 2024 Annual Society for Range Management (SRM) meeting! Our club members attending were Abby Stalder, Caitlin Copenhaver, Jacob VanDress, Josie Ivy, Makennen Havlat, and Michelle Henkel; the Range Clubbers were joined by their advisors Professor Cheryl Dunn and Dr. Nic McMillan as well!

The club stayed at the Nugget Hotel, which is also where the conference was held. This offered some cool views of the mountains surrounding Sparks, and some lovely sunrises too!

The meeting definitely kept us all busy! Range Club participated in four events: the Undergraduate Range Management Exam (URME), the Plant Identification Exam (Plant ID), the Club Website Creation contest, and the Rangeland Cup poster presentation.

Students Abby Stalder, Caitlin Copenhaver, Jacob VanDress, Makennen Havlat, and Michelle Henkel all participated in the Undergraduate Range Management Exam (URME). In this event, students take a standardized exam with questions concerning rangeland ecology and management. UNL placed 14th in this event! The team was coached by Walter Schacht.

Students Abby Stalder, Caitlin Copenhaver, Jacob VanDress, and Josie Ivy participated in the Plant ID Exam. This is a nerve-wracking but exciting event where students must identify 100 plants out of a list of 200 possible species. UNL placed 7th in this event! The team was coached by Cheryl Dunn.



Left to Right: Walter Schacht, Makennen Havlat, Abby Stalder, Caitlin Copenhaver, Jacob VanDress, Michelle Henkel, Josie Ivy, Cheryl Dunn, Nic MicMillan

Students Jacob VanDress, Makennen Havlat, and Michelle Henkel participated in the Website Creation contest. This website helps advertise our Range Club, and all the fun events that we do. UNL placed 4th for this event!

Students Caitlin Copenhaver, Jacob VanDress, and Josie Ivy participated in the Rangeland Cup event. This competition poses a prompt to students, who then must research the topic, develop strategies for approaching it, and create a poster presentation regarding it.

Sunrise from the hotel.

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Schumacher Recognized as Outstanding Young Range Professional

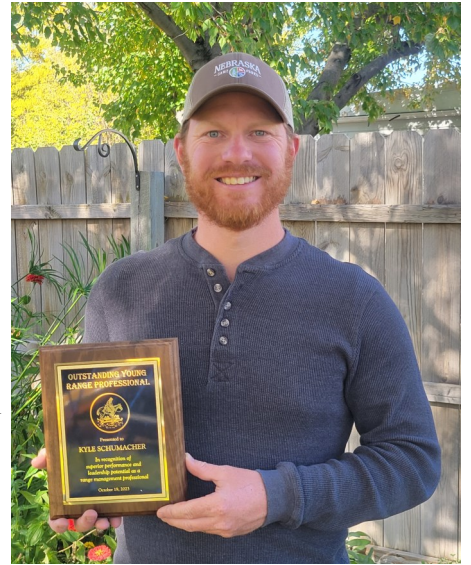
by Laura Rubeck, NE Section SRM President

Kyle Schumacher was recently awarded the 2023 Outstanding Young Range Professional Award at the Nebraska Society for Range Management's (SRM) State Meeting on October 19-20, 2023, in Central City, Nebraska. This award recognizes the contributions of members who are 40 years of age or younger and are significantly contributing to the range profession in Nebraska. Kyle Schumacher currently resides in Tilden, Nebraska, with his wife, Emily, and their children, Braxton, Adelynn, and Connor.

Originally from Wausa, NE, Kyle has been dedicated to conservation of our natural resources since working as a Nebraska Game and Parks Conservation Technician following graduation from high school. He has been involved in the Society for Range Management since college, both as a member of the Range Club at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln working on his Bachelor's Degree before and with the Kansas SRM Section while working on his Master's Degree at Fort Hays State University. Afterwards, he held a biologist position with Northern Prairies Land Trust.

Most recently, he took on the role of Wildlife Biologist II for the Habitat Partners Section with the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission. At a broader level, Kyle has been involved with the SRM Young Professionals Conclave and is past-chair of the Society's Wildlife Habitat Committee. He currently serves as a senior council person and the president-elect for Nebraska SRM.

Kyle Schumacher currently resides in Tilden, Nebraska, with his wife, Emily, and their children, Braxton, Adelynn, and Connor.



Whitney's Recognized for Excellence in Rangeland Management

by Laura Rubeck, NE Section SRM President

Bill and Jan Whitney were recently awarded the Nebraska Chapter Society for Range Management's, 2023 Rangeman of the Year Award. An award presented to individuals in recognition of their outstanding contributions to ecological restoration, land stewardship, and environmental education within their community.

Bill Whitney grew up in Aurora Neb. and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Nebraska Wesleyan University and a Master's in Limnology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. His wife, Jan, originally from Farifield Neb., completed a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Wesleyan.

In 1980, Bill and Jan co-founded the Prairie Plains Resource Institute (PPRI) a non-profit organization dedicated to conserving native Nebraska habitats for their ecological, biological, and historical significance. PPRI has since preserved, restored, and managed thousands of acres of native prairies and wetlands across Nebraska and manage eight preserves within our state.

Their restoration efforts focus on high-diversity and local ecotype restoration, with over 230 species collected annually by hand and machine for seed mixes ranging between 100-150 species in any given mix. PPRI's restoration program spans over 60 counties in central and eastern Nebraska using broadcast planting methods and other planting services with seedling plugs.

In the 1990s, Bill and Jan created the Summer Orientation About Rivers (SOAR) program, which has been running for over 30 years, providing immersive outdoor experiences for students.



SRM 2023 Rangeman's Award recipient, Bill Whitney with SRM president Laura Rubeck (Jan Whitney not pictured)

Continued on page 8...

2023 State Range Judging Contest Held in Gage County

Laura Rubeck, NE Section SRM President

Teams from West Holt take top honors in both the Senior and Junior Division Lily Vogel, West Holt and Hayes Plugge, Burwell take top individual honors.

Beatrice Neb., September 26, 2023, ~ Four hundred and three students and twenty-five teachers from 47 schools from across Nebraska visited Gage County this fall to test their knowledge of rangeland management during the 68th Annual Nebraska State Range Judging Contest.

Each fall, students enrolled in agriculture or natural resources classes compete for top honors in range judging contests. Contestants compete as individuals and as teams in either the Junior or Senior Division. Six area contests are held in mid to late September in addition to the State contest. The contests are sponsored by the Nebraska Section Society for Range Management. Co-sponsors include Nebraska Extension, Natural Resources Districts (NRD), and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Volunteers from these and other natural resource agencies and groups assist local committees with organizing and conducting the contests.

Range Judging Contests test the participants' skills and knowledge of plant identification, ecological site identification and composition, rangeland conservation and grazing management. While studying for range judging competitions, students learn about one of Nebraska's major land uses. Rangelands cover nearly 50% of Nebraska and approximately 60% of the United States. Even if these young contest participants do not pursue a career in rangeland or natural resource management, they will gain an understanding of a major natural resource that will be remembered throughout their lifetimes.

The Junior Division included 216 individuals and 67 teams. Hayes Plugge from Burwell took first place individual honors in the Junior Division. Marek Dvorak, West Holt, placed second; Hayden Nelson, Sargent, placed third; and Reese Smith, Wheeler Central, placed fourth. Members of the first-place junior team from West Holt are Marek Dvorak, London Konrad, Madalyn Pistulka, and Cale Deseire. Members of the second-place junior team from Burwell are Hayes Plugge, Kolton Thoene, Ericka Larsen, and Ora Chaffin. Members of the third-place junior team from Sargent are Hayden Nelson, LoReena Schauda, Cazen Coffman, and Carsen Vincent. Members of the fourth-place junior team from Boyd County are Mazee Johnson, Kayden Kayl, Ethan Zeisler, and Jaylee Lechtenberg

The Senior Division included 187 individuals and 59 teams. Lily Vogel from West Holt High School took first place individual honors in the Senior Division. Colter Wright, Burwell, placed second; Carter Gotschall, West Holt, placed third; and Abby Hirschman, St. Paul, placed fourth. Members of the first-place senior team from West Holt are Lily Vogel, Carter Gotschall, Sidney Burkinshaw, and Mason Crumrine. Members of the second place Burwell team are Colter Wright, Dillon Simpson, Cale Buss, and Cody Burson. The third place St. Paul team includes Abby Hirschman, Isaac Hagen, Gracie Ackles, and Jack Thede. Members of the fourth-place senior team from West Holt are Keaton Dowse, Grant Ottun, Tallin Schauda, and Melissa Slagle.

This year saw a general increase in student participation compared to last. The senior division marked an uptick with 19 more individuals and 17 more teams since 2022. Similarly, the junior division expanded since last September with an additional seven students and 14 teams. Overall, a new record high was set in terms of total area contest participation across state with 1450 students participating in one of the six, field-testing locations.

Participation per area testing basis and led to a new record high of 1450 for contest participation by area. Twenty-five adults also participated in the contest. Philip Simpson, Ag-Ed instructor from Burwell High School placed first in the adult competition.

Additional contest information is available on the Nebraska Section, SRM Website, <http://www.nesrm.org/RangeJudging.html>.

We Want YOU 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.

Thank You Notes

Dear Nebraska SRM section-

Thank you so much for your support as well as your generosity in sponsoring my trip to Sparks this year, as well as Boise in 2023. I had an amazing time connecting with professionals in Range Management and I was able to learn a lot about not only conserving our rangelands, but also about leadership and communication skills that I will take with me as I advance after graduation. Serving as the High School Youth Forum President was a great honor for me, and it was so much fun getting to lead the delegates throughout the week. One of my favorite things about the forum is getting to know like-minded students like me in a professional setting as well as a participating in enjoyable activities that bring us closer together.

While in Sparks, we attended many tours and had various opportunities to gain insight from more experienced professionals. One of my favorite tours was visiting with the Piute Tribe at Pyramid Lake. While on the tour we learned so much about the tribe's role in water management, as well as the cultural significance of the fish that live in Pyramid Lake.

All our sub-committee members were amazing, and I am so grateful for the opportunity to work alongside them.

Following graduation, I plan to pursue degrees in both Range Management and Ag Education. I am positive that the experiences I have had in Sparks and Boise, as well as the leadership and mentoring opportunities will prepare me in my future endeavors.

Once again, I would like to extend my gratitude to the Nebraska Section. I was able to share my passion for rangelands and learn so much all thanks to you. Your sponsorship means a lot to me and I admire the professionals in our section who served as great mentors and role models to myself and the other delegates. You have provided me with such a great support system and as I grow to become a professional myself, I will remember your kindness and support for me.

Sincerely,
Gracie Ackles
President
2024 High School Youth Forum

Dear Nebraska Section of The Society for Range Management,

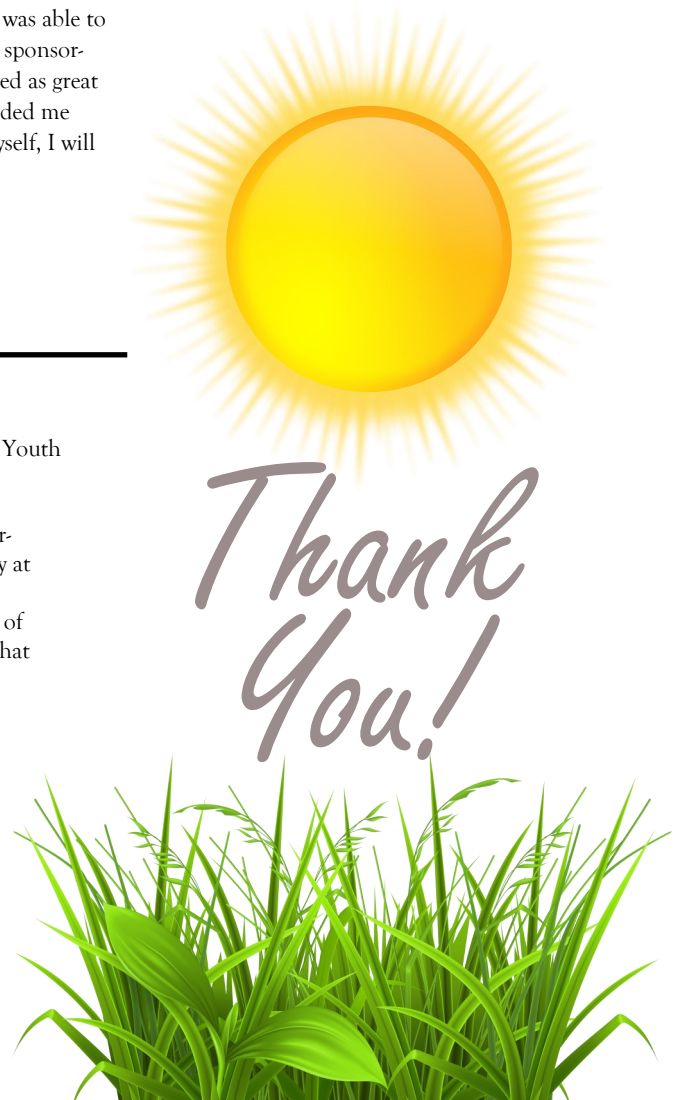
I was first introduced to the Society for Range Management in 2019 at the Youth Range Camp. I am very grateful for having been given the opportunity to represent Nebraska at the 2023 High School Youth Forum at the society meeting. I was fortunate to get 1st place presentation and have the opportunity to go back this year and give my presentation at the awards ceremony at the 2024 SRM meeting. I am very thankful for the support I received from everyone from our Nebraska section and plan on attending the University of Nebraska Lincoln with a major in Grassland Systems. I am excited to see what the future holds for me and the Society for Range Management.

Sincerely,
Joseph Barenberg

Dear Nebraska SRM section-

I am very grateful that you allowed me to go as the third delegate for Nebraska. This opportunity has allowed me to make connections from all over the US that will serve me well in the future. My favorite part of the convention was the chance to expand my knowledge of range land with people who share the same passion for the land.

Yours truly-
Mollie Corkle



Thank You Notes *Continued...*

Dear Nebraska Section,

Thank you for selecting me as a delegate to attend the International High School Youth Forum. Attending range camp, presenting at the Nebraska section meeting, and traveling to Sparks Nevada have all been huge opportunities for me. I am from the far southeast part of Nebraska where crops are usually much more important than range. All of these opportunities have opened my eyes to different problems and management techniques within range over a diverse area. I love being able to share and implement what I learn in my family's cow-calf operation.

While these are great learning opportunities I believe the leadership skills and the personal connections are the best part. In range camp and especially in Nevada, I was able to network with an amazing group of fellow high schoolers and mentors that I hope to keep in touch with. It's fun to hear everyone's background and converse with people who have the same interests as me. The leadership skills I have built will help me with whatever I do in the future. It was good practice for public speaking and much more. I am proud to say that I get to continue to build these relationships and skills next year in Spokane Washington as the High School Youth Forum President. I greatly appreciate your continued support.

Within these programs, I have found my passion for the range and all the animals it supports. I definitely plan on sharing my experience and encouraging others to participate. As well as becoming a member myself in the future. Thank you again for this amazing opportunity.

Sincerely,
Leah M. Christen

Dear Nebraska SRM Section,

Attending the High School Youth Forum in Sparks, Nevada was an amazing experience and I am so grateful to have been given the opportunity to be a part of it. I wouldn't have been able to attend without your support. During the High School Youth Forum I had learned so much about range management and the current issues in rangelands. I was able to talk to people in the range management profession and learn about possible solutions to the current range issues we are dealing with. I enjoyed being able to learn and meet new people. Thank you for making this incredible opportunity possible for me. This experience will be something I remember forever and I will recommend the High School Youth Forum to other students.

Sincerely,
Bobbi Guggenmos



Nebraska SRM Section,

Thank you so much for your sponsorship as well as your support in our experience with the High School Youth Forum. We greatly appreciate all that you have allowed us to learn through this opportunity. We had a wonderful time, built valuable relationships, and gained more knowledge regarding range management. Once again, thank you so much for everything you have done for us!

Leah M. Christen

Mollie Joseph
Coutle
Leah M. Christen

Bobbi Guggenmos

UNL Range Management Club Report from Sparks Annual Meeting *continued...*

This year's prompt was, "How can we use new technology developed within the past 10 years to address climate change on the range?". UNL won 1st place for the 2nd year in a row with their presentation, "Heterogeneity is Heterogenius! Using Spectroscopy to Measure Rangeland Heterogeneity and Biodiversity in a Changing Climate".

During our free time, we took some field trips outside of Sparks. We traveled to Lake Tahoe (on both the Nevada and California sides), where we observed the morning fog dissipating over the crystal clear waters of the lake and enjoyed some adventurous rock climbing and plant identification out in the field.

Right: Members Josie Ivy, Jacob VanDress, and Caitlin Copenhaver with the Rangeland Cup trophy.



Whitney's Recognized for Excellence in Rangeland Management *continued...*

More recently, other youth education programs have been added, including, Youth Naturalist Program for middle school students and Young Nebraska Ecologists, for

high schoolers. In addition, they have worked with other middle, high school, and collegiate groups across Nebraska and provided opportunities for public guided-hiking events.

In 2021, they opened the Charles L. Whitney Education Center, which fully-realized their vision for creating a hub to host education programs along the Platte River. Most recently, this center and its associated Gjerloff Prairie was the site for 2023 Area 4 Range Judging amongst FFA students.

In 2019, Bill and Jan retired from their full-time directorial positions at PPRI, although their dedication to ecological conservation continues. Their retirement is marked by a legacy of prairie preserves, youth education programs, and a lasting impact on Nebraska ecosystems. Together, they exemplify the values and commitment this accolade represents and are deserving recipients of the 2023 SRM Range-man of the Year Award.



Thanks to all who
attended our Section
Supper in Sparks!
Look forward to
seeing you all again
next year!

Historian's Report *continued...*

The NE Section's Rangeman's Award was presented to Skip Marland of North Platte. Skip is a rancher, ag loan officer, accredited rural appraiser, real estate broker, and ranch consultant.

The NE Section Outstanding Young Range Professional Award went to Brad Schick. Brad is currently in ag financing, and formally a UNL Beef Systems Extension Educator in Central City.

Two Section Scholarships were awarded to undergraduate college students. Vaness Yeoman of Hot Springs, SD, a student at CSC, and Asha Scheideler of Scotia, NE, as student at UNL.

The fall of 2018 marked the 64th year of Range Judging in Nebraska. There were 1256 participants at the area contests and 448 at the State contest held in Chase County.

Ten Years Ago (2014)

The Nebraska Section officers were: Bob Broweleit, President; Jon Soper, Past President; Karla Jenkins, President Elect; Angie Petersen, Secretary-Treasurer; Shelia Luoma, Newsletter Editor; Jeff Nichols and Anthony Perlinski were Council members.

The Nebraska Section annual meeting was held October 7th-9th at North Platte, NE. The meeting was organized by Bob Broweleit.

The Nebraska Section Range Management Service Award was presented to Shelly Kelly (Taylor). The Rangeman's Award was presented to the Sundstrom family of the Broken Box Ranch north of Moorefield, NE. The Section scholarship was presented to Lacey Clarke of Berwyn, NE.

Twenty Years Ago (2004)

The Nebraska Section officers were: Scott Willet, President; Teri Edeal, Past President; Al Steuter, President Elect; Leslie Stewart-Phelps, Secretary/Treasurer; Sherry Connot, Newsletter Editor; Chuck Butterfield and Jerry Volesky were Council members.

The Nebraska Section annual meeting was held October 15-17 in Kearney. The meeting

was held jointly with the Nebraska Sustainable Agriculture Society. The meeting theme was "Grazinglands: Our Sustainable Resources." Bill Carhart was presented the 2003 Range Management Service Award and the Nebraska Rangeman's award was presented to Dave and Loretta Hamilton of the Reed Hamilton ranch north of Thedford. Cherette Mastny of Chadron State College was awarded the NE Section SRM scholarship.

There were two High School Youth Forum presentations given. First place went to Shelly Taylor of Burwell for her presentation titled "Grasshoppers in the Sandhills". Nick Horn of Red Cloud was runner up with his presentation titled "Controlling the Red Cedars".

The State Range Judging contest was held in Custer County with 304 total participants. The top junior individual was Jacoba Nutt of Curtis Medicine Valley. The top senior individual was Brady McCumber of Adkinson West Holt. The Old West Regional Range Judging Contest was held at Douglas, Wyoming. Nebraska's West Holt finished second.

Thirty Years Ago (1994)

The Nebraska Section Officers were: James O'Rourke, President; John Gross, President Elect; Sheila R.V. Luoma, Past President; Catherine Mills, Secretary/Treasurer; Mary Schrader, Newsletter Editor; Bill Carhart and Dave Cook were Council Members.

The Nebraska Section meeting was held at O'Neill. The meeting was held jointly with the Nebraska Branch of Holistic Resource Management. Adam Beal of Johnstown and Fredrick Kujath of Fairbury presented papers for the High School Youth Forum. Scholarships were given to Brenda Younkin of Ashby and John Enfield of Arthur. The Range Service award was presented to Susan Oldfather of Kearney. The Range Management award went to the Clarence and Judy Lanka family of Stapleton.

The University of Nebraska at Lincoln IANR proposed the Center for Grassland Studies to further the dissemination of research, technology, and education for urban and rural grasslands throughout Nebraska and the

Great Plains. A resolution was presented by James O'Rourke for SRM to support the proposal for the Center.

Forty Years Ago (1984)

The Nebraska Section Officers were: Pat Reece, President; Nadine Bishop, President Elect; Mick Helberg, Past President; Lowell Moser, Secretary/Treasurer; Roger Wittie, Newsletter Editor; Gene Lehnert and Brent Lathrop were Council Members.

The Nebraska Section annual meeting was held at North Platte where approximately 90 people were in attendance. The program centered on grazing management practices. Profits for the meeting were around \$225 for the section. Two \$250 scholarships were awarded. Steve Kyser of Wood Lake and Kimberli Stine of Grand Island were the recipients. The Rangeman's Award was presented to Dick and Jerri Ballard of Valentine. The Range Management Service Award was presented to Dr. Lowell Moser of Lincoln.

Two resolutions were passed by the section at the annual meeting; one in support of the Gudmundsen Sandhills Research Center and the second to lobby the Nebraska Legislature to implement legislation to protect the Sandhills from exploitation by center pivot irrigation development.

Fifty Years Ago (1974)

The Nebraska Section Officers were: Phil Rickey, President; Gary Greeder, President Elect; Ray Sall, Past President; Lloyd Anderson, Secretary/Treasurer; John Sautter, Newsletter Editor; Dean Higgans, Historian; Robert Bobeck and Peter Jensen were Council Members.

A joint annual meeting was held at North Platte with the Soil Conservation Society of America. The participants toured the Viersen Ranch where they looked at the grazing program and an interseeding demonstration. Dr. Martin Gonzales, International President of SRM spoke at the meeting. Dr. Laurance Newell was the recipient of the 1973 Nebraska Section SRM award.